

# St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**SPRING TERM 2014/15**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> HALF TERM**



*Dear Parents/Carers,*

*We hope you had a restful half-term break and enjoyed spending time with your children during the week's holiday.*

*It is now the second half of the spring term and it feels like the year is going by very quickly. We are really enjoying the slightly lighter evenings and hoping for some warmer spring weather soon. We have lots of news to tell you things that happened last half term and events that are coming up!*

*We have now entered the season of Lent - a time of reflection in the Christian calendar. In school we are thinking about how we can change for the better and asking for God's support to be better people.*

*As always, please let us know if there are any suggestions you would like to make or have any concerns.*

*Thank you as always for your continued support!*



## Parents' Evening



Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March is parents' evening. This is an opportunity for you to come into school to see your child's work and discuss their progress with the class teacher. This time we will be operating an appointment system to help reduce waiting time. Please watch out for the letter that will be coming out shortly with more information.

We look forward to seeing you then!

## NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our new school website is now live and proving very popular. We hope you are finding it very informative and easy to navigate. Staff are keeping it regularly updated with news items, calendar events, photos in the gallery and class information pages.

The children have also received their own log in details to access our 'Virtual Learning Environment' where they will be able to access homework set by their class teacher, join in class discussions and projects!

[www.stpetersce.rochdale.sch.uk](http://www.stpetersce.rochdale.sch.uk)



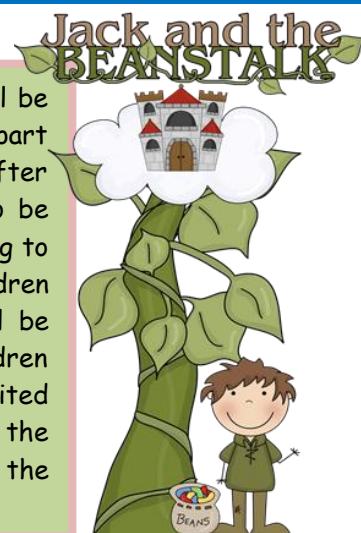
## BOOK FAIR!

*Thank you to all of you that supported the recent book fair in the hall! It was very well attended and helped us raise £602 to buy extra books for our school library.*



## Nursery News

This term the nursery children will be learning all about changes and growth. We will be learning all about how plants grow and the type of plants that can be eaten by taking part in some food tasting. We will also be planting our own seeds and growing beanstalks after reading the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and Jasper's Beanstalk. We will also be looking after and maintaining the outdoor environment. In Phonics we will be continuing to learn new sounds as well as beginning to blend sounds to read words. In RE the children will be learning about Miracles and reading stories about them. In Maths we will be learning all about money, recognizing coins and reading amounts. To support the children with this we have made our home corner into a supermarket, which they are very excited about. We will also be targeting children in our areas of provision by ensuring that the tasks and activities provision are challenging and differentiated to meet the needs of the children. This will ensure that they continue to progress well throughout the year.



## Reception News



This half term our topic is Growth and Change. We will be planting some seeds and looking after our outdoor area and allotments. The children visited Gordon Riggs before the holidays and we bought lots of compost and seeds. The children will be growing cucumber, pumpkins, spring onions, spinach and lots of other vegetables and flowers. In Literacy the children will be looking at stories such as 'Jasper's Beanstalk', 'Tadpole's Promise' and 'The cow that laid an egg'. The children will be learning about life cycles and how things grow. We will be writing letters in Literacy and posting them in a post box. Our new role play will be a Post Office too. In Maths the children will be using resources to add two numbers together and will be looking at which number comes before or after another. In RE we will be looking at famous people in Religion and stories from the Bible and looking at different festivals such as Chinese New Year. The children will be looking after eggs, watching them to see if they hatch and hope we get some baby chicks. Once again, this term there will be a strong emphasis on reading and writing as we aim for children to move towards their end of year targets. Please support your child to learn their weekly spellings, knowing these High Frequency Words will ensure that their writing makes good progress. Please help your child with their homework but it should be their work and not written by someone else. A busy and exciting half-term ahead!

