



Newsletter

14th October 2026

Last Sunday was the Twenty Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Matthew 22:1-14

Dear Parents

Year 6 Residential Trip – Osmington

Our Year 6 pupils recently returned from an unforgettable residential visit to Osmington Bay, where they embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork. Throughout the week, the children took part in a range of exciting activities designed to build confidence, communication and problem-solving skills. From tackling team challenges that required creative thinking and co-operation to supporting one another through demanding tasks, our pupils demonstrated fantastic determination and maturity.

For many, the highlight of the trip was conquering the thrilling high ropes activities. Whether stepping over the edge during abseiling or scaling new heights on the vertical climb, the children showed courage and perseverance. It was wonderful to see so many pupils pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones and celebrating their achievements together.

The adventure continued with some of the trip's most eagerly anticipated activities. The 3G Swing gave children the chance to test their courage, while Dragon Boating saw teams working together and developing their co-ordination during a race on the water. These experiences encouraged pupils to communicate effectively, trust one another and work towards a shared goal.

Beyond the activities themselves, the residential provided valuable opportunities for pupils to develop independence, strengthen friendships and create memories that will last a lifetime. Away from home, the children demonstrated increasing responsibility and supported each other every step of the way. We were incredibly proud of the positive attitudes, excellent behaviour and supportive spirit shown by the children throughout the visit. The pupils were fantastic ambassadors for our school and approached every activity with enthusiasm and determination. Year 6 represented the school superbly, and we are delighted that they returned home with greater confidence, stronger friendships and a wealth of wonderful memories.

Angel: Residential was really fun with a lot of different activities! The food was also really good!

Edlyn: For night activities we had a disco and a campfire. I really enjoyed the campfire and toasted marshmallows and songs!

Ivy: My favourite activity was the giant swing because we got to do it with our friends so we could enjoy it together! The catering was also excellent.

Gillan: The giant swing was really fun to go on with our friends and it was so high up!

Ethan: The vertical challenge was really fun. You could see how high you were, have an adrenaline rush when you climb, and so feel so much excitement when you get to the top!

Year R Welcome Liturgy

It was wonderful to welcome the new Year R children during our Year R Welcome Liturgy. The children received their prayer books which they were very excited to look through once we got back to class. Father Mark shared about the importance of welcoming God into your heart and that God was going to be with the children as they went through their journey at St Peter's. The children sang beautifully during the liturgy and showed that they are definitely already part of our St Peter's family. Thank you to all the parents who were able to be there. We look forward to seeing how the children continue to develop and grow as the year goes on.

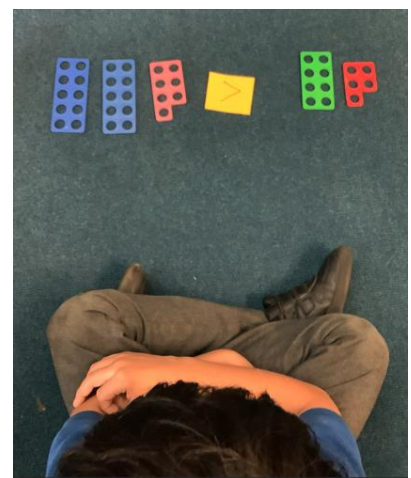
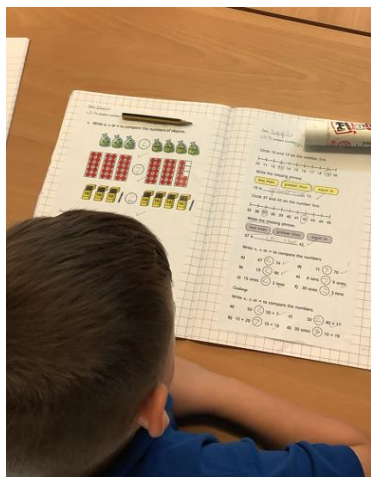


School – Parish Mass

Thank you to all who were able to join us for our termly Mass with the parish. It was lovely to see our children with their families and our staff and governors coming together, especially as it was Father Mark's last Mass at St Stephen's. The party afterwards certainly seemed a celebration and a sharing of the parishioners' gratitude to Father Mark.

