



17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Last Sunday was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Matthew 3:1-12

Dear Parents

### Advent Liturgy

Our Advent liturgy is something that celebrates two things that are so important to St Peter's School – Christ, coming as our saviour, and music. Once again the liturgy was so well led by our children as we prepare for the coming of our saviour. Thank you to Miss Owens and all the team for their hard work.



*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6-7*

### Stella Maris Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal - thank you!

Thank you for your generosity in giving chocolate goodies that can be shared with seafarers by the Stella Maris chaplaincy team. The children also made Christmas cards for the chaplains to take on board. I know these gifts and cards will make a difference to someone. Thank you for some of the financial donations too.



## St Catherine's View Care Home – Carol Concert

Once again our children did us proud as they performed Christmas carols to our friends at St Catherine's View care home. In return each of the children received a variety Christmas chocolate box!



## Advent Reconciliation Service

Thank you Father Mark for leading our service of reconciliation last week for our older children. The focus was on the Holy Spirit and how Mary said yes to the Spirit of God and how we too try our best to say yes. We also thank Father Pedro and Bishop Peter for assisting with this.

## Year 2 RE Learning

As we come to the end of our learning about Advent, we are considering the following question:

? How can we help 'prepare the way for the Lord'? ?

In preparation to answer this, we discussed ways we can be preparing our hearts for Jesus' coming this Advent season. Some children chose to make a wreath that each week, they can add the light of the candles to. Others created their own Nativity scene that they can build at home to remind them of Jesus' first coming. We will be using our individual reflections to help us answer this question thoughtfully in our final lesson before the Christmas break.



## Christmas Lunch

Once again our kitchen staff delivered the goods! 147 EYFS and KS1 children received a tasty Christmas lunch today with their teachers and TAs helping out. KS2 will have their Christmas lunch tomorrow.

We have an amazing group working in the kitchen behind the scenes, led by Kim. They are very much part of the school family. A big thank you again to Sophie and her family who kindly donated a Christmas tree last year to brighten up our hall each December.



## CAFOD World Gifts

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

So stuck for Christmas present ideas? It is always lovely to receive a card that lets you know someone has gifted to CAFOD on your behalf as your present from them. CAFOD is the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development. It funds projects including training that helps communities become self-sufficient as they develop.



## PTA Christmas

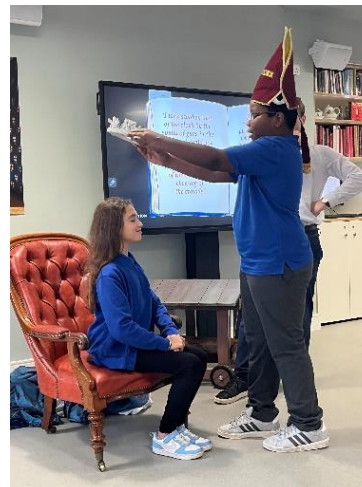
Thank you to all in the PTA for making this season special for our children. The Christmas scene at the front of the school was much enjoyed by not only our school family but also our local community.

I look forward to judging the class Christmas tree decorations this Friday.

## Year 6 - Windsor Castle

Last week, Year 6 visited Windsor Castle. Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic day at Windsor Castle, deepening their understanding of the Victorian era. A highlight of the visit was the "Dear Diary" workshop, where pupils explored excerpts from Queen Victoria's own diaries and even dressed up as some of the key figures who appeared in her writings.

During the tour of the State Apartments, the children were fascinated to see how Victorian tastes and traditions shaped the rooms, from the grand furnishings to the artworks and artefacts linked to Queen Victoria's reign. It was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to bring their history learning to life in such an inspiring setting.



## Year R/1 Donations for Food Bank- Thank you

Thank you to all our parents for their generosity in donating food to our local food pantry. Your kindness will be much appreciated.



## Tesco Community Grants

We are delighted to share that we have been selected for a Tesco Stronger Starts community grant. This grant will go towards sensory activities for all pupils, with the focus of providing children with a way to talk about their worries and concerns. This was introduced last year and has already been a great success for a number of pupils and is just one of the supports in place at school to help your child with their mental health. Please help to support by using your blue token to vote for us when you shop at one of the following stores:

2782 Kings Worthy Express SO23 7ND  
3406 Winchester Extra SO23 7RS  
3455 Harestock Express SO22 6JN  
4893 High Street Winchester Express SO23 9AS  
5058 Alresford Express SO24 9AQ  
5862 Market Winchester Express SO23 7BT



Voting will commence in store from the first week in October 2025 until 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## JRSOs Christmas message

The JRSOs say **'Be bright like the star and you'll be seen from afar.'**

Merry Christmas from the JRSOs.

