



St. Peter's Church of England Middle School

NEWSLETTER

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December 2019



Left: Year 5 Planets

Homework

Right: Working in the
garden



Dear Parent/Guardian

As the Autumn term finally draws to a close I wanted to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas. This has been a long but exciting term!

In September we welcomed three classes of Year 5 students to the school. This was the first year of our expanded numbers and I am pleased to say that they have settled in well. We also welcomed a number of new staff to the school in September and each one of them has added even more strength and talent to our team. I have been very ably assisted this term by Mrs Dewar, who was appointed as Acting Deputy Head at the end of last year. One of Mrs Dewar's many responsibilities is for the behaviour and welfare of the students here and I know that she is working closely with many families and our young people to provide excellent support.

In November we were visited by a SIAMS inspector. This Church School inspection takes place once every five years. We were visited for two days and it was a tough and thorough inspection, focusing on our distinctive Christian Ethos, our collective worship and our delivery of RE. I was very pleased when we were awarded a judgement of Good in all three of these areas. Since our last inspection the grade of Outstanding has been removed from the inspection process and now all of the Outstanding assessment criteria sit within the Good assessment criteria. The key question asked by the inspector is: **How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?** This outcome then is extremely satisfying and represents a wonderful achievement for the staff and students here.

Since September we have been developing our vision for the school. Working with Governors, students and staff we have established a biblical root to our vision. It comes from 1 Peter 2:5, a letter that Peter wrote to churches in old Asia Minor. These churches were struggling to flourish and in comfort Peter wrote: *You yourselves like living stones are being built up.* We take this to mean that we are all being built up, in God's love, to grow and develop and flourish. We also reflect on the strength of the stone, as living stones are stronger when placed together, as with the wonderful Bagshot stone of Windsor Castle. Finally, it is our faith, in God and in ourselves, that is the cornerstone of all that we strive to achieve. That is why we have also adopted the motto: Aspire, Believe, Grow, Achieve.

Finally let me take this opportunity to thank you all for everything that you do to support us as a community and the students within it. Whether it is your contribution to the fabulous PTA, picking up and dropping off for sporting/artistic events or helping your son/daughter with homework/project work it is all invaluable within the life of this school.

Thank you and Merry Christmas to you all.

Andy Snipp, Headteacher

Lunch and After School Extra-Curricular & Enrichment Programme

Please check the school website for the lunch and after school extra-curricular and enrichment programme, it can be found under Parents/Information—After school clubs.

Students need to collect a letter and return the completed form as soon as possible for clubs.

Facebook pages

The school has a Facebook page: St Peter's Church of England Middle School, Old Windsor. Please Like our page and follow us.

The school PTA has a closed Facebook group: St Peter's PTA Group. Parents and carers can request to join this group.



Year 7 Bookbuzz

The PTA once again kindly funded the Year 7 Bookbuzz scheme. Students in Year 7 get to choose a book from a selection and can take this book home. Copies of all the books available are in the school library.



Piano exam result

Congratulations to the following students who took piano exams this term.

Evie Ardali	Grade 1	Pass	116
Alexander Butler	Grade 1	Merit	127
Thomas Butler	Grade 1	Merit	120
Violet Scully	Grade 1	Pass	108
Liv Caspi-Roessler	Grade 2	Merit	125

Compassion Project—Meet Daisy

As part of their retreat day our Year 7 students explored the theme of compassion and what this means very practically.

Compassion is if someone shows kindness, caring and a willingness to help others. Compassion is a positive emotion that has to do with being thoughtful and decent. When you feel compassion for someone you really want to help out.

We then met Daisy...



Daisy is a 4-year-old child living with her family in Uganda in very poor conditions. As a school we are going to sponsor Daisy through the charity Compassion UK.

This will enable Daisy to attend a local compassion project where she will receive health care, food and education and her whole family will be supported and a way out of extreme poverty is possible.

Students have spent some time thinking about how they could support Daisy and they have already started writing letters to her and drawing pictures for her. As a school we will receive regular up-dates and letters from Daisy.

Have a read about compassion on their website. www.compassionuk.org

This is a very real opportunity to widen our thoughts and view into the wider world. We will share regular up-dates around Daisy and it will be amazing to watch her grow up.

Year 5 Retreat

Day

On the 9th October Year 5 had a full day retreat in school thinking about our school values of: wisdom, integrity, trust, fellowship and compassion.



As well as thinking about our values what they mean, how we can practically live out our values, we linked our values to Bible stories to help us remember.

The day included lots of practical activities, like paperchain people, painting rocks, drama, trust games and a team challenge. We enjoyed the different activities and finished the day off with reflections, prayer and lollipops.