Year 2 Maths

The Year 2 Seals and Otters have been busy developing their maths skills! We have been learning to compare different amounts and have been using the greater than ($>$), less than ($<$) and equal to ($=$) symbols to show our understanding. The children have enjoyed exploring different amounts and explaining how they know which is greater, less or equal. Why not ask your child at home what they have been learning about the $>$, $<$ and $=$ symbols?



Year 4 Learning Highlights

Year 4 have had a busy and exciting time exploring a range of learning across the curriculum!

In Maths, we have been learning about **Roman numerals**, developing our understanding of how numbers can be represented in different ways.

In English, inspired by our learning about *Beowulf*, we have been putting our imaginations to the test by **writing our own monster battles!** The children created their own fearsome monsters to battle against Beowulf, using exciting vocabulary and descriptive language to bring their epic battles to life.

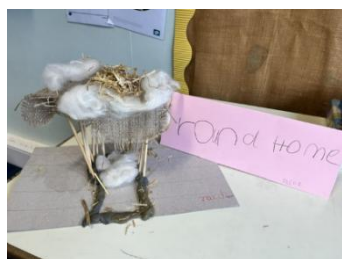
In History, we have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and what their homes might have looked like. Working **collaboratively in pairs, the children have been building their own Anglo-Saxon houses**, using their creativity, problem-solving skills and teamwork to bring their ideas to life.

In RE, we have been learning about **God's covenant with Abraham** and the promises God made to him and his descendants. We have also explored the story of **Joseph**, thinking about how God's promises and plans continued through generations. The children have been reflecting on the importance of faith, trust and God's relationship with His people.

During our classroom discussions, we have been exploring how to **build on or challenge other people's ideas respectfully**. We have been practising how to share our opinions, listen carefully to others and explain our thinking to help us become confident and thoughtful communicators.

In Art, we have been developing our drawing skills by learning how to **draw a city in perspective**, exploring how to create the illusion of depth and distance in our artwork.

We are incredibly proud of the children's creativity, enthusiasm and growing confidence across all areas of their learning!



Year 6 Pupil Leadership

A job that Year 6 do that is valued by all is the role completed by our litter pickers. This role very much fulfils our duty of stewardship for God's creation. Thank you Team St Peter's.



Year 2 Nurses Day

On **Thursday 22nd October**, Year 2 will be having our Nurses Day to celebrate our History learning on Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. You are invited to dress up as a nurse or soldier. On the day, we will be thinking about what life was like for these nurses during the Crimean war, why Florence was called the Lady with the Lamp and what impact these women had on nursing and hospitals today.



Parents' Evening Bookings – all year groups

We have now set up the Parents' Evening appointment system - all bookings should be made via **ARBOR**.

All class teachers will be available between 4pm and 7pm on both Tuesday 20th October and Thursday 22nd October 2026.

Bookings went live on Friday 25th September and will close at midday on Monday 19th October 2026.

Please note that you will **ONLY** be able to book your appointment via the Arbor App or Parent Portal. Please ensure you have registered in good time.

Message from Grace Foster SENDCo

Mental Health in Schools

In our continual strive to be offering the best support available to all our pupils we have been working closely with the Mental Health Support Team (MHST). If you are concerned about your child's mental health, please do contact us so we can work together and direct you to support available.

The team are in school offering an EBSA workshop on **Tuesday 20th October at 9am**. This is a workshop for any parents of a child with anxiety, separation anxiety or other worries and will last for 90 minutes with time for questions. This will be a very useful session to empower you as parents.

