

# St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



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



## Parents' Evening



Wednesday 25<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.

We operate an appointment system to help reduce waiting time.

Please ensure you return the slip that will be sent out, so we can allocate you a time to meet your child's class teacher.

We look forward to seeing you then!



Dear Parents/Carers,

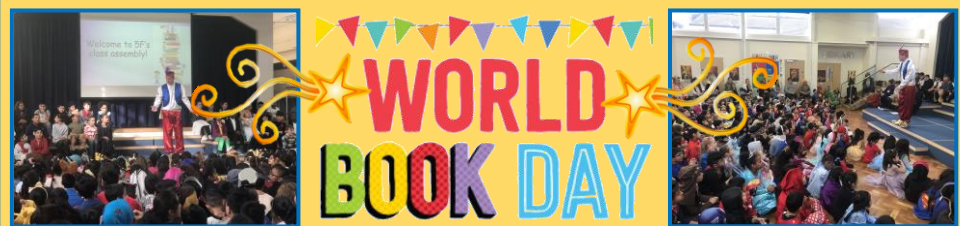
We hope you had a restful half-term break and enjoyed spending time with your children during the week's holiday.

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 about, 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. Our core value this term is 'Justice'.

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!



We all had great fun dressing up as book characters on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. The day got off to a great start with an assembly from 5F, all about the importance of books, and the greatest book of all - The Bible. We were delighted to find that, thanks to the children's kind donations, we raised over £309 for Book Aid International. This money will help to pay for books in less economically developed countries. Have a look at some of our photos, there are more to see on our school website, including pictures of all the children in their fantastic costumes!

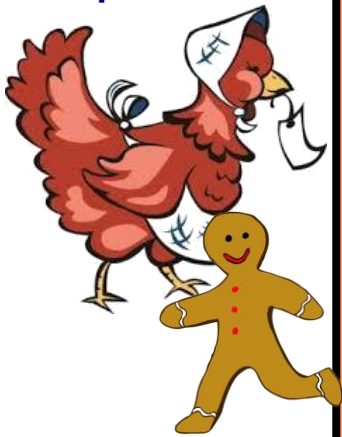


## Nursery News

We are starting off this new half term with our topic 'Under the Sea'. We will be learning about sea creatures and thinking about how they move and swim under the water. We will learn the names of sea creatures and think of words that we can use to describe them. In RE, we are starting the topics 'Stories Jesus Told' and 'Easter'. We will be listening to stories that Jesus told others. We will also be learning why we celebrate Easter and why it is an important time of year for us all. There will also be another visit to our local church at the end of term. Our first book will be 'Shark in the Park' by Nick Sharratt. This book will introduce us to rhyming words. We will be learning how to recognise a rhyming word and then how to continue a rhyming string e.g. cat, bat, rat, mat. This is something that parents could help children to do at home! Throughout the term we will continue to listen to stories, singing nursery rhymes, learning to recognise numbers, counting 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 siblings. From this half term, when children are able to write their first names independently and form most of the letters correctly, they will receive a special certificate and a reward. So please encourage the children to write their names at home at least once a day! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to any of the Nursery staff. Thank you for continued your support.



## Reception News



We hope you had a break and made lots of memories together! In RE we are learning about Stories Jesus heard, we will be learning about Noah's Ark. Another Bible story we are going to read is 'Jonah and the Whale'. We will link this to the importance of listening to others and following their wishes as we know Jonah didn't listen to God. This half term we will be focusing on Traditional Tales! We will begin the half term with 'The Gingerbread Man' - we will be carrying out a water investigation to see what happens when gingerbread goes into warm and cold water, we will then be learning about instructions. We will even make our own Gingerbread men - we do hope they don't escape from the oven!! Our next traditional tale is 'The Little Red Hen' - this story is all about the process of making bread and helping each other. We will be tasting different types of bread and different toppings. We will end the half term with 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' - we will be experimenting with types of bridges in the water area to see what resources make the strongest bridge! Our maths lessons will continue to focus on number and shape: encouraging children to recognise numbers 1-10, we will be halving numbers using practical resources, revising shape and 3D properties. We will continue to do gym on a Monday and dance on a Friday, your child's PE kit will stay in school for the full half term again. A huge thank you to those parents have been supporting their children's development in reading – the progress they are making is fantastic!

