

Newsletter

*'I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full' John 10v10*

14th January 2026

Last Sunday was The Feast Day of the Baptism of our Lord
Matthew 3: 13-17

Dear Parents

Stella Maris - A message from their chaplain

I would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those who advertised, promoted, and collected/donated chocolate items for seafarers at Christmas. We received an amazing quantity and were able to deliver bags of chocolate tubs and other gifts to about 100 ships in Southampton and Fawley Refinery. As you can see from the photos, the crew were extremely touched by your thoughtfulness and many expressed how it brought their ship the spirit and warmth of Christmas. Praised be the Baby Jesus!

Remembering seafarers at Christmas and Easter is a wonderful work of mercy and charity. Many seafarers tell us how lonely and isolated they can feel at times, especially away so far from their families. Visiting the crews with simple gifts of chocolates makes them feel appreciated and loved. As a charity, Stella Maris will continue to offer our hand of friendship and pastoral support throughout the year.

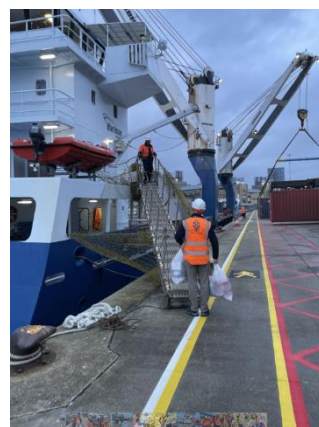
We will be launching our Easter egg appeal during the beginning of Lent.

Many thanks again!

Kind regards,

Gregory

Southampton Regional Port Chaplain



Bikeability

Year 5 have had an energising and confidence-boosting few days taking part in Bikeability, and their enthusiasm has been fantastic to see. From mastering safe starts and controlled braking to navigating real-world road scenarios with growing independence, the children embraced every challenge with determination and maturity. Instructors were full of praise for their focus and teamwork, and many pupils discovered just how capable they are when they push themselves. It's been a brilliant blend of learning and life skills that will stay with them long after the sessions end.

"Bikeability was really fun and helped me to feel more confident." - Maiya

"Bikeability really helped me on my cycling journey as I haven't been on a bike in 2 years. The instructor was enthusiastic." - Ivy



Picture News

Picture News is a new whole school project that we are starting this 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

Can famous people help others make good choices?

Famous online creators have come together at the 1 Billion Followers Summit in Dubai to talk about how their influence affects people around the world. Influencers at the event use their fame to share kindness, as part of the '1 Billion Acts of Kindness' campaign. One of the most well-known creators, MrBeast, has encouraged millions of people to take part, using his videos and social media to inspire positive actions.

In the news this week

Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone at home about the summit and the campaign. Do you think lots of people will choose to take part? Why?
- Share who influences you. Talk about how some of the people we admire or look up to are well-known or famous, and others may be family or friends.
- Ask someone at home about who influenced them when they were younger. What impact did they have?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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Thank you

I would like to thank Father Mark for celebrating the Epiphany with Mass last Friday, along with Christel and Anne who help set up the church, Miss Owens for leading our music, all the children who serve through the various ministries and all our parents and families who could join us.

Shoeboxes thank you

The Rotary District organiser received the following feedback from a Rotary club in Romania, which has distributed some of the shoeboxes collected last term.

"It was yet again a very successful project, most of our active members were involved and we managed to bring smiles on the faces of thousands of children in need. We are very sorry that you and all the lovely people involved in the project at your end don't get to see and feel all the joy your efforts are bringing. So please let me convey the many thanks and all the gratitude received from children, their parents, teachers, priests, caregivers, childcare workers and school personnel. And all the best wishes and may God bless all of you with health and happiness. Wishing all the Wessex Rotary Shoebox Scheme participants all the best in the world."



Little Fishes Pre-School – September 2026 admissions

If you would like your child to attend Little Fishes for the academic year September 2026 - July 2027, please apply for a place as soon as possible. The admissions process will start after 31st January. Parents whose children already attend Little Fishes and who will be returning for their pre-school year from September will be contacted shortly for their requests for places.