School Nurse

The School Nurse is a fantastic way of accessing support and help. They have been a good source of help for many of our families. They are running clinics in the **Carroll Centre in Stanmore** and **Cromwell House in Winchester** from 9.30am to 1.30pm on the following dates:

Carroll Centre:

Tuesday 1st December

Tuesday 2nd February

Tuesday 13th April

Monday 21st June

Cromwell House:

Weds 28th October (during half term)

Weds 25th November

Weds 27th January

Weds 24th February

Weds 31st March (Easter holidays)

Weds 28th April

Weds 26th May

Weds 30th June

Weds 28th July (summer holidays)

NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

CHILD HEALTH CLINICS*

The Community Public Health Advisors from the Andover & Winchester Public Health Nursing Team(5-19yrs) are offering support with your primary aged child's health

Scan the QR code to book a 30-minute slot at The Carroll Centre, Winchester

How do I manage challenging behaviour?

Why does my child wet the bed?

Where can I access support for my child's anxiety?

How do I encourage healthy eating?

* These slots should not be used as a place to seek advice regarding specific medical conditions

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CHILD HEALTH CLINICS*

The Community Public Health Advisors from the Andover & Winchester Public Health Nursing Team(5-19y) are offering support with your primary aged child's health

Scan the QR code to book a 30-minute slot at Cromwell House, Winchester

How do I manage challenging behaviour?

Why does my child wet the bed?

Where can I access support for my child's anxiety?

How do I encourage healthy eating?

* These slots should not be used as a place to seek advice regarding specific medical conditions

Osborne & Shepherds Down School
Outreach Services
Parent Workshop:

Wednesday 25th November 2026
10.00am – 2.30pm
Venue: Oliver's Battery School, Austen Avenue,
Winchester SO22 4HP

This workshop will provide you with an insight into autism and how it affects your child. Our aim is to provide you with a range of practical strategies to support your child in the home environment.

The course will cover:

- An introduction to autism and the areas of difference
- Positive behaviour management
- Communication

Lect 88:
Caron Batty
(Osborne School Outreach Service)
Laura Worthy (Shepherds Down Outreach Service)

Free of charge

To book a place please contact Osborne School Office
Please do not contact Shepherds Down or Oliver's Battery to book.
N.B. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Refreshments will be provided, please bring a packed lunch.

Email: admin@osborne.hants.sch.uk
Phone: 01762 844537

Parking – On site.

School Council – Harvest Collection

Our School Council have planned our Harvest collection. The student councillors agreed to support our local community in Winchester by donating the food and products collected to the **Basics Bank** and the **Carroll Centre**. A poster is displayed in each classroom window and at the front of the school with suggested items for donation. Please support our local communities by donating – one single item could make a huge difference. Items can be brought into school up until our harvest festival which takes place on 23rd October. Thank you for your support.



Advent Liturgy – change of date

Please note that we have had to change the date of the KS2 Advent Liturgy from Thursday 17th to **Tuesday 15th December**.

PTA Bonfire Night – save the date



Music Notices

Music Ensembles and Clubs

St Peter's Singers - please note that rehearsals will start on Thursday 22nd October and run weekly from 8.15 - 8.45am. You will receive an email if your child is involved in this group and your child will have been notified.

Worship Band - rehearsals will run from 3.30 - 4.30pm until half term. After half term, rehearsals will run until 5.00pm as we introduce the School Band rehearsals into our weekly programme. Please pack your child a small, healthy snack.

School Band - will start on Thursday 5th November. Rehearsals will run weekly from 3.30 - 4.15pm. All members from last year are invited to join again. New members will be notified before half term.

Busking Wednesdays

Next date - Wednesday 4th November.

Instrumental Lessons

Instrumental lessons are now well underway. A reminder that the children need to check the noticeboard for their lesson time each week and remember to bring your instruments and music. Teachers will also be checking for regular practice, so don't forget to prepare for your lessons!

Any questions, email Miss Owens (music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk).

