



St. Peter's Church of England Middle School

NEWSLETTER

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December 2017



Left: Year 5 cooking



*Right:
Christmas lunch*

Dear Parents and Guardians/Carers

As we come towards the end of another busy term, it gives me great pleasure to report on our many high points. At the end of November we held a cake sale for **Children in Need**. Together we raised over £200 for this very worthwhile cause, a significant improvement on last year.

Our recent PTA Christmas Fayre was a highlight of this term. As usual the team of volunteers created a wonderful event, full of seasonal cheer. I was very pleased to see so many of our community attending and supporting the school. As always, I am very grateful to the PTA for all of their hard work and organisation. Well done to all.

On Friday 15th December we supported another Charity. **Save the Children** held a Christmas Jumper day. Students and staff wore their jumpers or accessories for a £1 donation to this charity. Not only did the event bring us some very welcome Christmas cheer but also reminded us at this time of those that are less fortunate than ourselves. Whilst we were in the festive spirit, students also enjoyed their school Christmas lunch. My thanks to the events team for making the arrangements which ensured that everyone participating had a lovely time.

At the end of this term we are saying goodbye to two members of Staff. Ms Oliver, year 5, has been unwell for some time now and has resigned from her position with us. We wish her well as she continues to recover. Details of teaching arrangements for 5EOL will be sent separately to Parents.

We are also saying goodbye to Mr Denis. Mr Denis joined us this time last year and he has been a great asset to the school, bringing much experience and a very calm presence. Mr Denis is moving on to a Senior Leadership role in a London School and we wish him all the best in his continued career. I am looking forward to teaching Mr Denis' year 7 English classes myself. We may even find some time for a little Drama!

You may have seen in the National Press that the school comparison tables have been released. These tables give Parents an opportunity to compare schools. I am pleased to say that 63% of our year 6 reached the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths and we are above the national average again this year. We are aware that the progress of our cohort, especially Reading and Maths, was not reflected positively in the published data. Ms Mehta and I have already taken steps to ensure that this outcome is improved for the current cohort. Particular achievements of note are that, in a comparison of local Middle Schools, we were ranked 2nd for higher outcomes in Writing and Maths.

Finally on Wednesday 20th December we all met at the Church of St Peter and St Andrew on Church Road. Here we celebrated Christmas with our annual carol service. Students had been practising their carols and readings and the service was a wonderful way to end this term.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andy Snipp
Headteacher

Accelerated Reader

We are very glad to have had the first term using our new reading programme, Accelerated Reader, which as well as giving opportunities to test reading, allows the students to complete quizzes on every book which they have read. This also means we can track not just how many books, but how many words our students have read.

Congratulations to students below who are already well on their way to their next million words read!

Yuvraj Kharay; Freya Holden-Macdonald; Alex Smith; Ellie Breach; Grace Bennett; Jacob Howard-Real.

House assemblies

This term we have had our first House assemblies run by the students. We are very grateful to the House Captains who planned and delivered their assemblies and set the tone very well for the Houses.

The top ten merits are now displayed in the hall for each House and updated on a regular basis so students are able to see who has achieved the most merits in each House.

As we approach the end of term, Stuart House has 2274 merits, York, 2263, Tudor 2172 and Lancaster 2078.

Lunch and After School Extra-Curricular & Enrichment Programme

The Spring 1 programme is up on the school website under Parents/Information.

Christmas Fayre

The school Christmas Fayre was a huge success and raised a fantastic £2,450.



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 15th December we took part in Christmas Jumper Day, raising money for Save The Children. We raised £157.00.



Mission Romania

Thank you to all parents who supported the Mission Romania Christmas shoe box appeal. St Peter's provided 93 of the 140 boxes that were sent out from Old Windsor.

The boxes have been delivered to Romania and Mr Martin will be returning to school to update us, next year.



Children in Need

Our Children In Need cake sale was a huge success and we raised £244.42. A big thank you to parents and carers for providing the delicious cakes. Students were allowed to wear odd socks during the day and each student produced a dot which displayed their uniqueness.

Year 5 Retreat Day

In November the Year 5 students spent the day in school, but away from their usual lessons, reflecting on St Peter's five Christian values of Fellowship, Compassion, Integrity, Trust and Wisdom.



The day began with warm-up fellowship activities, including the "go-if" game, singing "What a Friend we have in Jesus" and team "freeze-frame" challenges. The students read and acted out Bible stories about compassion and trust.

Later, in teams, they constructed a tall paper and stick tower that showed integrity. Finally, the day ended in candle-lit stillness, they reflected on how they could apply the values, thus gaining wisdom.

Students completed a feed-back form and many commented on how they enjoyed the day, that they now know the five values much better and thought the activities really helped them learn to get on with others.

Year 6 Retreat

In November, the Year 6 students went to Slough Baptist Church for the morning session of "Christmas Unwrapped". This is an expertly run action-packed session to pull away the "fluff" and to learn more about the true story and meaning of Christmas. Students answered a quiz, read various large banners telling the story, reflected in quiet and stillness, listened to Wayne's rap and made a mince pie each.

Music News

There have been many events for our students this term:

September: The Year 5 students went to the Parish Church in Windsor to a performance of Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf".

Later in music lessons, they composed music about a Lion and a Mouse, and some students have been inspired to take up instrument lessons in school.

October: We were invited to lead the chants in a Windsor Ecumenical Taizé Service. A small group of selected Year 6 singers represented St Peter's and comments were made on their beautiful singing and mature conduct.