## Year 1 News

Welcome back to the spring half term! We have got lots of interesting and exciting things planned over the next few weeks in Year 1. In RE, we will be looking at the Easter story and discussing why this celebration is important to us. We will be discussing how this links to new beginnings at spring time and the meaning behind Jesus dying for us on the cross. In English, we will be looking at how and why we write letters, how to write instructions and exploring new texts. We will be joining in with World Book Day and spending a week looking the text 'The Wizard of Oz'. We will explore the characters from this story and will plan and write our own letters to the wizard. In maths, we have been measuring different objects by using cubes and rulers. We will also be moving onto capacity, data and revisiting addition and place value. We will continue to focus on our science topic of plants and will be planting and growing our own bean plants! Through this we will be able to observe the different changes and stages in a plants life and we will continue to do so over the next half term. We will then move on to looking at the seasonal change from winter to spring. In history, we will be looking at various local heroes from the area of Manchester. This will include past and present heroes and we will be looking at what they have done to be considered a 'hero'. In DT we will be continuing to look at Homes and the different types of homes and houses throughout the world. We will be also designing and using different materials to create our own houses. In Art we will be learning about the artist Anthony Gormley and how his 3D sculptures can inspire us to create our own!



## Year 2 News

Welcome back, we hope you are ready for a fun filled and busy half term! Our RE unit this term is, 'Easter: How do symbols help us to understand the story?' We will be discussing the word 'celebration', what this means and the feelings associated with different celebrations. This will then lead up to looking at the 'true meaning' of Easter and the symbols that represent this. In maths, we will be learning how to 'find the difference' by counting on and will be using number lines to solve calculations. We will also be learning how to tell the time on analogue and digital clocks. We will be continuing with our weekly 'MAD MINUTES' sessions so... Ready, steady, get practising! In English, we will begin by looking at recounts in the form of diary entries. We will read diaries as well as working on writing our own! Later in the term we will be looking at different poetry genres such as senses, humorous poetry and animal poems! Our geography topic this term is, 'The Seven Wonders of the World?' This will involve firstly looking at our local area and discussing what we like about it and then looking more globally at the world map and locating 'the wonders in our world'. In science, we will be learning about 'Materials'. We will learn scientific vocabulary such as: squash, bend, stretch and twist. We will carry out several investigations to discover why balls bounce, which materials are the toughest and this will lead up to us designing our very own bridge! Will your bridge be the strongest?



## Year 3 News

Although it is a short term, it will be jam packed full of lots of great activities for the children to do. Our focus in RE will be Lent and Easter. Year 3 will learn about the stories of Holy Week, the emotions that these events can stir and the true meaning of Lent, including the rituals and the way we celebrate. In Maths, we will be focusing on: perimeters, fractions, place value, multiplication and division. We will also be concentrating on mental addition and subtraction, continuing with the written methods for both of these. Make sure you are practising your mad minutes at home! We will be spending the next few weeks in English looking at Greek Mythology and Non Chronological reports. We will also be focusing on grammar as we need to improve our understanding of completing and punctuating sentences. Our focus in Science this term will be rocks and fossils. We will be learning about the different types of rocks and how they are made. We will then be going back millions of years to find out how fossils are formed. Finally, we will look at soil, asking the question - what on Earth is it? Make sure you are continuing to read with your children every day at home, even if it's just a few pages. It all helps to contribute towards their wider learning. Spellings and homework will be given out each week on Friday, spellings to be tested the following Friday and homework to be collected on Wednesday.



## Year 4 News



Wow! We are now in the fourth half term of Year 4! In RE this term, we will focus on trust and betrayal. We will explore who we can trust and if we can trust all of these individuals for all things we need help with. We will then link all of this new knowledge to the Easter story. To kick start our History theme; "How the Victorians Influenced our Local Area," we will be visiting the Rochdale Pioneers Museum on Toad Lane in our first week. This is where the very first Co-op began in 1844. Look out for the photographs on the gallery page. We will be using all the information we gathered to further our learning in the rest of our history lessons. In English, we will be finishing off our unit on fears by continuing to look at Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears. We will then use Book Week to study a text called "The Lost Happy Ending" which we will use to base a couple of pieces of writing on. In Maths, we will be exploring fractions in great detail: what they are; how they are used in everyday life; and adding and subtracting fractions. We will then move on to decimals and investigate the pattern between them. In Science, Year 4 moves onto living things and their habitats where we will be looking at what all living things have in common. We will then move look at what makes living things different and thing how we can compare them. Please remember that all children are still required to bring their swimming kit on Monday morning including a bathing suit and towel.

