

# St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**AUTUMN TERM 2019/20**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> HALF TERM**



Dear Parents/Carers,

The second part of the Autumn term is now racing by and winter is fast approaching bringing with it colder weather and darker evenings. What a busy half term we have already had so far!

It will soon be the season of Advent, a time of hope and waiting, where we have an opportunity to reflect on the year and get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Details of our Christmas Concerts are on the back page of this newsletter. We wish you all a hopeful and reflective season of preparation.

Thank you as always for your continued support!



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

## Children in Need

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November we took part in 'Children in Need', we had a non-uniform day and managed to raise £442 to help 'Children in Need'. Well Done Everyone!



## REMINDERS

**PUNCTUALITY**  
Our school day starts at  
**8.50am**

Please ensure your child is at school on time.

**NO PARKING**  
Due to the narrowness of the road and congestion, we ask that you do not park on Muriel Street when dropping off or collecting your child. Parents are allowed to use Gordon Riggs car park or the layby opposite.



## CHRISTMAS FAIR



Thank you for all the kind donations to our Christmas Fair. Don't forget to come along, it will be great fun!



Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December  
3.30pm till 5.30pm.



Stalls will include:

Father Christmas, Face Painting, Bottle Tombola, Chocolate and Sweet Tombola, Toy Tombola, Refreshments, Fun Games & Crafts!



COME AND HAVE FUN  
Ho! Ho! Ho!





## Nursery News

I would like to start by welcoming all our families back after the half term break. We have had a very busy and exciting time last half term. We have now got to know all your children and what their next steps are to move their learning forward. This term our topic is Animals. We will be learning about different animals and where they live, what animals make good pets and which ones don't. In RE we are starting the topics 'Special Times' and 'Christmas'. We will be looking at how we celebrate special time with our families and why Christmas is important to Christians. We will also be practicing our Christmas nativity play for parents to come a watch. There will also be another visit to our local church at the end of the term. Our first book this term will be 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell. This book will introduce us to which animals make good pets and which ones don't. We will be describing these animals using words like 'fierce' and 'grumpy'. Throughout the term we will be listening to stories, singing nursery rhymes, learning to recognise numbers, counting a number of objects, counting forwards and backwards, recognising and copying our names. These are all things that children should also do at home with parents and older sibling. We will continue to send home WOW cards for you to tell us about the amazing things that your child can do at home. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to any of the Nursery staff. Thank you for your continued support.



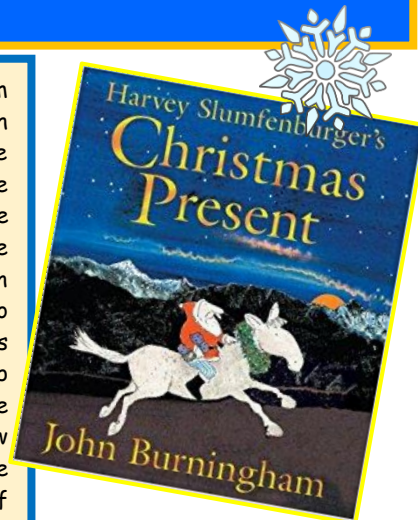
## Reception News



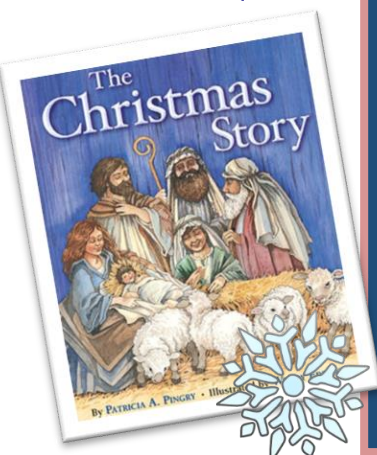
Welcome back, we hope you had a lovely half term and made lots of memories together! This half term we will be learning about animals, we will begin by learning about farm animals, we will then move onto jungle animals, whilst we 'Rumble in the Jungle!' We are currently planning a trip to Smithills Farm, the children will get a chance to look around the farm and visit the different animals we have learnt about. We will also be having a picnic, how exciting! In RE we are learning about Special Times; we have enjoyed listening to each child tell us about their special times, we would love to see some photographs of these special time so please feel free to send them into school! Our maths lessons will continue to focus on number and shape: encouraging children to recognise numbers 1-5, ordering objects by height and describing the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Please continue to read with your children at home, we can really see the impact this is having so thank you very much! Your child will also be bringing a library book home, we visit the library on a weekly basis, to enjoy an additional class story, please ensure the library books is kept in your child's book bag at all times. This half term, we will be doing gym on a Monday and dance on a Friday, please ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school at all times, please make sure every item is named.

