

St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**AUTUMN TERM 2020/21
1ST HALF TERM**



REMINDERS FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Absences

We wish to remind parents that if your child is absent from school you need to inform the school office on each day of absence by 8.50am

Lates

Children need to be on the school playground for their given entry time. If you arrive after this time you need to report to the school office and your child will receive a late mark.

Book Bags

If you need a new book bag these can be obtained from the school office at a cost of £7.50.

Lost/Damaged Books

Please note that there will be a charge for any lost or damaged school reading scheme/library books.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

On Friday 25th September we had a fantastic day raising money for Macmillan – a charity very close to our hearts! As well as helping with the medical needs of people affected by cancer, Macmillan also looks at the social, emotional and practical impact cancer can have, and campaigns for better cancer care. Macmillan Cancer Support's goal is to reach and improve the lives of everyone living with cancer in the UK. We made a fantastic £411 to donate to the charity. Well done everyone!



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back!

After an abrupt finish back in March, it was an absolute delight to welcome back all the children into school. We really did miss them!

Here we are again 'Back at School' in this 'new normal' and in these first few weeks the children have settled into their new classes fantastically. We are all so proud of them.

A big welcome to our new parents and children - we really hope you enjoy being part of our lovely school.

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!



SPIRITUAL REFLECTION GARDEN

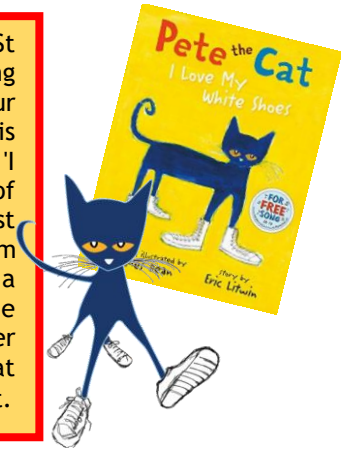
Our Spiritual Reflection Garden is now complete! As part of the redevelopment of our school grounds, we created a 'Spiritual Reflection Garden' where the children can go for a moment of serenity and peace, and reflect on their day. When designing and creating the garden, we knew we wanted a Celtic Cross to be a focal point, as well as the 'bubbling' stone fountain.

The children and school community can use it to quietly reflect, in a safe and calm space.



Nursery News

As this first term begins we would like to welcome all of our families who have joined us at St Peter's this year. We have enjoyed meeting you all and look forward to a busy, fun and exciting year ahead. This term our topic will be 'All About Me'. We are currently getting to know your children and finding out their interests, likes and personalities, we will then be using this knowledge to support your children in their next steps of learning. In RE we are starting the topic 'I am Special'. We will be asking questions like: How do we know that we are special in the eyes of God? How do we know that God is our Heavenly Father? Why are our names important? Our first book this term will be 'Pete the Cat, I love my white shoes' by Eric Litwin. 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 our names and learning all the school routines. These are all things that children could also do at home with parents and older siblings. If you have any questions about your child starting Nursery or how to help your child at home, then please do not hesitate to speak to any of the Nursery staff. Thank you for your support.



Reception News



Welcome to Reception! We have been having lots of fun exploring our new classroom and getting to know our new friends. We have also enjoyed looking at the fabulous All About Me posters that some of the children made over the summer, they are amazing! In RE, we will be talking about what makes us special, appreciating and celebrating how we are all different! We will also learn about our school's Mission Statement 'Be the Good Soil' and discuss how we can be 'The Good Soil', every day, here at St Peter's. This half term our topic is All About Me; we will be discussing who lives in our house, what we like to do with our family and the special memories we have made. The first story that we are learning about is Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs, Harry's favourite thing is dinosaurs! We will be discussing what our favourite things are as well as drawing and painting them! The children will also be practicing writing their name every morning, please encourage your child to do this at home too. The children have been showing us their amazing counting skills! We are now encouraging them to recognise numerals 1-10 and beyond, please encourage your children to look and name the numbers around them at home - these could be on your front door, bus numbers and prices in the supermarket! Our PE lessons will be on Monday and Fridays, please ensure your child has a full PE kit in school and each item is named.

