

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

2nd September 2026

Last Sunday was the Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
Matthew 16:21-27

Dear Parents

Welcome back!

Welcome to the New School Year! I hope you and your families had a lovely summer holiday - being able to take time out and to refresh and replenish. I hope everyone managed to have special times with their families and those they love.

The children have come back looking smart in their new school uniform and seem, I hope, ready to learn. They have been keen to share their summer breaks with us and it is good being back together. We also welcome into the St Peter's school family all our new children and families, especially our Reception children who start next week. The school looks forward to working with you over the next seven years (which will go faster than we all think it will!).

Thank you from everyone at the school for all the generosity shown to the team at the end of term, and most importantly for the kind words in the thank you cards. They mean a lot to us.

I would like to thank Mr Docherty, our caretaker, for all his hard work over the summer holidays, alongside Sherrill and contract cleaners. The school was looking fresh and ready for the new year on our return. We really value their efforts as we know high expectations of behaviour and learning are helped through the environment given to our children.

As we start the new school year we pray that the children can continue to make good progress with all their learning, developing in all areas of their being and that we can all continue to grow and work together, holding 'Christ at the Centre'.



'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10)

Welcome to St Peter's School Family

Along with welcoming our new Year R pupils and those new to Little Fishes to our school family we also welcome Mrs Pring, who will be a class teacher in Year 2.

We hope all who are new to our school family settle in quickly and find their time here enjoyable and fulfilling.

Behaviour Policy

As we start our new school year we revisit and remind the children of our Behaviour policy and our expectations. The policy is held on our 'policies' page on the website and has a quote from Proverbs 22:6 on its front cover, see <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/policies/>

'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'

The policy's over-arching principle is that everyone in the school family is responsible for setting high expectations for behaviour. As the children grow we want them to develop emotional literacy and to be able to express their feelings, as well as be able to listen to others. We also want them to develop a sense that with 'rights' comes 'responsibility'.

At St Peter's we aim:

- to see Christ in everyone,
- to build a community where there is mutual respect and all feel valued, safe and secure,
- to develop skills of self-control and self-discipline,
- to create an environment that supports learning.

During the first two weeks of term in R.E. the children will be reviewing our Mission Statement, 'Christ at the Centre', and so will be looking at the Courtesy Code and the Golden Rules in our behaviour policy, as they draw up individual class charters. We will all be working on adding the 'St Peter's Polish' to all we do.



Attendance and requests for time off during term time

At the beginning of another school year may I take this opportunity to remind you about the legislation regarding parents requesting time out of school for their children. The legislation makes it clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. It is extremely unlikely time out of school for a family holiday will be considered exceptional circumstances. It will be the same for requests for time out to spend time with visiting relatives or for birthday celebrations. As a school we fully understand and support the government's drive to ensure pupils miss as little school time as possible. Parents who take their children out without permission may be liable to a financial penalty notice.

I regularly monitor attendance and I write to the parents of any child who falls under 90% (which is the equivalent of a morning off each week). The government views anyone under such a figure as a persistent absentee and I have to follow it up. Obviously some children do at times have more serious illness and time in hospital but some just have poor attendance often due to issues at home and it is my duty to follow this up.

Every year I receive holiday requests as parents say they didn't know the dates for school holidays. These are always on our website and can also be found on the Hampshire County Council website too. Please also inform anyone who is likely to be treating the family to a holiday of these dates - again it is often stated that a family member booked a holiday as a gift. These holidays must also adhere to the same rules. See website details below within inset dates section.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who ensure their children are in school on time every day, ready to learn and would only request time away from school for very exceptional circumstances.

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.

Mass for the new school year – Year 2 to Year 6

Everyone is invited to Mass, **Friday 18th September, 9.15am** at St Stephen's Church.

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.

