

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School and Little Fishes Pre-School

'Christ at the
Centre'



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

Newsletter

22nd July 2026

Last Sunday was the Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Matthew 13:24-43

Dear Parents

Thank You

And so we reach the end of yet another school year and need to give thanks for all we have been given. I would like to thank every member of the St Peter's school family for all they have contributed this year. Thank you to all the teaching team, teachers and TAs who have supported the children pastorally and academically. On a personal note I would like to thank everyone for the kindness shown towards me during my family bereavements this summer. The prayers and love I received made such a difference during this tricky time.

I am absolutely indebted to Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Blake for the support I received from them this year, and in particular this summer. They do a magnificent job of leading St Peter's, and knowing the school was in safe hands meant I could take the time I needed.

Also, we are ably supported by a wonderful office team - which I am so thankful for. They all certainly keep me organised! I would also like to thank Mrs Alveyn for her leadership as chair of governors. I thank the governors for the support and challenge they provide to ensure the children get the best we can give them.

I would like to thank Father Mark for his time throughout the year. Father Mark attends school, at times weekly. His time and effort is very much appreciated by all. I know from doing inspections in other Catholic schools that we are so fortunate having Father Mark's support and time as we grow in the Faith. It has been a real privilege being involved as a school in the centenary celebrations which have reminded us of the link between the school and parish.

Thank you Mr Docherty and his team of cleaners. We know we have a beautiful school and grounds that you work hard to maintain. We also know our cleaners will be working hard during our summer to get it ready for September, while Mr Docherty will be overseeing many building and maintenance projects.

Thank you to Kim who has been in charge of the kitchen and her and the team are a pleasure to work alongside. They really care about the children and their lunches.

Finally, although last but not least, I want to share that we think our children here at St Peter's are awesome. They give us so much joy, in so many ways. I now just want to ask for God's blessing on all our families and staff - that you remain safe over the following weeks away from school, find time to replenish and so are ready to come back refreshed on Tuesday 1st September.

St John Paul II said: "Holidays and vacations can help to balance activity with contemplation, haste with more natural rhythms, noise with the heralding silence of peace." Wishing you and your family a wonderful summer, hoping you too find some balance and peace. God bless. Louise Buxton

Christ at the Centre

Good Bye Year 6

Dear Year 6

I first met you when you were in Year R when I joined the school to help out as head teacher. I have come to know you and to watch you grow in so many ways.

I have seen you all grow into St Peteronians, holding 'Christ at the Centre' and giving of your best in all you do. One of the most important passages in the Bible for me is, 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10) and this is something that each and every one of you have recognised as you've sought to be the best you can be.

We are all so proud of you. You've been to school during a pandemic, having to work hard at home as well as at school. Academically you have achieved a lot, but just as importantly it has been about you aiming to be responsible, polite and helpful pupils.

As you leave St Peter's may God's Spirit be with you. May you continue to grow in His love, have time for God, invest time and energy in your relationships. Be kind to others and to yourself and be wonderful.



Prayer Calendar for August

Attached to this newsletter is a prayer calendar for August which you may wish to use at home with your child.

Class teachers next year

Here is the final list of teacher staffing for September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Donnelly for her outstanding contribution as assistant headteacher. Her dedication, leadership and commitment to our school community is always greatly valued. As she returns to her permanent role we are delighted that she will continue to share her expertise and passion as our Key Stage 2 leader.

Year Group	Teacher	Teacher
R/1	Mr Matt Read (Seahorses)	Mrs Reena Khatun (Mon – Tuesday) Mrs Megan Bradbury (Wed – Friday) (Dolphins)
R/1	Mr Miles Hughes (Turtles)	
2	Mrs Kirsty Bingham (Mon – Tuesday) Mrs Evie Wright (Wed - Friday) (Seals)	Miss Katie Sampson (Mon - Wednesday) Mrs Denise Pring (Thursday/Friday) (Otters)
3	Miss Beth Welsby	Miss Grace Dougan
4	Mrs Becky Ruddick-Smith	Mrs Joyce Griffin (Monday - Wednesday) Mrs Reena Khatun (Thursday/Friday)
5	Mr Alan Heys	Miss Charlotte Jordan
6	Mrs Nadine Donnelly	Mrs Shauna Kelly

School Leadership Team

Miss Louise Buxton	Head Teacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Mrs Louise Blake	Assistant Head Teacher, Deputy DSL
Mrs Nadine Donnelly	KS2 Stage Leader
Mr Matt Read	EYFS/KS1 Leader

Mrs Grace Foster	SENDCo, Deputy DSL
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Thank you Mrs Somerset

Thank you to Becky Somerset for being a valued Higher Level Teaching Assistant for the past year. We wish her every success and happiness in her new career with the civil service.