The application form is on the Little Fishes page of the school website. We also have paper copies available in the school office.

Little Fishes places are available for children from when they are 2 years and 9 months old. Session hours are in line with the school day:

All day – 8.45 am - 3.45 pm
Morning – 8.45 am - 11.45 am
Morning with Lunch Club – 8.45 am - 12.45 pm
Afternoon – 12.45 pm - 3.45 pm
Afternoon with Lunch Club – 11.45 am - 3.45 pm

There are various funding options available - see <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk> Non-funded hours are charged at a rate of £6.25 per hour (subject to revision).

Little Fishes parent visit dates for the Spring term are: 15th January, 29th January, 26th February and 26th March, all at 2 pm. If you would like to book a place, please contact Toni Hoff in the school office.

Smartphone-free Childhood

Opportunity Cost

Underpinning all these harms is one that is potentially the most significant of all. For the first time in human history, children are spending more time on devices than they are playing – an activity crucial to our healthy development. Smartphones are experience blockers, distracting children from engaging in the real world. The average UK 12-year-old now spends 29 hours a week – equivalent to a part-time job – on their smartphone. This leaves little time for the real world activities and relationships that enable us to learn the essential life skills we need to transition into adulthood. The average daily time that teens spend with friends has plummeted by 65% since 2010.



Message from Danny Chambers, MP

I am writing on behalf of Dr Danny Chambers MP who has produced a survey for parents and guardians on their thoughts about new technologies, including AI Chatbots and Social Media Avatars and the potential impact that these may have on children's mental health.

I attach the link to this survey here: <http://dannychambers.org.uk/ai-chatbots-survey>

If you feel that this may be of interest to parents and guardians, please do share this as it really will make all the difference hearing about parents' experiences with these technologies and where we can campaign for better protections. If you have any questions, please do let me know.

With best wishes

Em



Em Kitchen
Policy Assistant
Dr Danny Chambers MP – Winchester
kitchene@parliament.uk

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.



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

REMINDER: Please keep an eye on the music noticeboard for your weekly lesson times and remember to bring your instruments and music.

Ensemble Rehearsal Times

St Peter's Singers: Thursdays 8.15 - 8.45 am

School Band: Thursdays 3.30 - 4.30 pm

Worship Band rehearsals are on hold for now as we are running longer weekly School Band rehearsals in preparation for the Spring Concert.

Busking Wednesdays

Great to get started again today. Thank you to all those who performed.

As ever, any questions at all related to music at St Peter's, please email music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk.

Miss Owens

PTA Winter Dance

St Peter's PTA presents
Winter Dance
with international food

Saturday
7th Feb
4-6.30pm

St Peter's
School hall

Learn some Scottish dances and sample some delicious international dishes, all in a relaxed, friendly environment. Adults and children welcome.

tickets £5 per person
bar, sweets & food available for purchase
card payments only

Book Now!
Spaces are limited

[www.https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stpeterspta/](https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stpeterspta/)

PTA

Future School Dates

Event	Date
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
PTA Winter Dance	Saturday 7 th February, 4-6.30pm
Year 6 residential trip - Avon Tyrell	9 th – 13 th February
Year 5 Mass – Year 5 parents invited	Tuesday 10 th February, 9.15am
Half term 16th – 20th February	
Inset Day 3 – school closed to children	Monday 23 rd February
Reports Yr 3, 4 and 5	Friday 27 th February
Parents evenings Years R, 1, 2, 6	Tuesday 3 rd and 5 th March
World Book Day – more to follow	Thursday 5 th March
Inset Day 4 - school closed to children	Friday 20 th March
Spring Concert	Thursday 26 th March, 6pm
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
May Half term Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	
PTA Summer Fayre	Saturday 20 th June
First Holy Communion	Saturday 27 th June

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	90.19%
Year 2	92.70%
Year 3	94.01%
Year 4	94.00%
Year 5	94.33%
Year 6	95.83%
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/>

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	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

Best wishes

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>

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			

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.