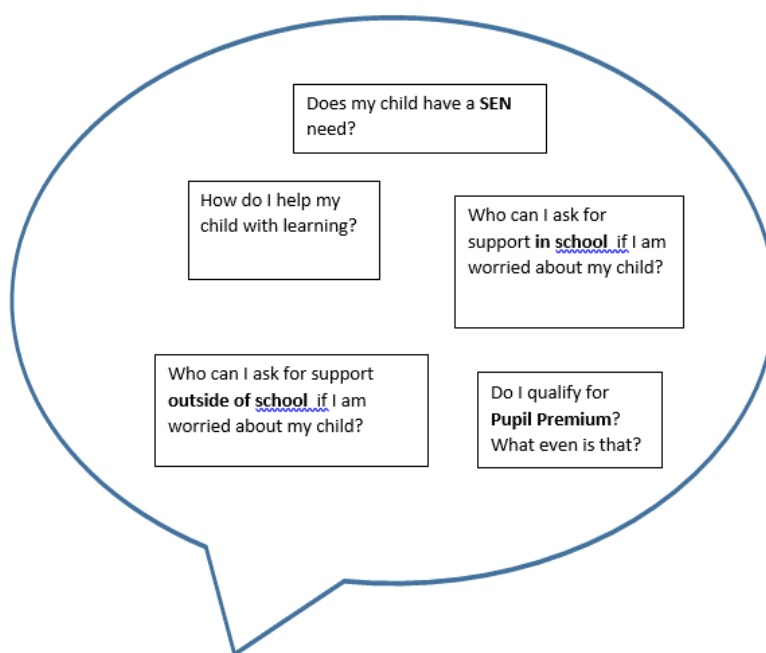
We will be sharing our new **Allergy Safety Policy** with you in the new couple of weeks.

Prayer Diary

There is a Prayer Diary for September attached to this newsletter which you may like to share at home with your child.

Message from Grace Foster SENDCo

Parent Information Point



Come and find out how we can help you

Monday 21 September

8.30 – 9 & 3 – 3.30

In the Music Room

Extra-curricular clubs – AUTUMN

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	Theatre Kids	Friday	Y4	Comic Club Intergr8 360 Dodgeball 360 Board games Theatre Kids	Monday Monday Monday Tuesday Friday
Y1	360 Board games Football Theatre Kids	Tuesday Wednesday Friday	Y5	Intergr8 360 Dodgeball 360 Board games Comic Club Football Theatre Kids	Monday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday Friday
Y2	Integr8 360 Board games 360 Football Theatre Kids	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday	Y6	Intergr8 360 Dodgeball 360 Board games Comic Club Theatre Kids	Monday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday
Y3	Comic Club Intergr8 360 Dodgeball 360 Board games Theatre Kids	Monday Monday Monday Tuesday Friday			

Class teachers this year

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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Invitation for Parents to the Nurturing Programme

The Nurturing Programme will again be running in the church on Wednesday mornings from 23rd September onwards. Staff from the Nurturing Programme will be available to speak to parents at the front of school next Monday 7th September and Friday 11th September at drop off if you would like to know more or to book a space on the programme.

A programme nationally co-ordinated by The Family Links Centre for Emotional Health. This is a 10 week programme for parents of children aged 2 to 12 years who live in Winchester and the immediate surrounding villages.

We all want to do the best for our children but parenting is challenging. The course aims to equip you with different strategies to develop good emotional health and positive relationships resulting in happier, calmer homes. Previous parents have said it's the best thing they've ever done, they hadn't realised there was another way to parent.

The venue: St Stephen's Church: Oliver's Battery Road North, SO22 4JB on Wednesday mornings 9.05 am - 11.05 am September 23rd - December 2nd (excluding half term).

Please email nurturingprogramme@ccwinch.org.uk for any questions or to sign up.

How Nurturing Programme Parent Groups have helped other parents

"I am a much more confident, positive and understanding parent. I feel much more able to cope now."

"We are having less family arguments and the household is a lot calmer."

"The group was fun. It's the only two hours I have for myself each week."

