



7th January 2026

Last Sunday was The Epiphany of the Lord
Matthew 2:1-12

Dear Parents

Happy New Year!

The staff would like to thank our families for the many cards, kind words and gifts given for Christmas. As always your thoughtfulness means a lot.

We wish all our families a happy and healthy 2026.

You are all invited to our school Mass at St Stephen's Church next door this **Friday 9th January, 9.15am**, when we celebrate The Epiphany.

Attached to this newsletter is a prayer calendar which you may like to use at home.



When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. Matthew 2:10

Senior Leadership Team from Spring Term

Following Mrs Tuft leaving Mr Read is now leader for Reception, Years 1 and 2, with Mrs Donnelly remaining Assistant Head with particular responsibility for Years 3-6. Mrs Blake, as Assistant Head, works in Year 6 and spends much time ensuring our children are safe and their families supported. Mrs Foster is our SENDCo, Monday to Wednesday.

If you have any initial concerns please speak with the class teacher, so giving them the opportunity to sort. Escalation is then to the phase leaders and then Assistant Heads.

Christmas Fun Day

What a wonderful way to end the term with our Christmas Fun Day! The school was full of festive cheer as children arrived in their Christmas jumpers, ready for a day of celebration. From classroom crafts to outdoor games to dance parties, to our School Councillors writing Christmas cards for the residents at St Catherine's care home, it was a joy to see everyone participating and sharing the Christmas spirit. The excitement and kindness shown throughout the day reminded us what this season is all about. Thank you to all who helped make the day so special. We raised £181 for CAFOD.



School Band

The School Band entertained us with some carols on a wet and windy afternoon in the music room at the end of term! I would like to thank Miss Owens for all her efforts that ensures enrichment for all through music at St Peter's.

World Book Day

Here at St Peter's we will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March**. More from Mrs Donnelly later.

Families of Faith

Please find attached a newsletter sent to us from the Diocese that you may wish to use at home.

Australia Day - Friday 23rd January

Year 2 will be celebrating Australia Day as part of our Geography and English learning. The children are invited to **dress up in anything yellow** if they would like to. We will be taking part in lots of Australian themed activities, writing instructions as well as making and sampling Australian themed food. This will include Anzac Biscuits, Pavlova and Vegemite sandwiches. If your child has any food allergies that we need to be aware of, please inform the school office staff **and** your class teacher.



Parent Contact Details

Did you receive a new phone this Christmas? Please inform the school if you have a new number. We also need new numbers for any emergency contacts and/or change of address.

Year group Curriculum Spring term

If you would like to know what the children are learning don't forget each year group keep an updated overview of their curriculum on our website page:

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/curriculum/>

along with EYFS having their timetable on the page as their curriculum overview is more general due to the nature of their curriculum.

If you are interested in the individual subjects and what skills and knowledge they are learning, along with the progression, please check out the individual subjects – under the stars - on that same page.

Year 5 Carroll Centre Foodbank

This half term two Year 5 classes are collecting food and toiletries for the Carroll Centre. Please send in any donations - they are grateful for packets and tins of in-date food. Many thanks for thinking of others in our community.



Music Notices

Instrumental lessons

Last term's class music lessons culminated in a wonderful display of instrumental performances in our Class Concerts. It was fantastic to see the enjoyment many of our pupils experience through their instrumental learning. HMS lessons will be starting up this and next week. Please keep an eye on the music noticeboard for your weekly lesson times.

Ensemble Rehearsal Times

St Peter's Singers: Thursday 8.15 - 8.45am (and continuing for the term at this time)

Worship Band: Thursday 3.30 - 4.30pm (8th January)

Please note there is no School Band this week.

School band: from next week, we will be focusing on School Band rehearsals as we lead up to our Spring Concert. For this reason, we will be putting Worship Band rehearsals on hold for now and running a longer weekly School Band rehearsal on Thursdays from 3.30 - 4.30pm in the music room, starting from 15th January.