## Year 1 News

We have got an exciting half term planned in Year 1! In RE we will be continuing our work on Judaism before moving onto the Christmas Story. We will explore the scripture that tells us all about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and dive deeper into what this means for us in our lives. We are going to be learning all about Guy Fawkes and why we celebrate Bonfire Night in history. In science, we will be learning even more about the different seasons and investigating all the different types of weather we experience during each season. In art, we will be learning about Claude Monet and trying to replicate some of his famous paintings ourselves. In maths, we are going to be working on addition and subtraction and our number bonds to 10. In English, we will be practising basic sentence structure and starting to use a range of adjectives. We will also be looking at rhyming poems and reading Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present. We have lots of exciting events for the children this half term, including: our trip to Legoland, raising money for Children in Need and taking part in anti-bullying week. Finally, we have all our Christmas celebrations happening at the end of term. The children will be learning lots of new songs and dances for their Christmas concert, which is taking place at the end of term. We hope to see you all there to join us in celebrating this wonderful season! We look forward to another great half term with Year 1.



## Year 2 News



Welcome back after the half term break! We have a very exciting half term planned as it is the lead up to CHRISTMAS! In maths we will be developing our skills in measurement (time), addition and subtraction and statistics. We will also continue with our weekly Mad Minutes, so keep practising! In English, we will be focusing on non-fiction texts such as letters, instructions and information texts. We will also continue with our weekly spelling tests, which the children seem to be doing great in! Keep it up! This half term we will be studying a geography topic of 'Where does our food come from?' We will be looking at the world map and finding out where we get our food from. Do you know where chocolate comes from? We will find out! In science we will be studying 'Materials and their Properties'. We will carry out some experiments to see which materials are the best for different purposes. Would you wear a paper coat? In RE, our topic this term is 'Why was the birth of Jesus such good news?' We will share and reflect on our own good news and discuss how this can be shared. We will remind ourselves of the Nativity story and look at the amazing work of God sending good news through angels! Please can we remind parents that the children must have their reading book in school every day. They will read in school with an adult 1:1, once a week, and will also have their books changed weekly. The children will receive homework every Friday and this should be returned the following Thursday. Homework needs to be well presented and to a good standard. Please ensure that children have their PE kit in school every day. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask a member of the Year 2 Staff. Thank you!

## Year 3 News

Welcome back to our second Autumn half term! The children have been working very hard and are becoming very mature and independent in their learning. In RE we will be moving on to our topic 'Christmas - God is with Us' this surrounds the topic of the birth of Jesus and the Christmas story. We will be focusing on God's presence and how it can impact people's lives, as well as instances we feel God's presence and what emotions/ challenges it helps us with. In Maths our focus will be remaining on key mathematical skills and knowledge such as addition and subtraction as well as place value. Please could you make sure the children are practising their times tables at home. They have been given logins for the website/ app Times Table Rockstars and they can use this to secure their understanding of this very important knowledge. In class we are focusing on the 4x, 8x and 3x tables; the children should be secure in the 2s, 5s and 10s at this point. In English we will be exploring Roman Myths, these are a fantastic opportunity to capture imagination and will provide an engaging focus for the children. Moving on from myths, we will be looking at non chronological reports and the features of these texts. Our new Science topic is forces and magnets - we will be looking at different kinds of forces and how they are incorporated into our everyday lives. We will be visiting the Museum of Science and Industry on Friday 22nd of November to take part in workshops and investigate this topic thoroughly with a hands on experience. We are still continuing with our History topic. This term we will look at how life has evolved since the Stone Age and venture into the Bronze Age and how people discovered the metal Bronze and how it was utilised during this era in time. Then moving into the Iron Age and the changes that came about during this time period.



## Year 4 News



This term is well and truly underway, and lots of exciting things have already taken place. We have been visited by a theatre company, and the chaplain of Rochdale reminded us of the importance of Remembrance. Thank you to everyone who has bought a Poppy in support of the families of those who have died in conflict and war. Both classes have also been to M6 theatre and met up with their linking class from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic school from Heywood, this project will continue throughout the year. Place value will continue to be a big focus for the start of this half term. This knowledge underpins everything else we learn about in maths - important! Further to this, we are starting to develop our skills in multiplication and look at challenging problems within all of our topics in maths. Later on this half term, we will explore the four operations in depth. In English we have been thinking about identity and writing a whole class poem. Next we will be looking at the antics of Hiccup trying, and failing, to train his dragon, Toothless. It is a book with lots of creative new vocabulary and will give the opportunity to write through different genres. In RE, we will be exploring the importance of light to us as Christians particularly at Christmas; we will then compare this to the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. We will also be learning about how the earth can: shake, rattle and roll in geography. This involves earthquakes and volcanoes some of this work is already on the website for you to have a look at. Electricity is the topic for science and we have some exciting experiments planned. The children are getting stuck into practical work as well as understanding the importance of being safe and thinking about wasting resources. Of course there will be a Christmas production for KS2. Year 4 will have a part, of course, and this year it will be called "Baa Humbug". It is a lovely production with lots of singing, dancing and acting!