"The atmosphere was really relaxed. No-one judged anyone and everyone was listened to and respected"



Check out familylinks.org.uk for more information on The Parenting Puzzle book and the Nurturing Programme

The 10-week Nurturing Programme for parents and carers

where:

St Stephen's Church
Oliver's Battery Rd North
Winchester
SO22 4JB

when:

Every Wednesday, 23rd September
to 2nd December
excluding half term
9.05 am - 11.05 am

contact details:

To book a place, please email:
nurturingprogramme@ccwinch.org.uk
or phone: 07942 284611
Free crèche available

FAMILY LINKS
The Centre for Emotional Health
familylinks.org.uk
Registered charity 1062514

FAMILY LINKS
The Centre for Emotional Health

The Nurturing Programme

Information
for parents
and carers

How to get the best
out of family life



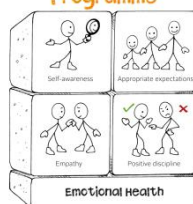
What is the Nurturing Programme?

Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging.

The Nurturing Programme helps deal with those challenges so that you can have a calmer, happier life.

A tried and tested programme, it helps us think about what we do, why we do it, and how it makes us feel.

The Building Blocks of the Nurturing Programme



What does it cover?

Over the 10-week Programme, you will look at lots of different topics, including

- Understanding** why children behave as they do
- Recognising** the feelings behind behaviour (ours and theirs)
- Exploring** different approaches to discipline
- Finding** ways to develop co-operation and self-discipline in children
- Learning** the importance of looking after ourselves

Practical information

Partners are welcome and it's also fine to come on your own or with a relative or friend

There are ten 2-hour sessions with a tea and coffee break.

8-10 parents are invited and there are two Family Links trained group leaders

Some groups provide a crèche; check with group leaders beforehand

You need to come to all ten sessions as they fit together like a puzzle



Music Notices

Instrumental Lessons

Instrumental lessons will start next week and provisional timetables will be up at the end of this week. Children need to check the music noticeboard to ensure that their name is on the correct list. Please let Miss Owens know if they have any questions or they don't see their name and are expecting lessons.

Lessons take place on the following days:

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

Lesson times will rotate each week and final timetables will be posted on the music noticeboard once the teachers have finalised their groupings. Please remind your child to check their lesson time each week.

Music Ensembles and Clubs

We will be gradually starting up our Worship Band, School Band and St Peter's Singers (Years 5 and 6) over the next few weeks. Look out for information detailing rehearsal information, days and times. All details will be posted on the music noticeboard (outside the music classroom) or emailed to you if relevant.

School Band: Existing members of school band should attend the introductory Worship Band rehearsal **this Thursday 3rd September at 12.10** in the Music Room. **Please bring your instruments!** Regular weekly rehearsals will then run from Thursday 10th September from 3.30 - 4.30pm. New members will be invited in due course.

Any questions at all, then please do get in touch with Miss Owens by emailing music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk.

And finally, **Busking Wednesdays** will start up again on the 1st Wednesday of each month (starting on 7th October!).

Looking forward to another musical term!

Miss Owens

Parent Reader Plea

Could you spare any time to hear children read? Stay late after drop off or arrive a little early for pick up? Please contact the school office if you are able to join this amazing group of volunteers helping our children to become more confident readers. If you are interested, please contact the school office. Safeguarding checks are carried out on all volunteers and training is provided.

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>



Holiday Dates

School term dates are available on:

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

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

Future School Dates

Event	Date
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 Years 2-6 – all welcome	Friday 18 th September, 9.15am
Inset Day – school closed to pupils	Friday 25 th September
Show Around 2	Friday 2 nd October, 1.30pm
Year 6 Residential	Monday 5 th to Friday 9 th October
Year R welcome liturgy, all Reception families welcome	Friday 9 th October, 9.15am
Parish –School Mass, St Stephen's	Sunday 11 th October, 9.15am
Show Around 3	Thursday 15 th October, 10am
Parents' Evenings	Tuesday 20 th and Thursday 22 nd October, 4pm to 7pm
Harvest Mass, Father Mark's last celebration with us before leaving	Friday 23 rd October, 2pm
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
Nativity – Reception, Years 1 and 2- families invited	Friday 4 th December, 9.15am
Advent Liturgy – KS2 – parents invited	Thursday 17 th December 2.30pm and 6pm
Christmas Holiday Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January	
Inset Day – school closed to pupils	Monday 4 th January
Children return for beginning of term	Tuesday 5 th January

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

Class Assemblies 2026-27

All class parents and family are welcome to attend these. Please wait outside church door for 3pm.

