

# St Peter's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**AUTUMN TERM 2020/21  
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 is now 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.

Sadly, our Christmas Concerts couldn't go ahead this year due to restrictions in place, however, we wish you all a hopeful and reflective season of preparation.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support during these challenging times. We are so proud of the children here at St Peter's with how they have come back to school with a drive to learn!



## Children in Need

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November we took part in 'Children in Need', we had a non-uniform day and managed to raise £438 to help 'Children in Need'. Well Done Everyone!



## 12 Days of Christmas

We hope you enjoyed the festive video from all the staff and pupils here at St Peter's. If you haven't already seen it, please head to the school website to see it.



### REMINDERS

#### NO PARKING

Due to the narrowness of the road and congestion, we ask that you **do not park** on Muriel Street or in the turning circle outside the school gate when dropping off or collecting your child. Parents are allowed to use Gordon Riggs car park or the layby opposite.



A Partridge in a Pear Tree



Two Turtle Doves



Three French Hens



Four Calling Birds



Five Gold Rings



Six Geese a Laying



Seven Swans a Swimming



Eight Maids a Milking



Nine Ladies Dancing



10 Lords a Leaping



Eleven Pipers Piping



Twelve Drummers Drumming





## Nursery News

We have had a very busy and exciting 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 has been Animals. We have been learning about different animals and where they live, and what animals make good pets and which ones don't. In RE we have learned through the topics 'Special Times' and 'Christmas'. We have been looking at how we celebrate special times with our families and why Christmas is important to us. We looked at photos of your children at their own celebrations and they shared their experiences with their friends. Our first book this term was 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell. This book introduced us to what animals make good pets and which ones didn't. We were describing these animals using words like 'fierce' and 'grumpy'. Throughout the term we have been 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 could also do at home with parents and older siblings. We have sent your children home with a 'Home Learning Book', please complete the tasks in this book each week with your children. This will help to improve your children's learning further. The work will also be posted on Google Classroom, so please ensure you login to this each week. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to any of the Nursery staff. Thank you for your continued support.



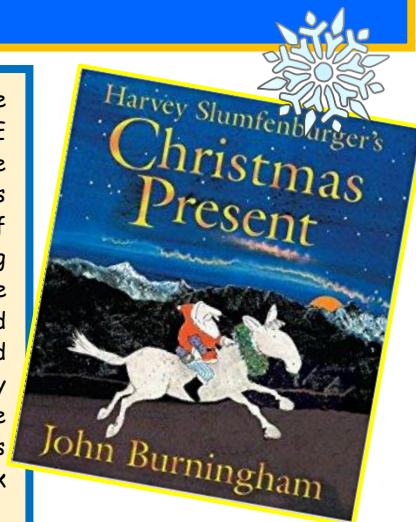
## Reception News



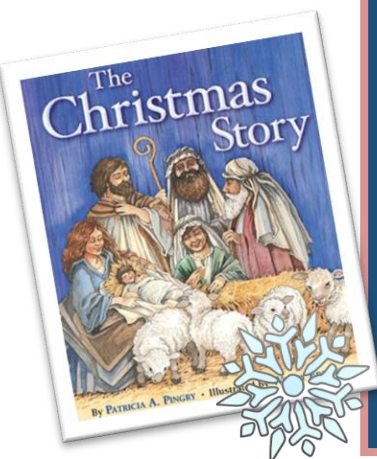
This half term we have been learning all about animals, starting with farm animals and then moving onto the jungle animals! We looked at some non-fiction books to learn lots of interesting facts about the animals and had a go at making our own fact files; we are also looking at a fiction book called 'Rumble in the Jungle' and explored some rhyming words. We love listening to the children read, they are making great progress in recognising the letters, recalling the sounds they make and some children are also beginning to blend the sounds to read words! Please continue to read at home and write a short comment in your child's reading record - this really helps us in school and reinforces the importance of reading with your child. The children are making great progress in maths! We have continued to work hard to recognise numbers, count different objects and use language related to height and weight. We have also revisited addition and subtraction, with some fun games in our new outdoor area to help us! This half term our RE topic is Special Times, this has included discussing our own special memories, the feelings associated with the memory, Jesus' special times and thinking about why it is important to celebrate special times. As always, thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions, please do come and see one of the team.