## Year 5 News

In English this half term, we will be looking at investigating the different ways of writing dialogue, focusing on Shakespeare's work. D. Wiesner's narrative book 'Tuesday' will be used to study report writing. In Maths, we will be looking at subtracting decimals linking in with our knowledge of place value. We will then move on to looking at fractions. This will be followed up with a week of multiplication, and then division. To end our busy half term, we will finish with shape focusing on angles within polygons. For our Science unit, Year 5 will cover forces. The topic will explore the effect gravity has on humans and objects on Earth; identify the effects of friction, air resistance and water resistance and investigate mechanisms and how they can help us in the world in which we live. For RE Year 5 will look at understanding about the Christian belief that Jesus died and rose victoriously and what this means to Christians; focusing on the Easter story in detail. Within Geography, we will be investigating the question 'Where should we go on holiday?' We will be focusing our investigation on the Alpine region; understanding beyond our local area to include Europe. In Computing, Year 5 will be architects. We will research examples of art gallery architecture, before creating their own virtual gallery. DT will continue with our bread topic. Art moves on to looking at 3D artwork, focusing on Michelangelo's famous sculptures. We will investigate techniques he has used and create our own sculpture in the style of Michelangelo.



## Year 6 News



Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term where 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. In RE this half term, we will be focusing on the importance of Easter. The children will explore the importance of the sacrifice that Jesus made for the people and the Christian Value we will explore is 'Justice'. In English, we will be focusing on different genres of writing where the children have the opportunity to edit and redraft their work; ensuring each piece of writing shows their true potential. We will start by looking at the famous book by J.K Rowling - 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. We will be delving into story openings and letter writing. In Maths, we have split the year group up into smaller groups so that we can focus on the children's strengths and weaknesses and extend their learning accordingly. In doing this, the children's confidence will increase and they will be able to apply this knowledge in all contexts. We begin with looking at fractions and then we will move onto number sequences and algebra. Our Science topic for the whole term is 'Animals and Humans.' This half term, we will be learning about living things and their habitats. We will carry out lots of investigations to enhance our learning. Our focus in Geography is 'Are we damaging our world?' We will be learning about how to look after our environment sustainably. If you have any concerns or questions about anything, please do come and see one of the Year 6 team.



**St Peter's Church of England Primary School**  
Muriel Street  
Rochdale  
OL16 5JQ

**Phone:**  
(01706) 648 195

**Fax:**  
(01706) 710 302

**E-mail:**  
office@stpetersce.  
rochdale.sch.uk

### School Dinner Payments

If your child has school dinners, please can we remind you that you **MUST** pay in advance. Failure to do so, could result in suspension from school dinners. The cost of pupil dinners this year are £11 per week.



### Forthcoming Events

#### EYFS/KS1 - EASTER BONNETS

Wednesday 1st April



Decorate a hat for your child to wear in the 'Easter Bonnet Parade'

#### KS2 - EASTER EGGS COMPETITION

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March



Decorate an egg for your child to display in our competition!



## Outdoor Development of the Playground

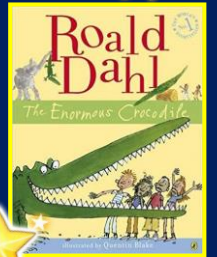
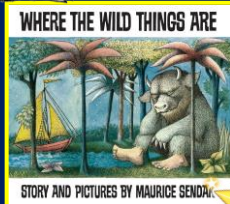
As you can see, the playground and surrounding grounds work is coming along nicely and should hopefully be near completion really soon. The children will all have a fantastic time during their breaks and lunch times on the new equipment that will really boost their activity and enjoyment levels. The children have already made fantastic use on the new markings on the playground.



## ~ Visit from 'West End in Schools' ~

With the guidance of an expert drama facilitator the children experienced stories from a new perspective as they developed their feelings and thoughts about 'Where The Wild Things Are' and 'The Enormous Crocodile'.

The drama exercises enabled the children to imagine and explore the characters, context and topics from new angles. Every class had a drama workshop that they thoroughly enjoyed!



## Nursery Places

Places are available for September 2020. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in your child starting at our wonderful Nursery please come and get an application form from the school office. If you have already applied, notification of places offered will be sent out over Easter. We offer places for children who are 3 years old and will turn 4 during next academic year.



## ATTENDANCE

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

Nursery	92.4%	Rec RK	93.5%
Rec RM	95.6%	Year 1S	96.0%
Year 1K	95.6%	Year 2F	97.0%
Year 2W	96.6%	Year 3H	96.1%
Year 3G	97.4%	Year 4J	94.8%
Year 4C	95.5%	Year 5N	95.7%
Year 5F	94.8%	Year 6M	96.9%
Year 6H	96.8%	Whole School	95.7%

Well Done!

## 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've had some fun events already with a visit from 'West End in Schools' and 'World Book Day'; I really enjoyed seeing all the costumes! Events like 'World Book Day' 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