Month	Friday (class/teacher Assembly)	
October	16 th	6SK Class
	23 rd	Harvest Mass- 2pm
	30 th	Half Term
November	6 th	All Saints Mass- 2pm
	13 th	5CJ Class
	20 th	4GK Class
	27 th	3BW Class
December	4 th	KS1 Nativity- 9.15am
	Christmas	Holidays
February	5 th	6DL Class
	12 th	5AH Class
	19 th	Half Term
	26 th	4RS Class
April	Easter	Holidays
	16 th	3GD Class
May	28 th	Corpus Christi Mass- 1.30pm
June	4 th	Half Term
	11 th	Year 2 Seals Class
	18 th	Year 2 Otters Class
	25 th	MR Seahorses Class
July	2 nd	MB Dolphins Class
	9 th	MH Turtles Class

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.

School Milk Arrangements

If you would like your child to have milk (a 189ml bottle of semi-skimmed milk) during the school day, please register online with Cool Milk at www.coolmilk.com. Children under 5 years old are entitled to free school milk, fully funded by the Department of Health, but their parents must register with Cool Milk for them to receive it. For over 5s, school milk is available at a rate subsidised by Defra via the School Milk Scheme. Children eligible for statutory free school meals can receive school milk free of charge – the school office will contact you.

Cool Milk have asked us to inform parents that the price of milk for over 5s will soon be increasing. If you register your child now, you can lock in at the current price. Contact Cool Milk with any queries: 0800 321 3248 or www.coolmilk.com

Weekly E-safety Top Tips



Safe use of technology, on-line safety and the safe, respectful use of phone technology is an area of daily life that we all need to be aware of and talk about with our children. Teachers in school regularly discuss the topic with pupils. It is very important that similar conversations are being had at home too.

Please talk to your child about safe, respectful phone and internet usage. Information and further support is also available on the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keepingchildren-safe/>

When did you last check your child's online history?

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.

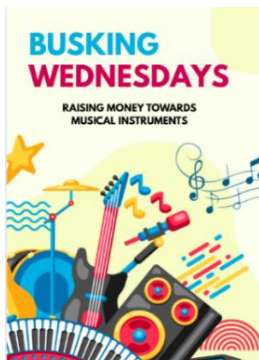
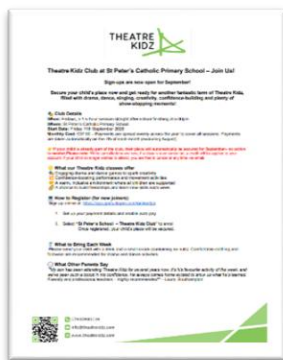
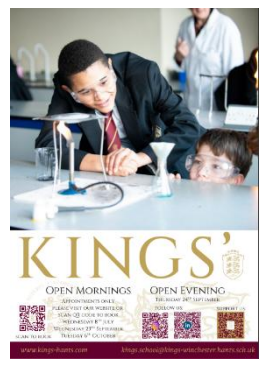
An invitation to St Peter's School young musicians

Year 6 musicians from St Peter's school are welcome to join The St Stephen's Players.

The St Stephen's Players are a group of young musicians who play for the 9.15am mass at St Stephen's church on the second Sunday of each month. Players are contacted in advance of the Sunday monthly mass to determine availability. Music is then sent through and a brief rehearsal takes place at 8.45am before the mass. The music is written to suit the ability of the player. This is a great opportunity to enjoy contributing to the music in our parish.

For more information please contact Emma Sharrock:

Ststephens@stpeterswinchester.org.uk



Best wishes for the new school year,

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>