## Year 1 News

This half term's topic is 'Farmer's in the Den'. We are looking forward to an exciting trip to Smithills Farm in March where we will find out all about the animals and how milk is produced. In science we will be investigating plants and what they need to grow. Our history work is going to be based on food in the past and how food is produced. This half term we will be using nature and plants as a stimulus for our art work, just as many artists have done in the past. We are going to be having lots of fun learning and writing new poems about the senses and poems that make us laugh. Well done to everybody who has been learning their spellings and completing their learning log. Keep up the hard work!



## Year 2 News



This half term promises to be very exciting and very busy for Year 2 especially now that the SAT's tests are getting closer! In maths this half term we will be covering topics such as, mental addition and subtraction of two digit numbers, measures and data, multiplication and division and money. During literacy we will be looking at both fiction and non-fiction books focusing on recounts and exploring the senses through poetry! We will be having a giggle with some humorous poems too. In history we are looking at 'changes within living memory' which covers how different elements of people's lives have changed since the 1940's to now in 2015. This history topic will link into our art and understanding technology over the years as well as the changes within our homes. Our geography topic will be different oceans, rivers and seas in the world as well as the physical and human features of different places. In RE our main focus this half term is 'friendship' and Christianity. We will be looking at many different stories in the Bible that teach us how to become a good friend. We will also learn about mothering Sunday, Lent and how Easter is celebrated within the church. Our new St Peter's VLE is up and running, so take a look!

## Year 3 News



Welcome back to the children, we hope everyone had a relaxing break and eating lots of pancakes! Yet again we have planned lots of exciting activities planned for this term. In English we will be starting with stories from imaginary worlds. During this theme the children will have lots of fun as we are going to be reading Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl. I am sure the children will produce some fantastic creative writing. Maths this term we will concentrate on Place Value and Multiplication and Division facts, remember to learn those times tables facts! In science we will be looking at the importance of a balanced diet, the function of different skeletons and how muscles work. In History the children will be researching how travel and transport has changed over the last 100 years in Rochdale and we will now be setting homework via our website, so make sure your child logs on and has a go. We now have a coach for gymnastics on a Monday and outdoor games on a Wednesday. Please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit.

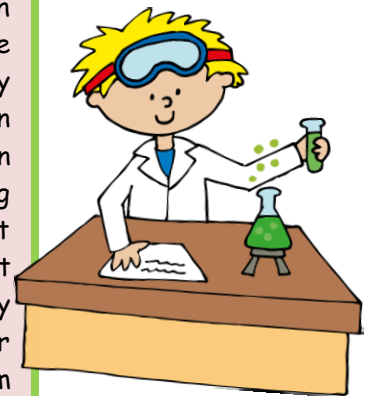
## Year 4 News



This term will be another busy one in Year Four, especially as we are now swimming every Monday morning so please make sure that your child has their swimming kit in school on a Monday. English will be full of exciting stories as we will be learning about myths and legends, recounts and reading lots of different types of poems. In Maths we will be covering lots of different ways to add, subtract, multiply and divide as well as looking at time and using coordinates. Our main topic this term is a Geography-based one, where we will be looking at the food trade around the world which will also include looking at 'Fair Trade'. In RE we will be looking at Christianity, in particular the stories which lead up to the celebration of Easter. ICT will be a journey of discovery into the World Wide Web and all our art this term will be based on the countries that we visit during our Geography topic. Sound will still be our Science topic for this term, learning more about how sound travels and how we measure sound. We are all looking forward to a great term in Year Four!