## Year 5 News

Welcome back to an exciting term! For RE, Year 5 will be exploring proverbs. We will be discussing the value of wisdom and reading about the wisdom of Solomon. Later on in the term we will be moving onto Christmas: The Gospels of Matthew and Luke. We will be looking at these Gospels and their perspective of the nativity story as well as deepening our understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. In English, we are looking at biographies and autobiographies of Roald Dahl and Michael Morpurgo. We will be looking at dialogue, and complex sentences. We will follow this with exploring recounts investigating UFO sightings, completing this unit with a report. Finally moving on to looking at some Observational poetry. In Maths, we will start with place value, decimals and subtraction. This will be followed up with a week each on measures, fractions and a combination of all of the four number operations. We will also be looking at Roman Numerals relating to years. Our science unit will continue with our current work on life cycles. We will now begin to compare each stage of the life cycles and finish with a final write up comparing all of the stages. Our topic work will move on to Geography, we will be looking at what life is like in the Amazon. We will be researching the city of Manaus, and look at how we can help to save the Rainforest for the future. May I remind you that although Year 5 are scheduled to have indoor PE on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and swimming on a Friday, kit should be in school at all times in case on any last minute changes.



## Year 6 News

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. This will be an extremely busy half-term for all of the children in Year 6! Over the course of this half term the children will be working extremely hard in all areas of the curriculum. Within RE, we are focusing on a topic called 'Advent.' The children will explore how we, as Christians, prepare for Christmas; the special time when Jesus was born. We will ask big questions as well as answering them. We will also explore our new Christian Value of 'trust'. We will be focusing on different genres of writing within English. Here the children have the opportunity to edit and redraft their work; ensuring each piece of writing shows their true potential. Our first main text is 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo. We will be writing character descriptions, as well as writing a persuasive letter. Within maths, we are establishing the children's strengths and weaknesses so that their confidence increases and they are able to apply this knowledge in all contexts. We begin with looking at area and perimeter then onto calculating fractions, decimals and percentages. For science, our new topic for the whole term is 'Evolution and Inheritance.' For the second half term, we will be learning about adaptation. We will carry out lots of investigations to enhance our learning. Our focus in history this half term is 'How did World War II impact our local area?' We have already enhanced our learning by visiting the Imperial War Museum North on Monday 11th November. It was a very moving day and the children were credits to their families and the school!





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## Anti-Bullying with *David* and **Goliath**

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, Rhema Theatre company visited St Peter's to put on a production for anti-bullying week all about 'David & Goliath'. The actor told us the story of David and Goliath from the Bible and how little David was teased by his brothers for being small. David remained strong and didn't give up eventually winning a major battle with the Philistine giant David and eventually becoming King of Israel. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the performance and Key Stage 1 and 2 took part in a workshop about ways to support others when bullying happens. All the children had a great time showing the Christian Value of Friendship.



### CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Nursery

**'The Nativity'**

9<sup>th</sup> December 10am  
(AM Nursery)

9<sup>th</sup> December 2pm  
(PM Nursery)



Reception

**'A Little Bird Told Me'**

11<sup>th</sup> December 2pm



Key Stage 1

**'I'm Gonna Shine'**

13<sup>th</sup> December 2pm



Key Stage 2

**'Bah Humbug!'**

17<sup>th</sup> December 2pm



There will also be a Christmas  
Pantomime of 'Cinderella' for the  
children on 18<sup>th</sup> December!

## Remembrance at St Peter's

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November, the whole school participated in different events linked to Armistice. Year 5 went to represent the school at the cenotaph in Rochdale taking their own hand-made wreath of poppies; whilst Year 6 went to the Imperial War Museum North to look at the history behind war and conflict, and how it has affected the world we live in today.

The rest of the school attended a very moving service at school, where Steve Law (having served in the Royal Navy) came in to do a reading, and this was followed by 2 minutes' silence. All the children showed real empathy.



### Anti-Bullying Week

The theme this year was 'Change Starts with Us' and the aims of the week were to support the children to understand:

**Small change. Big difference.**

Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, we can challenge bullying. Change starts with a conversation. It starts with checking in. It starts with work together.

Change starts here.

Change starts now.

Change starts with us.

This year the goal is to inform schools and settings, children and young people, parents and carers to know that it takes a collective responsibility to stop bullying. We are excited for this campaign as we want to create empowering, positive messages addressing the fact that when it comes to bullying

CHANGE STARTS WITH US!



## ATTENDANCE

How's your class doing?

This year our attendance target is 96%

Nursery	93.3%		
Rec RM	95.8%	Rec RK	94.6%
Year 1K	95.1%	Year 1S	94.5%
Year 2W	96.0%	Year 2F	96.7%
Year 3G	98.5%	Year 3H	95.2%
Year 4C	94.9%	Year 4J	97.8%
Year 5F	92.8%	Year 5N	95.2%
Year 6H	96.6%	Year 6M	96.0%
Whole School			95.6%

Well Done!

## Headteacher Message

I hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of our school newsletter. Remember the school website is regularly updated with news and gallery pictures, so please take a look. It's already proving to be a very busy and exciting half term. Advent is just around the corner and Christmas will soon be here. I'm really looking forward to the Christmas Plays and Christmas Fair! Now that the cold mornings and dark evenings are here, please remind the children about road safety and stranger danger. As usual, we will be doing our bit in school to pass on the 'stay safe' message. As always please feel free to pop in to see me if you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education.

Mr A Whelan