Busking Wednesdays

We will be continuing to run our popular busking Wednesdays this term. These will take place on Wednesdays 14th January, 4th February and 4th March from 8.30 - 8.45am. Miss Owens will be looking out for some keen buskers to take part!

Wishing you a wonderful start to 2026 and as ever, any questions at all related to music at St Peter's, please email music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk.

Miss Owens



Educational Visits

Trips, visits and enrichment days comprise an essential part of our school curriculum at St Peter's Catholic Primary School. Successful trips and themed days provide memorable learning experiences and enhance the children's education in ways that are not possible in the normal classroom. We provide off-site visits and enrichment days as a positive tool to develop pupils' independent, investigative learning, and to build their experience of the local and wider world. We are very aware of rising costs and constraints on family budgets and are doing what we can to keep costs as low as possible. This term we have planned the following activities to support the curriculum:

Year 2 Australia Day and Winchester Cathedral

Year 4 Italy Day

Year 5 Space Day

Year 6 Avon Tyrrell Residential

A reminder about mobile phones...

If you decide your Year 6 child is to have a mobile phone for walking to and from school, without an adult (if they don't walk alone then why would they need to bring a mobile phone into school?) we ask that when they **reach the school gate** they turn their phone off and place it in their school bag.

When they enter the class room the phone comes out of their bag and immediately into their teacher's desk, **before** entering the cloakroom. The children will collect their phone at the end of the day and not switch their phones on until they have **left the school site**.

This will help to prevent any issues that we have recently had to deal with.

School uniform and black shoes

Please can I remind all parents of where the school uniform policy can be accessed:-

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/uniform-information/>

A reminder:

Shoes

- Black shoes - that are practical for the school day.
Please note trainers can only be worn when there is a 'shoe emergency'. Please let the teacher know if trainers are having to be worn short term.

Jewellery

Children may wear watches to school and small stud earrings are acceptable but, for safety reasons, these must be removed during P.E. and the school cannot be held responsible for any items that are lost. We ask that pupils leave all other jewellery at home.

Smart Appearance

- In class and walking round school, only school uniform is worn and shirts are tucked in at the waist.
- On colder days, alternative coats, fleeces, scarves, gloves, hats etc should be worn outside the school building.
- Hair is smart too. We call it 'working hair':
 - It is in an appropriate style for school and must not reflect any extreme of fashion.
 - Hair is free from hair product and dye.
 - Long hair (shoulder length or longer) is tied back away from the eyes with a blue, black or white hair band, tie or clip.
- No make-up, thank you (this includes nail varnish).
- Friendship bracelets and necklaces are considered as jewellery and so are not allowed in school.

We've cut out the black non-trainer shoes from the photo below as they were a little bit muddy after lunchtime!



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			

Smartphone-free Childhood

Mental Illness

Rates of depression, anxiety and suicide in young people have spiked globally since 2010, when children first began getting smartphones. The first generation to grow up with smartphones are now adults – data shows that the younger they got their first smartphone, the worse their mental health today.



Future School Dates

Event	Date
Show Around 8	Thursday 8 th January, 9.30am
Everyone invited to Mass for the Epiphany	Friday 9 th January, 9.15am
Bikeability – Year 5	w/c Monday 12 th January
Multiplication Test Check – Year 4 parents information session	Tuesday 13 th January, 3pm
Year 6 SATs - parents information session	Thursday 29 th January, 3pm
Year 6 Mass – Year 6 parents invited	Friday 30 th January, 2pm
Parish – School Mass, St Peter's Church	Sunday 1 st February, 10.30am
Year 6 residential trip - Avon Tyrell	9 th – 13 th February
Half term 16th – 20th February	
Inset Day 3 – school closed to children	Monday 23 rd February
World Book Day – more to follow	Thursday 5 th March
Inset Day 4 - school closed to children	Friday 20 th March
Easter Holiday 30th March – 10th April	
Welcome all children back from Easter	Monday 13 th April
Year 6 SATs	Monday 11 th – 15 th May
Inset Day 5 - school closed to children	Friday 22 nd May