Year 1 News

Welcome to Year One! We know the last few months have been rather different both in school and at home. However, we were so happy and excited to welcome the children back to school and have had a great start this new school year. The children have started Year One with a positive attitude and have quickly settled into their new routine. They seem excited and eager to learn lots of new and interesting things and hopefully this enthusiasm will continue! Our topic in RE is God's creation story we will be discussing the meaning of creation and then we will be learning about harvest. All our RE lessons will include a reflection time which will encourage children to think about our religious learning. During this half term the children will be learning all about our local area of Rochdale in the topic 'Where we live'. This will be part of our Geography subject and so far the children have greatly enjoyed discussing and describing the areas in which they live. In Art we will be looking at self-portraits and the different techniques artists use to draw themselves. In Science the children will be learning about different materials and their properties. In Maths the children will develop their skills in counting, sequences, addition and subtraction and begin to learn about time and money. In English we will be looking at different types of text, including stories, poems, songs and patterns. We are looking forward to an exciting year with the pupils.



Year 2 News



Welcome back to school and to Year 2! We are so excited to have the children back and can't wait to learn together and share our successes! What will we be learning this half term? Our unit in RE is 'Jesus, friend to everyone'. We will use Bible stories such as 'Jesus and the children' to help us further understand friendship. In English, we will begin by looking at 'Traditional Tales with a Twist', and we will be exploring a favourite story of ours, Prince Cinders by Babette Cole. We will then move on to looking at letters and non-chronological reports. In maths, we will be looking at the important unit of place value of numbers, addition and subtraction. We will also use our learning in these units and apply it to the context of money. In addition to our maths lessons, we will have a weekly timetables test that we call 'Mad Minutes'. Please support your child with practising these at home. Our science topic is 'Materials Matter'. We will learn new science vocabulary such as absorb and transparent and use this to describe the properties of materials. In geography we will be looking at the question, 'What are seasons?' This will involve us looking at seasonal changes across the UK. We are looking forward to an exciting year with you all!

Year 3 News

Welcome back to school and most importantly welcome to Year 3! A big part of this year will be the transition from Infants to Juniors. There is a big step up in the work expectations for the children but together we will support them as they settle into a different way of working. We appreciate any support from parents and please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your child. This term in RE will see a focus on prophets surrounding our "Called by God" topic. This is very exciting and contains lots of stories from the Bible, with a reflective theme of repent, forgiveness and quests. Each RE lesson will contain a time for reflection where the children will be encouraged to consider their thoughts and actions in daily life and how to further improve these in order to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We will also be starting our Harvest topic and begin to look at the Old Testament stories from the Bible. Maths and Literacy will continue just like last year with 1 lesson of each per day. In addition to this, we will spend extra time on handwriting and guided reading. Please can you encourage your children to read at home as much as possible. This is vital to their success at school and will benefit them greatly. Even if it is only a small amount every day. Your children will receive spellings to learn every week alongside a weekly piece of homework relating to that week's work. We very much appreciate your support in ensuring homework is completed. Please ensure your child reads with you every night. Not only is this an enjoyable task it also enhances their writing skills. Thank you for your support!



Year 4 News



Wow, what a lot of time we have missed from school. We are so pleased to be back with the children, their smiling faces have helped us back to normality in these uncertain times. The children have come back to school with excellent manners and a good memory for how to behave at school. In English we will be looking at the Fables of Aesop, a lot of animals tricking each other and teaching us lessons. For maths we are looking at numbers and place value. Times tables are extremely important and it would greatly support your child if you could help with tables learning at home. Times table Rock stars is a fun way to do this or pencil and paper games can be just as effective. Science lessons will look at Solids Liquids and Gases –States of Matter. In Geography we will be looking at North and South American continents making our way along the famous Route 66! Once again it is so good to be back doing what we should be educating your lovely children. Unfortunately, it is not as easy to catch us on the playground for questions, we are happy to speak to you over the phone should you need to ask us anything. Thank you.