## Music Notices

Well what an incredible musical week we are having! An enormous **congratulations** to all children for their wonderful singing in the Advent Liturgy and a big thank you to staff members for their contributions!

### Rehearsal Times This Week

St Peter's Singers: Thursday 8.15 - 8.45am: FUN session!

School Band: Thursday 3.30 - 4.15pm or pick-up straight after carols.

### School Band/Worship Band Carols - Thursday at 3.30pm

This Thursday, School Band will be playing a couple of carols to the children as they leave school at 3.30pm. Parents are welcome to come along for a quick sing-song/listen (outside the music room). After we have packed away, you are welcome to sign out your children with Miss Owens OR they can stay until 4.15pm.

### Worship Band

Please note there is no extended session until 5.00pm this week. All Worship Band children should be picked up after the carols OR at 4.15pm from the music room.

### Beginner Trombone lessons from January

Now that you've heard our trombones in action, is your child keen to join the 'Trombone Team'? There are a couple of spaces remaining for beginner trombone lessons from January. Email [music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk](mailto:music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk) for more information.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and as ever, any questions at all related to music at St Peter's, please email [music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk](mailto:music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk).

Miss Owens

## Night of Light

Step out of the rush of December and step into the light. Our Night of Light, this Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, will run in St. Peter's Church, Jewry Street from 5:30–8:00pm and you are all hugely welcome to pop in any time - for 5 minutes or two hours. We invite you to pause, breathe and encounter the peace and presence of God. Expect gentle music, shining candles and a message of hope that speaks to the heart. Please do bring your family and friends. Come and let your spirit be renewed.

## Message from Fr Mark and the Parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

### Christmas Greetings and Blessings

Fr Mark and Fr Pedro would love to invite you to join with us for one of our Christmas Masses on 24th/25th December. Whether you are Catholic or not, there is something for everyone and a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true Light of the World. You can find all the details [here](#). Whether you are with us or not, Fr Mark and Fr Pedro wish you and your families a blessed, peace-filled, joy-soaked Christmas!



### Advent & Christmas Services 2025



Date	Times	Where	Service
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	9:00AM to 1:00PM	St Peter's	Kingdom Seekers Advent Retreat
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30AM to 12:00PM	St Peter's	Extended Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation)
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	3:45PM to 4:45PM	St Peter's	Christingle Sunday
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	7:00PM	St Peter's	Penitential Liturgy (Confession)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30AM	St Peter's	Blue Christmas
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	5:30PM to 8:00PM	St Peter's	Night of Light
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	3:00PM	St Peter's	Early Family Christmas Mass
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	5:30PM	St Peter's	First Mass of Christmas
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	5:30PM	St Stephen's	First Mass of Christmas
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	8:00PM	St Gregory's	Midnight Mass with Carols & Readings
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30PM	St Peter's	Midnight Mass with Carols & Readings
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	8:00AM	St Peter's	Christmas Day Mass
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9:00AM	St Thomas More	Christmas Day Mass
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9:15AM	St Stephen's	Christmas Day Mass
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30AM	St Peter's	Christmas Day Mass
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	11:00AM	St Gregory's	Christmas Day Mass
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00AM	St Stephen's	Feast of St Stephen
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	10:00AM	St Peter's	New Year's Eve
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	10:00AM	St Peter's	New Year's Day - Mary, Holy Mother of God
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	10:15AM	St Stephen's	Epiphany Party



We are part of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, Registered Charity Number: 1199568



## Picture News

Picture News is a new whole school project that we started last year to improve our oracy. Each week the picture that we have looked at in class will be sent home with a key question to aid some discussion on a piece of current news.

### TAKEHOME

### In the news this week

This winter, a charity called Small Acts of Kindness has sourced, packed and distributed over 10,000 'Warm in Winter' gift bags across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Each bag includes things to keep people warm, like blankets, socks and hot drinks. The project aims to bring comfort to elderly and vulnerable people in the colder months. It shows that small acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life.