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

Year R/1	90.28%
Year 2	92.46%
Year 3	93.73%
Year 4	93.84%
Year 5	94.35%
Year 6	95.98%
Overall school Attendance	93.20%

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:

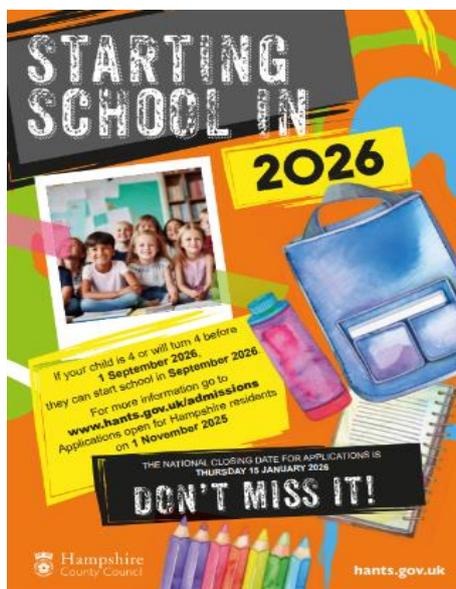
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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

Does your child love to Dance, Act and Perform? THEATRE KIDZ ARE IN YOUR SCHOOL!

Our TPA Academy classes provide the most magical and exciting environment for children to develop their stage skills. From building confidence, to using their big loud voices and performing pieces through our fun games, exercises and performance pieces. We encourage every student to blossom in their own unique way and achieve things they never thought possible.

TPA
THEATRE PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

TELEPHONE: 07930 980 038
EMAIL: INFO@TPAACADEMY.CO.UK
WEBSITE: WWW.TPAACADEMY.CO.UK

INTEGR8 DANCE FREE TRIAL

STREET DANCE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
St Peter's Primary School
Mondays 3.30-4.30pm
Years 2 - 6

No dance experience necessary!
Learn new skills, increase confidence and HAVE FUN!

BOOKING DETAILS
EMAIL: INFO@INTEGR8DANCE.COM
CALL: 07962 808398
WEBSITE: WWW.INTEGR8DANCE.COM

Relax Kids

ACTIVITY & RELAXATION CLASSES FOR KIDS

Relax Kids classes improve:

- improved sleep
- concentration
- self-esteem
- confidence
- focus, creativity
- listening skills

Your child will enjoy:

- Games and songs
- Storytelling
- Movement
- Stretching
- Breathing exercises
- Parent/child massage
- Affirmations
- Relaxations

360 FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Fun and engaging sessions designed to develop the basics of football whilst building their skills, confidence and love for the game.

SESSIONS INCLUDE

- Professional Coaching
- Individual and Team Practices
- Positive Environment
- Fun and Engaging

When: Friday Evenings 6-7
Where: Ganger Farm 4G (SO51 0EE)

Book via our website:
360developmentcentre@publiscopy.com

For more info or enquiries:
01703 201919 or 01703 201920

WE NEED YOU!

we loved uniform

If your child has grown out of their uniforms sizes 9-10 11-12 13
Donate them to the PTA and we will give them new life.

plouseduniform@gmail.com

ST PETER'S PTA

BUSKING WEDNESDAYS

RAISING MONEY TOWARDS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

SCAN TO DONATE

THANK YOU

Pop Up Ensemble FREE MUSIC

Pop Up Ensemble
Lift Winton, Andover

JMS1 theatre, Lift Winton, London Road,
Andover, Hampshire, SP10 2PS
Sunday 18 January 2026 9.15 - 12.15

Beginner to Grade 4

Back by Popular Demand!

Come and be part of a 'from scratch' orchestra!

Scan the QR code to register your place

Hampshire Youth Music

Plus Screen

Wishing you and your families all the best for 2026

Louise Buxton



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.