## Year 1 News

We have had an exciting half term in Year 1! Well done to all the children who logged on to Google Classroom every day for the two weeks we couldn't be together in school - you were all brilliant! In RE we have been continuing our work on Judaism before moving on to the Christmas Story. We will explore the scripture that tell us all about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and dive deeper into what this means for us in our lives. We have been learning all about life in the past and discovering how lots of objects and possessions were different for our grandparents. In science, we are continuing our learning on materials and carrying out lots of exciting experiments. In DT, we are looking at moving picture books and creating a variety of moving pictures. In maths, we have been 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 have also been looking at rhyming poems and reading Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present. During the half term we continued to focus on developing the pupil's phonics knowledge. Please ensure you read with your child at home and complete all phonics activities and homework sent out during the term. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to another great half term with Year 1 when we come back in January.



## Year 2 News



We have had a fun packed half term, with lots of learning and not forgetting some festive fun! In English, we were really excited to introduce the children to the famous author, Enid Blyton. We were looking at her adventure stories in her book 'The Cherry Tree Farm'. This book introduced us to some interesting characters and took us on fun adventures! Towards the end of this half term we will look at a non-fiction and a poetry unit. In mathematics, our units have been; measurement, addition & subtraction and shape & data. We have also been continuing with our Mad Minutes challenge, so keep practising! In science, we were furthering our knowledge on 'Materials'. We learned additional scientific vocabulary and carried out investigations to test the suitability of materials, using questions to lead our investigations such as, "Do all balls bounce?" Our history topic took us through the events of, 'Remember, remember the 5th of November'. We learned about who Guy Fawkes was, the chronology of this event, the key facts and we were able to plot it on a timeline. Our RE unit this half term was, 'Christmas - Good News'. Our learning was focused around these 'Big Questions'; How is good news delivered? Why was the birth of Jesus good news? What difference did it make to the world? We have introduced the children to virtual learning on Google Classroom and would appreciate it if parents could support them with this. If you need any support with this, please do ask one of the team. Please see the class web pages for the usual reminders. Again, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Year 2 team if you have any further questions or require any support.

## Year 3 News

The children have been working very hard and are becoming very mature and independent in their learning. In RE we moved on to our topic 'Christmas - God is with Us' surrounding the topic of the birth of Jesus and the Christmas story. We focused on God's presence and how it can impact people's lives as well as what instances we feel God's presence and what emotions/challenges it helps us with. We focused on place value applying mental strategies to work out maths calculations for addition, subtraction multiplication and division in Maths. 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 English, we have been exploring Adventures Stories by reading Stoneage Boy and Stig of the Dump. Our Science topic this term has been Light - we were looking at different kinds of light sources and how they are incorporated into our everyday lives. We have also been looking at our History topic, what was life like during the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages? The children have learned how these 3 periods in History have played an important role in today's world. The children learned 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. Your children will receive spellings to learn every week alongside a weekly piece of homework relating to that week's work. 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. There has been a great effort so far on reading but we can still do more! Thanks for your continued support!



## Year 4 News

What amazing children we have in Year 4: learning with commitment and enthusiasm. This half term we have been looking at the successes of the Ancient Egyptians in History. In science, we have had the electrifying topic of Electricity. The children have been getting stuck into practical work, building their own circuits and lighting up mini-light bulbs, as well as understanding the importance of being safe and thinking about conserving resources. In English, we have been looking at some Japanese poems that involve lots of syllable counting! We will be moving onto a book about Tutankhamun and another one about a very clever black cat. Place value has continued to be a big focus during this half term. This knowledge underpins everything else we learn about in maths. Further to this, we have been developing our skills in multiplication and look at challenging problems within all of our topics in maths; and explored the four operations in depth. We are pleased to announce that this Year we have continued to take part in Rochdale's Linking Network Programme. This usually involves visits with, and to our, linking school in Heywood. This year however, it will be different in that we are doing "Virtual Linking." We will be exchanging work, videos and messages with the children in a Covid safe way. There will still be lots of fun activities to do. Thank you for your continued support.