**Things to talk about at home ...**

- > Talk to someone at home about the campaign.
- > Can you think of a time someone was kind to you? How did it make you feel?
- > Do you believe helping others can make us feel happier too? Why?
- > What are some small acts of kindness we can do at home, at school, or in our community?

**What does kindness look like?**

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others [www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

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## Weekly E-safety Top Tips



Are your children getting new electronic devices this Christmas?

How are you going to ensure they remain safe when using them?

Among the top tips on keeping them safe are:

- Explain how children can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts and images, and warn them about sharing personal information
- Check if any of the mobile apps they use have location services enabled, and disable this if they do not want to be tracked
- Show them how to report offensive comments or block people who upset them
- Check 'tagging' settings so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed
- Encourage your child to come and talk to you if they see anything that upsets them
- Ask them to show you which social media apps they use, what they like about them and talk about how to use them safely



This is also a useful website you may wish to check out...

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/staying-safe-online-this-christmas>

## St Vincent De Paul Society – St Peter’s Church

Thank you to the parish SVP group for their kindness and generosity this Christmas. Your efforts were much appreciated.

### Extra-curricular clubs - SPRING

Please see below details of clubs being offered this term.

Year group	Club	Day of the week	Year group	Club	Day of the week
YR	Relax Kids Theatre Kids	Wednesday Friday	Y4	Comic Club Intergr8 Relax Kids Theatre Kids BSL 360 Dodgeball Puppet Club	Monday Monday Wednesday Friday Monday Friday Tuesday
Y1	Relax Kids Theatre Kids 360 Football/ Handball	Wednesday Friday Wednesday	Y5	Football Intergr8 Comic Club Relax Kids Theatre Kids BSL 360 Dodgeball Puppet Club	Monday Monday Wednesday Wednesday Friday Monday Friday Tuesday
Y2	Intergr8 Relax Kids Theatre Kids Coding Club 360 Football/ Handball	Monday Wednesday Friday Friday Wednesday	Y6	Intergr8 Football Comic Club Relax Kids BSL 360 Dodgeball Puppet Club	Monday Monday Wednesday Wednesday Monday Friday Tuesday
Y3	Comic Club Intergr8 Relax Kids Theatre Kids Coding Club 360 Dodgeball Puppet Club	Monday Monday Wednesday Friday Friday Friday Tuesday			

## Future School Dates

Event	Date
EYFS/KS1 Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
KS2 Christmas Lunch	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Fun Day - wear something Christmassy and pay £1 to CAFOD	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Christmas Holiday Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	
Everyone returns to school	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
Show Around 8	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January, 9.30am
Everyone invited to Mass for the Epiphany	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January, 2pm
Bikeability – Year 5	w/c Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January
Multiplication Test Check – Year 4 parents information session	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January, 3pm
Year 6 SATs - parents information session	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January, 3pm
Year 6 Mass – Year 6 parents invited	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January, 2pm
Parish – School Mass, St Peter’s Church	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February, 10.30am
Year 6 residential trip - Avon Tyrell	9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Half term 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
Inset Day 3 – school closed to children	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February

## Inset Days 2025-26

Here are this year’s school closures for staff training.

Monday 23rd February 2026  
 Friday 20th March 2026  
 Friday 22nd May 2026

## Attendance

In 2018/19 just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards compared with 84% of pupils who regularly attended school.

Year R/1	89.86%
Year 2	93.19%
Year 3	93.99%
Year 4	94.15%
Year 5	94.64%
Year 6	96.08%
Overall school Attendance	93.50%

Well done Year 6 for having the highest attendance. An extra 5 minutes’ break for you!

See the NHS website for advice on when not to send your child to school when unwell:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

## Show Around dates

If you have a child due to start school in September 2026, we have the following dates available for you to come and look around the school:

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 9.30am

Please contact the school office if you would like to book onto any of these tours.



## Class Assemblies 2025-26

All families are invited to celebrate Mass with us. Families of children in individual classes are invited to attend class assemblies. Please wait outside the church door for 3pm.