The Year 5 students were willing to give everything a go and always tried to do their best. We also had the support of our Year 8 student champions who were helping and supporting the younger students during the activities, they took on the roles of responsibility and leadership.

One Year 5 came up with this definition for fellowship:

"Fellowship is about not being on your own, about working together, having fun together and not being lonely" (Ava Treadwell)

Year 6 Retreat Day

Year 6 had a short retreat (2 lessons) on 2nd October. We were looking at the idea of "you are special".



We explored different stories, the story of the Wemmicks, a group of wooden people who give each other stars and dots depending if the other does good or not, thinking about how labels make us feel and how important it is to know who we are and have the self-esteem not to care what others say or do. We looked at the story of Peter and how he claimed not to know Jesus and how Jesus instead of giving up on him, still wanted him to build his church and be a leader.

There were activities, some drama, a time of reflection and lollipops to explore the themes a bit further.

A full day retreat for Year 6 is being planned for January which will include a "masterpiece" workshop.



Year 7 Retreat Day

Year 7 had a short retreat on the 24th October around the theme of compassion. We looked at compassion and how we can show compassion to others.

Leah (Mrs Hardy's daughter) came and shared with us about a trip to Uganda she did 2 years ago helping with water and sanitation projects and visiting a compassion centre. We then were introduced to Daisy and spent some time planning and writing letters. (see more about Daisy in this newsletter)

There was time to think and reflect, there was time for a silly game and chocolate as well.

Year 8 Retreat Day

Year 8 had their retreat day and we spent some time thinking about homelessness, the causes of homelessness and our prejudices around homelessness. We then spent some time baking Christmas biscuits. The biscuits were added to our donations to Windsor Foodshare along with the donations from the reverse Advent Calendars. We hope someone will be able to enjoy them this Christmas.

Later in the year we are hoping to have a visit from the Windsor Homeless project worker and we are planning to again do our sleep out to raise awareness and funds for the homeless.

Mrs Hardy

Pastoral Lead

Let's talk about Safeguarding

As parents and as school, we want to make sure that your children develop healthily and thrive and stay safe. It's more than just physical safety. A big part of keeping children safe is making sure we look after their emotional and mental well-being.

A quote from the NSPCC website

"Almost a quarter of 11 and 12 year-olds with a social networking profile experienced something that upset them in the last year."



Social Media, internet, cyberspace and online gaming is where children and young people spend a lot of their time and keeping them safe whilst they do this isn't always easy.

The NSPCC have launched their **Share Aware** campaign to help parents talk to their children about how to stay safe on social networks. Keeping Children safe online can be a big concern for parents but the Share Aware guide provides straightforward no nonsense advice for parents of 8 – 12 year old children.

The **Share Aware** website has information on Online Safety as well as a guide of what to do if a child is being abused online which is often called cyberbullying and other forms of abuse.

The information covers lots of topics which include:

The risks and dangers of being online

Inappropriate content, including pornography

Ignoring age restrictions

Friending or communicating with people they don't know

Grooming and sexual abuse

Sharing personal information

How to talk to your children about online safety

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>

Other helpful websites include:

www.internetmatters.org

www.saferinternet.org.uk

www.net-aware.org.uk

Why not have a look and chat about some of these issues with your children?

Term Dates 2019/2020

Autumn 2019

Term 1

INSET Days: Tuesday 3 September 2019 and Wednesday 4 September 2019

Term starts on: Thursday 5 September 2019

Term ends on: Friday 25 October 2019

October Holiday: Monday 28 October 2019 to Friday 1 November 2019.

Term 2

Term starts on: Monday 4 November 2019.

Term ends on: Friday 20 December 2019.

Christmas Holiday: Monday 23 December 2019 to Friday 3 January 2020.

Spring 2020

Term 3

Term starts on: Monday 6 January 2020.

Term ends on: Friday 14 February 2020.

February Holiday: Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 21 February 2020.

Term 4

Term starts on: Monday 24 February 2020.

Term ends on: Friday 3 April 2020.

Spring Holiday: Monday 6 April 2020 to Friday 17 April 2020.

(Good Friday: 10 April 2020; Easter Monday: 13 April 2020).

Summer 2020

Term 5

Term starts on: Monday 20 April 2020.

Term ends on: Friday 22 May 2020.

Bank Holiday: Friday 8 May 2020

May Holiday: Monday 25 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020.

Term 6

INSET Day: Monday 1 June 2020

Term starts on: Tuesday 2 June 2020.

Term ends on: Friday 17 July 2020.