Half Term Band & Songwriting Camp at St Peter's

Did you know that Upbeat Pop & Rock school will be running a half term Band & Songwriting Camp at St Peter's this half term? Monday 26th - Tuesday 27th October 9.30am – 3.30pm. Children will join an age appropriate 'band' and:

- Learn/develop instrumental skills on drums, guitar, keyboards and voice.
- Put together a selection of songs for an end of course gig.
- Enjoy singing sessions, rhythm activities and games to develop their musical skills.
- Participate in creative activities, including songwriting and crafts.

Beginners to advanced musicians welcome (Year 2 - Year 8).

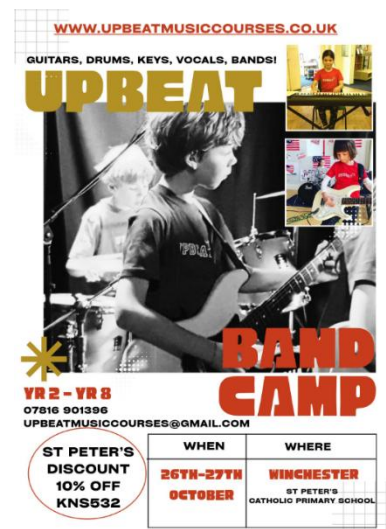
Email us for more info or click here to book your space:

<https://upbeat-music-courses.classforkids.io/camp/21>

10% discount for all St Peter's pupils.
Just use the code **KNS532** at the checkout!

www.upbeatmusiccourses.co.uk/

upbeatmusiccourses@gmail.com



WWW.UPBEATMUSICCOURSES.CO.UK

GUITARS, DRUMS, KEYS, VOCALS, BANDS!

UPBEAT

BAND CAMP

YR 2 - YR 8

07816 901396
UPBEATMUSICCOURSES@GMAIL.COM

ST PETER'S DISCOUNT 10% OFF KNS532

WHEN	WHERE
26TH-27TH OCTOBER	WINCHESTER ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

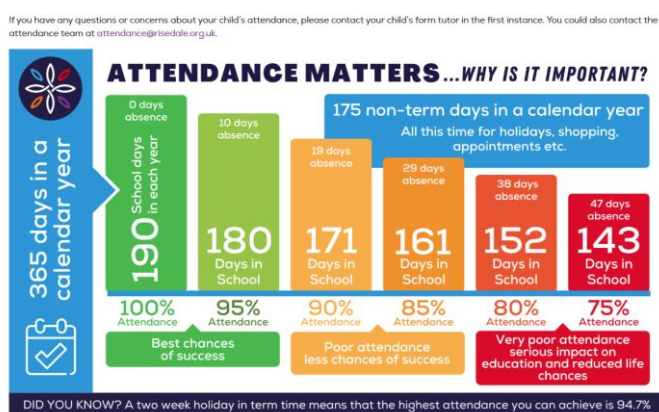
Attendance

Year R	96.18%
Year 1	96.62%
Year 2	95.58%
Year 3	97.77%
Year 4	96.72%
Year 5	97.65%
Year 6	95.28%
Overall school Attendance	96.40%

Well done Year 3 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/>



Supporting Every Child to Thrive

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children succeed at school. For all pupils - but particularly those supported through Pupil Premium funding - **every day in school matters**. Attending regularly helps children build confidence, make progress and access valuable learning opportunities. Good attendance also supports friendships, wellbeing and a sense of belonging. If your family needs support with attendance, please pop in and speak to Mrs Blake or Mrs Foster. We are here to work alongside you and help every child achieve their very best.