Month	Friday (class/teacher Assembly)	
January	9 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany Mass
	16 <sup>th</sup>	2EK Class
March	6 <sup>th</sup>	6SK Class
	13 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Liturgy
	20 <sup>th</sup>	INSET
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Week Liturgy
April	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Easter Holiday
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holiday
	17 <sup>th</sup>	5AH Class
	24 <sup>th</sup>	4RS Class
May	1 <sup>st</sup>	3GD Class
	8 <sup>th</sup>	2EW Class
	15 <sup>th</sup>	R/1 MR Class
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	INSET
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
June	5 <sup>th</sup>	Corpus Christi Mass
	12 <sup>th</sup>	R/1MB Class
	19 <sup>th</sup>	R/1NT Class
July	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Peter and Paul Mass

## 100 Club - the PTA school lottery

Our school lottery is a great way for you to support the children at St Peter's with regular monthly funds whilst also having a bit of a flutter. The more people who join the 100 Club, the bigger the prizes and the bigger the funds for the school. It's £5 per number entered into each monthly draw, with the total ticket sales split evenly between the PTA and the prize fund.

If you'd like to join, or have any questions, please email us at [stpeterspta100club@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterspta100club@gmail.com) - we'd love to hear from you!

Congratulations to our latest 100 Club winners:

October draw:

First prize:	David & Iwona Harris	£ 30.00
Second prize:	Shane Masterson	£ 20.00
Third prize	Ania Slinn	£ 15.00
Fourth Prize	Jennifer McEneany	£ 10.00

November draw:

First prize:	Catriona Felstead	£ 30.00
Second prize:	Amy Paterson	£ 20.00
Third prize	Kirstie Matthey	£ 15.00
Fourth Prize	Claire Lane	£ 10.00

December draw:

First prize:	Matthew James Hunt	£ 30.00
Second prize:	Paul Barker	£ 20.00
Third prize	Georgina Omand	£ 15.00
Fourth Prize	Jennifer McEneany	£ 10.00





## Newsletter - past bits that may be useful

### Safeguarding Quote of the Week

'If I could give my child three things, it would be the confidence to always know their self-worth, the strength to follow their dreams, and the ability to know how truly, deeply loved they are,' Anon

Safeguarding is our absolute priority. Please act on concerns that you have about any children that you know. If you have a concern about the safety of a child or young person and you want someone to find out what is going on, contact the Hampshire Children's Services Department. Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm, phone 0300 555 1384. At all other times, contact the out-of-hours service, phone 0300 555 1373. **Anyone can make a referral.**

At St Peter's Miss Buxton is our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), while Mrs Blake, Mrs Pestana and Mrs Foster are the Deputy DSLs. Mrs Ricketts is DSL for Little Fishes Pre-School, with Mrs Church and Mrs Hudson being her safeguarding deputies. Please remember anyone can make a referral and safeguarding is everyone's concern!

### Is your child eligible for Pupil Premium Funding?

Does your child qualify for free school meals? If you are in receipt of: Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, State pension credit, Child tax credit (as long as you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, working tax credit run on or universal credit) you may be eligible for a free school meal.

Even if your child has the universal free school meal (Year R, 1 and 2) please apply for this benefit. The school receives money from central Government to support a variety of school initiatives that would be of benefit to your child. If you have any questions please speak to Mrs Lane in the school office and you can apply through <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

### Facebook

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-PrimarySchool107010431022990>

### Hants LA signposting websites

These websites may be a helpful resource should you need a bit of help or advice as a parent.

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/family.page?familychannel=2>

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/sfyc/ProviderBulletin-March2025-ParentCarerUpdate.pdf>

## Penalty Notice Fines

Please see below the latest guidance from the DfE. We think it important to share with families these changes to the fining.

### How much could I be fined if my child misses school?

In the majority of cases, schools and local authorities will try and provide support to help you improve your child's attendance first, but if this isn't effective or the absence is for unauthorised term time holiday, parents may face paying a fine.

Currently, it's the responsibility of the local authority to decide when to issue fines to parents, meaning the process varies from council to council. However, under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.

Since August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country is **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

## Nut Free School

Just a reminder that we remain a nut-free school due to serious allergies.

Also we encourage breaktime snacks to be healthier choices – fresh fruit and vegetables, bread sticks, raisins.... no crisps or chocolate please.