## Year 5 News

Welcome back to school and the second half of the spring term! We're watching out for the signs of spring and warmer weather. The children are now over half way through Year 5! We have done lots of work so far and there's lots left to do. In maths we have already conquered a new way of dividing! Ask your child about the method, you may recognize it. We will also be looking at shapes, understanding perimeter and area. In English we continue to learn to write in a variety of styles and genres. Ask children about "Flying Frogs" helping them to learn the journalistic style of writing. Reading continues to be an essential part of learning in Year 5, children need to understand what they are reading. You could help your child by providing them with a small dictionary that will help them look up words they don't understand. This widens their vocabulary knowledge and aids reading enjoyment. Other Theme work remains mostly the same for this half term focusing on Victorians. Miss Charnock is kindly still coming across from Kingsway Park to work with our children in Science looking at variables and Fair Testing.



## Year 6 News



This half-term will be another extremely busy one for both pupils and staff. Once again we will be working with the children in preparation for the upcoming SAT test in May. Children will be expected to work hard towards their individual targets and aim high. Work done in school is only part of this and we expect them to be completing their weekly homework, learning logs and reading their revision books, alongside completing the new homework tasks on the school website. Within school we will be studying the features of many different text types in English, focussing on reading techniques and fluency within writing. Maths work will include co-ordinates, algebra, multiplication and division alongside the mental strategies crucial for the mental maths SAT. In science we will be looking at how scientists first classified living creatures and how this helps us to classify new creatures. Our main topic 'Around the World' will continue with the focus being on land use in Rochdale and how volcanoes work, ask your child about 'Biomes'! PE will now be on a FRIDAY - please make sure your child has their full, correct PE kit. It will be a demanding, but enjoyable half-term!



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### REMINDERS FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

#### Meal Patterns

If your child is moving from a packed lunch (or vice versa) please ensure you inform the school office first.

#### Dinner Money KS2

Dinner money is £9.75 per week. Please ensure this is paid at the start of the week.

#### Online Payment

We are looking into the possibility of an online payment system so you would have the option to pay dinner money, trip money etc. online. A letter will be sent out soon to see if this is something you would be interested in.

## YEAR 3 CORNET CONCERT!

Last half term 3G performed their Cornet Concert. Since September, with the help of Steve Walsh from the Rochdale Music Service, the class had been learning how to play the cornet. The children thoroughly enjoyed their weekly music lessons and this was evident from the fantastic solo performances by some of the children!



## Fun in the snow!

We had great fun when it snowed! Please have a look at the photos in the 'Gallery' on our school website!



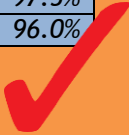
## ATTENDANCE

How's your class doing?  
This year our attendance target is 96%

Nursery	90.6%		
Rec RM	94.8%	Rec NM	93.6%
Year 1L	94.6%	Year 1M	96.3%
Year 2B	96.4%	Year 2M	95.8%
Year 3G	97.0%	Year 3LG	96.6%
Year 4M	96.9%	Year 4H	97.2%
Year 5C	96.0%	Year 5H	97.3%
Year 6B	97.1%	Year 6M	97.5%
Whole School			96.0%



Well Done!



## BIG TIDY UP!

As part of The Keep Britain Tidy campaign the whole school participated in a 'Big Tidy Up'. We collected rubbish from around the school grounds, as well as the local area such as Muriel Street, King's Road and by the canal. We had great fun but it made us think about how important our environment is and how it could be treated with more respect. We collected over 15 full bin bags of rubbish!



## Headteacher Message

Last half term was yet another incredibly rewarding half term at St Peter's and I am always delighted, when going around the school, by the children's work, behaviour and attitude to learning. We really are lucky here at St Peter's to teach such well-mannered, caring and responsible pupils. We have some fun events coming up with 'World Book Day' and 'Red Nose Day', I can't wait to see the costumes and funny faces! These events are also a good opportunity for us to help others around the world that are less fortunate than ourselves. In this season of Lent we are encouraging the children to reflect on how their behaviour, the choices and the decisions they make can affect those around them and remembering the important words of Jesus 'Love one another as I have loved you!'.

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