Year 5 News

Welcome back to the new school year! We're glad to see you all back. We hope you had a safe and wonderful break. Within our RE lessons, we will be focusing on Jesus the Teacher, developing our understanding of parables that Jesus taught. In English, we will begin with reading classic fiction: The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling. Later we will move onto our non-fiction unit of UFO recounts and ending the half term with writing instructions and explanations. In Maths, we will be developing our understanding of the four number operations. Some other topics we will look at are: shape, place value and money. For our Science Unit, Year Five will explore properties of materials. I won't give too much away, but expect tales of Alien soup. Geography focuses on the question 'How is our country changing?' To link with this, our music topic will be all about 'our community'. In Art, we will be focusing on the topic 'Look at this- Cezanne'. This involves selecting, arranging and presenting objects in a still-life painting. In computing, we will design, write and debug a programme making a computer game software. In French, we will be covering the unit 'On Holiday', learning key vocabulary to describe this. As always, if you have any questions, please do arrange a telephone call so we can discuss your child's learning.



Year 6 News



Welcome back and in to Year 6! It's lovely having the children back in school. They have come back ready to start the year with such positive attitudes. This half term, we will be focusing on 'Ideas about God' and sharing our thoughts as a class. The children will be answering Big Questions and posing their own. 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 War Horse where we will be reading the story in class and basing our writing around it. We will be using the thoughts and feelings of the characters to write a persuasive letter. We will then move on to looking at recounts, instructions and explanations referring to 'The Day of Ahmed's Secret' and 'Sue Palmer's Book of Instructions and Explanations.' In Maths, we will begin with place value, addition and subtraction. We will then be looking at decimals and fractions. Then we will start to look at algebra. We have a competition between the classes on TT Rock stars, and we will see which class wins just before October half term. In Science, we will be looking at fossils. Children will get the opportunity to observe some real fossils and discover how they were made. In Geography, we are looking at Journeys: trade and thinking about 'Where all of our stuff comes from.' We will be learning about how to look after our environment sustainably. In Art, we will be learning about Lowry focusing on sketching and drawing moving images. The Christian Value we will explore is 'Generosity'. We are looking forward to an exciting year with Year 6!



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Playground Finished!



Water Play and Mud Kitchen



Early Years Play Tower



Nature Trail and Butterfly Garden



Early Years Playground



Early Years Outdoor Classrooms



Nature Trail



Main Playground Play Equipment



Main Playground Play Tower



More photos to follow...



Parents/carers please wear a mask when picking up and dropping off your children



#BackToSchoolSafely
 Thank you!



DO NOT send your children to school with any symptoms of COVID-19



Year 6 High School Applications

Year 6 applications for high schools need to be completed by 02nd November and these need to be completed online. If you need support with this, head to Number One Riverside in Rochdale town centre where additional support will be given to those with no access to internet facilities.



ATTENDANCE

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

Nursery	93.9%	Rec RK	95.2%
Rec RM	98.3%	Year 1S	92.4%
Year 1K	98.2%	Year 2F	95.3%
Year 2W	98.1%	Year 3H	97.2%
Year 3G	98.6%	Year 4J	98.2%
Year 4C	96.4%	Year 5M	97.4%
Year 5F	96.1%	Year 6N	97.3%
Year 6H	97.1%	Whole School	96.8%

Well Done! ✓

Headteacher Message

Well, here we are back in school after all these months after lockdown started. I was genuinely pleased to see the children back in school after all this time. I know the 'new normal' is very different, but I would like to thank all parents and carers for adhering to social distancing guidelines and wearing masks when coming into the school grounds to drop off and pick up your children.

I hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of our school newsletter and enjoy looking at the super photos! Remember the school website is regularly updated with news and gallery pictures, and each class has their own page for the teachers to keep you informed about current topics and events coming up, so take a look!

Mr A Whelan