Attendance Matters



PUPIL
PREMIUM



Future School Dates

Event	Date
Show Around 3	Thursday 15 th October, 10am
Deadline for Shoeboxes	Monday 19 th October
Parents' Evenings – all year groups	Tuesday 20 th and Thursday 22 nd October, 4pm to 7pm
Year 2 Nurses and Soldiers day	Thursday 22 nd October
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
Show Around 4	Wednesday 4 th November, 1.30pm
All Saints Mass, all invited	Friday 6 th November, 2pm
PTA Bonfire Night	Saturday 7 th November
Show Around 5	Thursday 12 th November, 10am
Individual and sibling photos	Tuesday 17 th November
Show Around 6	Monday 23 rd November, 9.30am
Nativity – Reception, Years 1 and 2 - families invited	Friday 4 th December, 9.15am
Show Around 7	Monday 11 th December, 9.30am
Advent Liturgy – KS2 – parents invited	Tuesday 15 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

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>

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	Year R/1 Seahorses Class
July	2 nd	Year R/1 Dolphins Class
	9 th	Year R/1 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:

Thursday 15th October 10am

Wednesday 4th November 1.30pm

Thursday 12th November 10am

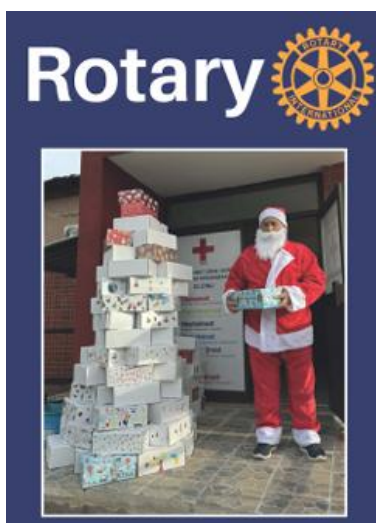
Monday 23rd November 9.30am

Friday 11th December 9.30am

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

Rotary Christmas Shoebox Scheme

We are supporting Wessex Rotary's Christmas Shoebox scheme again this year. We have a supply of the boxes in school so please come and collect a box if your child would like to take part. Filled boxes need to be returned to school before the half term break, by **Monday 19th October** latest. Thank you for your generosity to this very worthwhile scheme.



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

Do we need AI wherever we go?

META/NET

In the news this week

Meta has created the Muse Charm, a small device that can fit in a pocket or hang from a keyring. The Charm uses Meta's artificial intelligence (AI), so people can talk to it, ask it questions, and show it what is happening around them. It is designed for adults over the age of 18, and Meta aims to have the new device ready to buy by December.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you use any AI at home or school at the moment?
- When do you think technology can be helpful in our everyday lives?
- What rules might help people use an AI companion safely?
- Talk to someone older at home about what it was like to find information out before the internet, AI and other similar technologies.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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

© Picture News 2026

Applying for a Secondary School (Year 7) Place

Applications for children transferring to secondary school in September 2027 opened on Monday.

Applications can be submitted [online](#) or parents can request a paper application form in exceptional circumstances by emailing admissions.team@hants.gov.uk. The deadline for applications is **31 October 2026**.

Flu Vaccinations

The School Nursing Team will be in school on Tuesday 10th November to administer the flu vaccines. Please ensure that you have completed a consent form (or an opt out form) **no later than 9am on Friday 6th November** at the following link or using the QR code below:

<https://www.hiowhealthcareimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=SH116381>



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 We'd love to hear from you!

Congratulations to our 100 Club winners:

August draw:

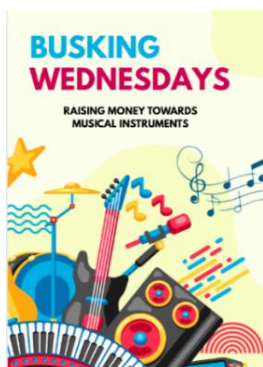
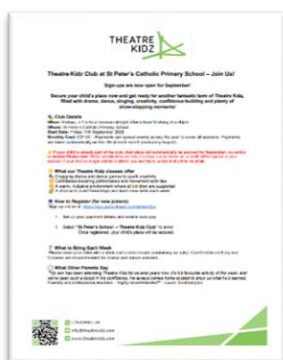
1st prize:	Georgina Omand	£ 25.00
2nd prize:	Matthew James Hunt	£ 20.00
3rd prize:	Amy Paterson	£ 10.00
4th prize:	Jenny Beech	£ 10.00