December: Christmas is a busy time for musicians and this term is no exception. First the Choir and the newly formed School Band performed two slots of Christmas music at St Peter's Christmas Fayre, which was well received. Last weekend, in the cold and snow, students sang again at the Old Windsor Village Fayre and the audience loved the performance.



Last week was the "Winter Celebration" evening which show-cased our ensembles and solo musicians in the school. There were 35 students performing from all year groups and they all rose to the occasion and played wonderfully.

Instrument lessons

There are new students learning instruments this term, which has meant a larger band ready to play the carols in church on the last day of term. There are still more spaces for other students to take lessons.

Do email Mrs Foakes for details: E.Foakes@st-petersoldwindsor.org.uk

January: 16th and 17th January is Performance Week in music lessons. This is open to all students who wish to sing or play a short piece of music to the class. The best eight performers in each year group will be invited to perform in the evening "Elite Musicians Recital" on **Wednesday 7th February** at 7 pm.

Mrs Foakes

United Kingdom Maths Trust Junior Maths Challenge & Team Maths Challenge 2018

The UKMT JMC takes place on Thursday 26th April 2018 and this December St Peter's Year 8 students trialled to find the best ten mathematicians to take part.

Congratulations to the following students who will take part in the challenge next year.

Top 10 in ranked order:

Hugo Allison-Vallois

Finlay Jones

Yuvraj Kharay

Alexandra Elmes

Caleb Berry

Ethan Tullett

Oliver Lewis

Keira Delaney

Dominic Mcleod Smith

Nathan Dick

Reserve:

Daniyah Ali

Lewis Higgins

Leo Ardali

UKMT TMC Tuesday March 13th 2018

We have been invited to the UKMT TMC being held at the Mathematics Institute, University of Oxford. The top students from the JMC trials competed to find the best two mathematicians. The winning students are Oliver Lewis and Alexandra Elmes who scored highest in the trials.

They will join our former Year 9 students from the Windsor Girls' School, Eleanor Elmes and Lydia Sampson to attend the challenge being held next year.



Piano lessons

If your child is interested in learning the piano, in school, Alison Hart has same spaces. Please contact her at alison.hart105@yahoo.com. Or on her mobile: 07900 265042.

PTA

We have a very active PTA. If you would like to join, please contact Vicky Young, 07977521444. The PTA has a Facebook page called St Peter's PTA Group. As a parent you can join this closed group.

Sports News

County Cup Football Match

St Peter's under 11 girls' football team won our first ever County Cup Football Match.

This is the first time a St Peter's football team has won at this level. We are so proud of all the girls on their wonderful victory.

St Peter's won 1-0 to Claycots.

Berkshire Schools FA U13 County Cup

St Peter's 2 vs Garth Hill 1

St Peter's took the lead in the first ten minutes only to be pegged back just before half time.

The game was tied until the last five minutes when St Peter's scored the winning goal. The whole squad played well and contributed to a very exciting match.

Wycombe Wanderers Tournament

The Year 5 and 6 football team took part in the Wycombe Wanderers tournament on Thursday 30th November. The boys played superbly and they reached the final stages of the tournament. Unfortunately, they fell at the final hurdle and finished third out of sixteen schools.

County Cup Match

The Year 5 and 6 football team played at Parlaunt Park Primary School in a County Cup Match. The boys won 4-0 which means they are the first U11 team to make it through the group stages to the knockout stages in the County Competition.

Mr Imbastari

Sportshall Athletics Competition

The mixed Year 5/6 team did incredibly well finishing second overall in the Windsor District.

The Year 7/8 category is split into boys and girls. The girls' team, for the first time ever, finished first and qualified for the Berkshire School County Games.

The boys' team continued their success from last year and again finished first.

Congratulations on all their hard work and training.

Netball Tournament

There was a High 5 netball tournament for Year 5 and 6 at Dedworth School. The Year 5s came sixth out of thirteen which was an amazing result for the girls, who were against children from the year above.

The Year 6 team were unbeaten in their group and only lost in the finals, so came second out of thirteen schools which was a fantastic result.

Mr Kirkby



SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

Autumn 2017

Term 1

INSET day: Monday 4th September 2017

Term starts on: Tuesday 5th September 2017

Term ends on: Friday 20th October 2017

October Holiday: Monday 23rd October 2017 to Friday 27th October 2017

Term 2

Term starts on: Monday 30th October 2017

INSET day: Friday 24th November 2017

Term ends on: Wednesday 20th December 2017

Christmas Holiday: Thursday 21st December 2017 to Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Spring 2018

Term 3

Term starts on: Thursday 4th January 2018

Term ends on: Thursday 8th February 2018

INSET day: Friday 9th February 2018

February Holiday: Monday 12th February 2018 to Friday 16th February 2018

Term 4

Term starts on: Monday 19th February 2018

Term ends on: Thursday 29th March 2018

Spring Holiday: Friday 30th March 2018 to Friday 13th April 2018

(Good Friday – 30th March 2018; Easter Monday – 2nd April 2018)

Summer 2018

Term 5

Term starts on: Monday 16th April 2018

Term ends on: Friday 25th May 2018

May Holiday: Monday 28th May 2018 to Friday 1st June 2018

Term 6

Term starts on: Monday 4th June 2018

Term ends on: Friday 20th July 2018

INSET days: Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th July 2018