Thank You PTA

We would like to thank the PTA for all their efforts this year. Their efforts really strengthen the school family - while the money raised is much appreciated by both children and staff. The Firework night is awesome, and the summer fete was a community centred event to remember. The ice-lollies provided by the PTA at sports day also went down very well, as did the ice creams from Tony's Ices that the PTA provided funding for at the Year 6 leavers' party!



Aladdin

Our production of Aladdin Kids was a huge success! The children put on four fantastic performances across Wednesday and Thursday, with the evening shows selling out. The singing, acting and colourful costumes brought the story to life and it was wonderful to see the children's hard work pay off. They performed brilliantly and thoroughly entertained everyone who came to watch.

Thank you to Mrs Owens for making it unforgettable! Also, a big thank you to our PTA who were so generous giving us £2500 towards costs, to the staff who gave up their time to make it happen and to the parents who helped with costumes, hair and make-up. We couldn't have done it without you. Most importantly, well done to all of the children. You were absolutely brilliant!



Year 6 Leavers' Disco

Our Year 6 Leavers' Disco was a fantastic evening and a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the children's time at St Peter's. There was plenty of dancing, outdoor games, delicious hot dogs and, of course, a visit from the ice cream truck, making it a night to remember! A huge thank you to all of the additional staff who gave up their time to help make the evening such a success and to the PTA for providing funding for the ice cream truck. We would also like to say a special thank you to Mrs Mills for once again providing her brilliant DJ services and keeping everyone on the dance floor all evening. It was the perfect way to celebrate our amazing Year 6 children as they prepare for their next adventure.



Year 6 One World Day Celebration

Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful One World Day as part of their end-of-year celebrations. The children confidently delivered excellent presentations about countries from around the world, sharing fascinating facts and demonstrating impressive research and speaking skills. The day ended with a multicultural feast, where pupils enjoyed an array of delicious and exciting foods from different cultures and family traditions. Thank you to all the families who contributed. The day was a fantastic celebration of diversity, helping children to learn about and respect different cultures while recognising that we are all part of one school family.



Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is a national scheme run by the Reading Agency with the aim of keeping children reading over the six-week summer break. This year the challenge started on 11th July and continues throughout the school holidays. Children aged 4-11 are invited to set a reading goal and collect rewards for their reading. It's completely **FREE** to take part. Sign up at your local library or children can take part online. It is an amazing way to boost children's confidence – last year 72% of children taking part felt more confident reading.

Visit the [official Summer Reading Challenge website](https://www.readingagency.co.uk/summer-reading-challenge) for free activities, videos, book recommendations and more.

Any questions please feel free to contact Mrs Pestana via the school office.



Music Notices

Instrumental Lessons

Instrumental lessons will start the week beginning **Monday 14th September**. Children will need to check the music noticeboard to ensure that their name is on the correct list - please let Miss Owens know if there are any errors.

Instrumental lessons will take place on the following days each week:

Voice (Ms Duncombe) - Mondays
Piano/Keyboard (Mrs Liddle) - Tuesdays or Fridays
Violin (Mr Baker) - Tuesdays
Brass (Mr Potter) - Wednesdays
Guitar (Mr Gruzelier) - Wednesdays
Woodwind (Mrs Williams) - Wednesdays
Drums (Mr Say) - Thursdays

Timetables and groupings will be confirmed once the teachers have met the children for their first lesson. Lesson times will rotate each week and will be posted on the music noticeboard. Please contact Miss Owens if you have any queries.

Music Groups and Ensembles

Miss Owens will confirm information re rehearsals for Worship Band, School Band and St Peter's Singers once the term is up and running. St Peter's Singers will run on a Thursday morning before school and Worship Band/School Band on a Thursday after school. These groups are invitation only. More information to follow including information about joining next term.

Aladdin

A heartfelt thank you and congratulations to all staff and pupils who took part. What an amazing way to end the musical year at St Peter's! I'm so hugely proud of everyone involved.