September draw:

1st prize:	David Cooney	£ 25.00
2nd prize:	Claire Lane	£ 20.00
3rd prize:	Geraldine McElduff	£ 10.00
4th prize:	Jennifer Mceneaney	£ 10.00

October draw:

1st prize:	Paul Barker	£ 25.00
2nd prize:	Ania Slinn	£ 20.00
3rd prize:	Kirstie Matthey	£ 10.00
4th prize:	Catrina Felstead	£ 10.00



Best wishes

Louise Buxton



Newsletter - past bits that may be useful

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>

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 Foster and Ms Pestana 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!

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.

Allergy Safety Policy

Our Allergy Safety Policy is now on our website at the following link:

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=187&type=pdf>

The school holds emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens) in accordance with national guidance. These may be used by appropriately trained staff in a medical emergency where a pupil is experiencing symptoms consistent with a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). Parents will be informed as soon as possible following any such incident.

Reporting to Parents 2026-27

Parent and school partnership is vitally important in ensuring the best for each child. We want to share the dates for reporting attainment and progress with parents so you can place them in your diary. Our aim is to ensure that you are kept informed and able to discuss progress at key points in the year as relevant to your child's year group.

As in the past, there is a formal reporting point in each term either via a parents' evening or via a written report. The aim of the initial meeting for all year groups is to ensure the children have settled into their new year groups and their routines.

The timings of parents' evenings and reports for each year group are as follows:

Parents' evenings:

Autumn Term All Year groups:	Tuesday 20 th October 2026 Thursday 22 nd October 2026
Year R/1, Year 2 and Year 6:	Tuesday 9 th February 2027 Thursday 11 th February 2027
Year 3, Year 4, Year 5:	Tuesday 22 nd June 2027 Thursday 24 th June 2027

As in the past, parents' evenings will be held between 4.00pm and 7.00pm. Details of how to book an appointment with your child's class teacher will be shared via the newsletter.

Written reports:

Spring Term Year 3, 4 and 5 – These will be sent out on 26th February 2027
Summer Term Year R/1, 2 and 6 – These will be sent out on 16th July 2027

Reminders of the timings of written reports will be shared in the newsletter nearer the time.

Please remember that if you wish to discuss your child's progress at any point in the year you can make an appointment to speak with your child's class teacher.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is the term used when someone who is not a parent or a 'close relative' (eg. great aunt, cousin, mum's friend or a neighbour) is looking after a child or young person under the age of 16 (under 18 if they are disabled) for 28 days or more in their own home.

In these situations the local council's Children's Services department must be informed. A social worker will visit the home to speak to the carer and the child to ensure the child is safe, carry out background checks and make sure support is being provided.

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	Intergr8 360 Board games 360 Football Theatre Kids	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday	Y6	Intergr8 360 Dodgeball 360 Board games Comic Club Football Theatre Kids	Monday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday Friday
Y3	Comic Club Intergr8 360 Dodgeball 360 Board games Theatre Kids	Monday Monday Monday Tuesday Friday			

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.

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](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-free-school-meals)

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

RSHE

Following the publication of the updated statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) guidance, we have reviewed our provision to ensure that it continues to meet both statutory requirements and the values of our Catholic school. We are pleased to confirm that our RSHE programme, Life to the Full, remains fully aligned with these expectations, providing age-appropriate learning that promotes healthy relationships, emotional wellbeing, personal safety and respect for others within a faith-based context.

Parents can explore the content taught in each year group through the Life to the Full Parent Portal, which provides access to lesson materials and curriculum information to support discussions at home. We greatly value our partnership with parents in this important area of education. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the programme further, please make an appointment with Miss Buxton, as we continue to work together in supporting the development and wellbeing of every child.

To access the online parent portal please visit: **www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal**

Username: st-peters-so22

School Password: cathedral-south

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