## Year 5 News

We have had an exciting half term. For RE Year 5 will have been exploring proverbs. We discussed the value of wisdom and how it can affect our daily lives. Later on in the term we moved onto Christmas: The Gospels of Matthew and Luke and looking at the importance this time of year has on our lives as we prepare for Advent. In English, we began by looking at travel writing. We then looked at the narrative text, Goth Girl and will end the term with The Walrus and the Carpenter by Lewis Carroll. In Maths, we have been looking at division facts, where we have learned how to use short division and using our knowledge of times tables to help us. We have also been looking at problem solving tasks where the children need to use their reasoning skills. They have tried really hard! Our science unit this term has covered Earth and Space for, looking at celestial bodies within our solar system; the children have learned so much and have enjoyed telling us the new facts they have learned. Our History topic has explored the ancient world and civilization of the Maya. In Computing, we have been studying the unit of 'We are cryptographers' looking at different methods of code. It has been really exciting. The children have been fantastic this half term and we can't wait to continue our learning in the new term. If you have any questions about your child's learning, please do ask one of the team at the end of the school day.



## Year 6 News

In English, we have been focusing on different genres of writing where the children have had the opportunity to edit and redraft their work; ensuring each piece of writing shows their true potential. We started by looking at blogs and reports, thinking about formal and informal writing. We then moved onto 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. We read the story in class and based our writing around it. We used the thoughts and feelings of the characters to produce our writing. We have now moved on to looking at narrative poems referring to 'The Highwayman'. In Maths, we began with fractions, thinking about equivalence and ordering. Then we moved onto looking at shapes; identifying the properties of shapes and calculating the area and perimeter. Every day, children take part in Accelerated Maths and answer questions that are marked automatically and then are tested at the end. We will continue with the competition between the classes on TT Rock stars, and we will see which class wins just before the end of the term. In Science, we have been looking at light. Children have had the opportunity to observe how light travels and how shadows are formed. In History, studied the Ancient Greeks and thought about 'Why we should thank the Ancient Greeks'. We learned all about how the Ancient Greeks have impacted the world we live in today. The Christian Value we have been exploring is 'Compassion' and this half term, we have been focusing on 'Advent' and sharing our thoughts as a class. We would like to thank you all for your support and just say we are looking forward to another exciting term with Year 6!





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### What is Advent?

Advent is an important part of the Christian calendar. It means 'coming' and it's the period before Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus. It is all about preparing for Christmas Day. Advent starts on the Sunday nearest to the 30th November.

### Why do we celebrate?

Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth so the Advent period reminds us to remember and prepare for those celebrations.

### Why do we have advent calendars?

Many Advent customs involve counting down the days until Christmas begins. Some churches have an advent wreath with five candles, one for each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day and one for Christmas Day itself. Sometimes people will have their own Advent candle which they'll burn at home.



Reflecting on the Coming of Christ



Dear Lord,

In this season of Advent we prepare our hearts for your coming.

You are the vine; we are the branches.  
Come and tend us, prune us, clean us.

Discard in us everything that does not bear fruit,  
Nourish in us everything that bears much fruit.

As we celebrate your coming as a vulnerable baby  
Our hearts await your glorious return as the eternal King.  
Nurture in us expectant hearts, O Lord.  
Cultivate in us a deep longing for more of you.

Until that Day when you burst through the heavens,  
And flood our horizons with your glorious splendour.  
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
throughout all ages and generations.

Amen.



Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December



Christmas Party Day  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
Own clothes day

### Anti-Bullying Week

The theme this year was 'United Against Bullying' 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	92.6%		
Rec RM	96.7%	Rec RK	96.2%
Year 1K	98.4%	Year 1S	96.2%
Year 2W	98.3%	Year 2F	96.7%
Year 3G	97.9%	Year 3H	97%
Year 4C	97.1%	Year 4J	98.1%
Year 5F	96.4%	Year 5N	97.2%
Year 6H	96.5%	Year 6N	97.2%
Whole School			97%

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. We are in the midst of Advent and Christmas will soon be here. I'm really proud to have shared the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' video, and the EYFS 'Nativity' video that all the children participated in to spread a bit of Christmas joy!

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 to speak to me if you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education.

Mr A Whelan