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

Miss Owens

UPBEAT MUSIC Pop & Rock Summer Camp at St Peter's Monday 27th - Friday 31st July

Miss Owens will be bringing her team of Upbeat instrumental, dance and vocal tutors to St Peter's this Summer for a fun-filled week of Pop & Rock music-making, culminating in an end of camp performance! Suitable for children in Year R - Year 7 (no prior experience needed).

Would your child like to play electric guitar or drums in a band? Or do they love to sing or dance? Or maybe they'd like to try writing and recording a song? Arts and crafts, outside play and performance..... Upbeat Camps offer all of these activities and more!

15% discount for all St Peter's Pupils. Use the discount code **MZH577** when booking via this link. <https://upbeat-music-courses.classforkids.io>

To find out more:

Email: upbeatmusiccourses@gmail.com

Phone: 07816 901396

Visit: www.upbeatmusiccourses.co.uk



Universal Credit and Free School Meals

Please see below for upcoming changes to eligibility for benefits based Free School Meals (FSM) and what you need to do to apply or check your child's eligibility.

Upcoming Changes

From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals will change. All households receiving Universal Credit will be included, but eligibility will be divided into two groups:

Targeted Free School Meals - for households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income below £7,400.

Expanded Free School Meals - for households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income above £7,400.

What You Need to Do

If your child already receives Free School Meals and you have applied through the Hampshire portal, you do not need to do anything. If you think your child may now be eligible, please contact the school office.

Please note: children eligible under the expanded criteria will only begin to receive Free School Meals from September 2026.

If You Disagree with a Decision

If you have applied and believe the decision is incorrect, please contact your child's school. The school can contact Hampshire County Council on your behalf to request further advice.

Important Information for Reception and Key Stage 1 Parents

All children in Early Years Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 already receive free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, we still encourage you to apply. This is because schools receive Pupil Premium funding for children who qualify under Targeted Free School Meal eligibility. This funding helps support your child during their time at school.

Transitional Protections (until August 2026)

Transitional protections have been in place since 1 April 2018 and will continue until the end of the 2025 to 2026 school year. During this time any child who becomes eligible for benefits based Free School Meals will continue to receive them until July 2026. This will not change even if household income increases. From September 2026 these protections will end. From this point, all families must meet the new eligibility rules for their child to receive Free School Meals.

For more information on Free School Meals please follow this link to the Government Website - [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Lane in the school office.

Little Fishes Pre-School – places available from September

Little Fishes offers a warm, secure and welcoming environment for our pre-school children to learn and explore. It is based on the St. Peter's Primary School site in a large and sunny purpose-built room with an extensive outdoor area, which is used every day whatever the weather. The Little Fishes team works alongside the Early Years teachers to provide the EYFS curriculum. Have a look at the Little Fishes page on the school website for a virtual tour and information on session times, funding/charges, visits and how to apply:

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/little-fishes-pre-school>



Our Year at Little Fishes 2025-2026

The days at Little Fishes have passed so quickly by.
Throughout the year we've had such fun from September to July.
We played amongst the autumn leaves and made leaf family trees.
Our families shared the Christmas joy at our Nativity.
Now it's summer fun and World Cup time. We're saving lots of goals.
We've got bats and balls for Wimbledon. Water play to keep us cool.

We're busy, chatty children. We're curious, brave, and bold.
We explore, imagine, try things out, to learn about our world.
We spend happy days in Dinosaur Land.
We build Polydron and Poly M too.
We use blocks and bricks with cars and trains,
and invent games with the farm and the zoo.

At circle times, lunch club, and snack, we chat about our days.
Our friendships grow as we share ideas and show kindness in many ways.
Imaginations soar at story times. Favourite stories come alive.
The Super Pigs. The Big Bad Wolf. Different endings? We wrote five!

We sing songs of crocodiles and, and ships with a pirate crew,
But our favourite song? It's Jingle Bells!
And we sing it all year through!
Our daily prayers are special times. We praise God in word and song.
"This Little Light of Mine" does shine and our faith grows ever strong.

A year of happy memories, so full of joyful things.
Now we're looking forward to September
And the fun that next year brings!

Future School Dates

Event	Date
Last day of term	Wednesday 22 nd July
Summer Holiday Thursday 23rd July - Monday 31st August (included)	
First day of term – all children to return except new reception children (No INSET)	Tuesday 1 st September
Home visits to new Reception families	Wednesday 2 nd , Thursday 3 rd and Friday 4 th September
Reception children begin school full time	Monday 7 th September
Show Around 1	Tuesday 15 th September, 10am
New School Year Mass – all welcome	Friday 18 th September, 9.15am
Inset Day – school closed to pupils	Friday 25 th September
Autumn half term Monday 26th – Friday 30th October	
Inset Day – school closed to pupils	Monday 2 nd November
All Saints Mass, all invited	Friday 6 th November, 2pm
PTA Bonfire Night	Saturday 7 th November

Inset Days - staff training with school closed to pupils

Friday 25th September 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Monday 22nd February 2027
Friday 21st May 2027

Holiday Dates

School term dates are available on:

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/term-dates/>

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schoolholidays>

Empty Bookcase

As we approach the end of the year, there are still many books that need to be returned to school. Please can we ask children to return any outstanding library books or Little Wandle books as soon as possible. If your child does not have access to books over summer, our local library has a fantastic selection to tempt them, and we also have a 'book rescue' in school that enables children to take home and keep previously loved library books.



Attendance

Year R	91.07%
Year 1	92.10%
Year 2	93.44%
Year 3	94.49%
Year 4	95.40%
Year 5	94.01%
Year 6	95.11%
Overall school Attendance	93.50%



Well done Year 4 for having the highest attendance. An extra 5 minutes' break for you!

See the NHS website and flyer below 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 2027, we have the following dates available for you to come and look around the school:

Tuesday 15th September 10am

Friday 2nd October 1.30pm

Thursday 15th October 10am

Wednesday 4th November 1.30pm

Thursday 12th November 10am

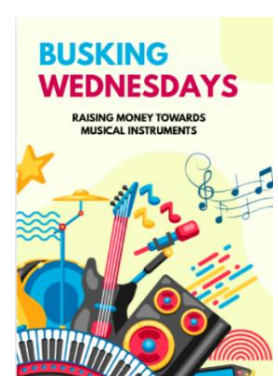
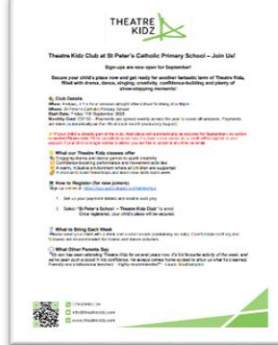
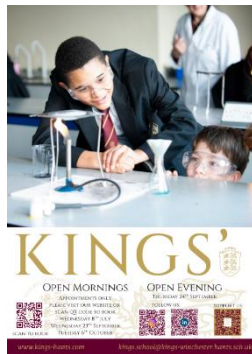
Please contact the school office if you would like to book onto any of these tours.

Kings' School Open Events

We warmly welcome you and your child to attend one of our School Open Events this year. Our Open Mornings will be held on **Wednesday 8th July, Wednesday 23rd September and Tuesday 6th October 2026**. To secure your place, please book here: <https://kings.applicaa.com/events/OpenMornings>

Our Open Evening will be held on **Thursday 24th September 2026** and is a bookable event. To secure your place, please book here <https://kings.applicaa.com/events/OpenEvening>

We look forward to hopefully seeing you and your family at one of these soon.



Best wishes for the summer break.

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!

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>

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.

Extra-curricular clubs – SUMMER

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 Gardening Tennis Relax Kids Theatre Kids 360 Rounders/ Cricket	Monday Monday Tuesday Tuesday Wednesday Friday Friday
Y1	Relax Kids 360 Football Theatre Kids	Wednesday Wednesday Friday	Y5	Football Intergr8 Gardening Comic Club Relax Kids Theatre Kids 360 Rounders/ Cricket	Monday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Wednesday Friday Friday
Y2	Intergr8 Relax Kids 360 Football Theatre Kids	Monday Wednesday Wednesday Friday	Y6	Intergr8 Football Gardening Comic Club Relax Kids 360 Rounders/ Cricket	Monday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Wednesday Friday
Y3	Comic Club Intergr8 Gardening Tennis Relax Kids Theatre Kids 360 Rounders/ Cricket	Monday Monday Tuesday Tuesday Wednesday Friday Friday			

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.