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

'Christ at the Centre'

Newsletter

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

21st October 2026

Last Sunday was the Twenty Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Matthew 22:15-21

Dear Parents

Thank you Father Mark

For nine years, Father Mark has been at the heart of the St Peter's school community, helping us to keep 'Christ at the Centre' of all that we do. Through his faithful ministry, he has supported the prayer life of our school, celebrating Masses, leading liturgies, sharing the Gospel with our children, and helping us grow together in faith. His presence, wisdom and encouragement have enriched the lives of pupils, staff, governors and families, and we are deeply grateful for the many ways he has helped nurture our Catholic identity.

We are especially thankful for the pastoral care Father Mark has shown throughout his time with us. During challenging periods, particularly the uncertainty and difficulties of the Covid pandemic, he offered reassurance, compassion and hope when they were needed most. His kindness, steady support and willingness to listen provided strength to many within our community. He has always been a valued friend to the school, accompanying us through celebrations and challenges alike with generosity and prayer.

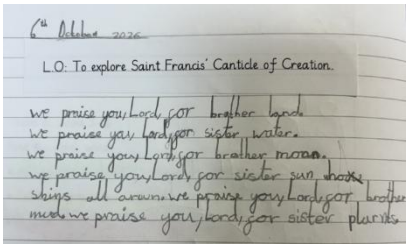
We would also like to thank Father Mark for the many opportunities he created for fellowship beyond the school day, including the much-enjoyed staff and governor curry evenings at Peter House. These occasions helped strengthen relationships, build community and remind us of the importance of friendship and shared faith. As Father Mark begins this new chapter of ministry in Abingdon, we send him our heartfelt thanks and prayers. We wish him every happiness and blessing in his new parish and pray that God will continue to guide and sustain him in all that lies ahead. He leaves St Peter's with our gratitude, affection and very best wishes.



Numbers 6:24–26 - *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

Year 3 Learning Highlights

In RE this half term, Year 3 have been learning about Creation and Covenant. We have explored how we are made in God's image, given thanks for the beauty of Creation through our own canticles of praise and are now exploring how God calls us to be stewards, caring for and protecting His wonderful Creation. We have felt so inspired by our learning that we have been enjoying saying prayers of thanks throughout the day for all the special gifts God has given us - from hippos to sunlight!









Cameron Bespolka Wildlife Lecture

Recently, 32 of our pupils were lucky enough to attend the annual Cameron Bespolka wildlife lecture in memory of Cameron. The talk at Winchester College was given by Edward Mayer from the Swift Conservancy. As this year's guest speaker, he shared his knowledge and passion about Swifts to over 900 guests. Our summer skies would be bare without our returning Swifts who make this long journey from Africa to the UK every year to breed. The children were enthralled with images, stories and facts about Swifts and most importantly, how every one of us can help their decline. Ideas shared included:

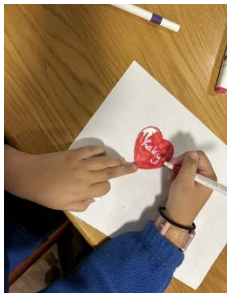
- Putting up Swift nest boxes
- Allowing your garden to be wild in places, plant more pollinators to attract more bees, grasshoppers, moths and other insects
- Building a wildlife pond which will help all wildlife as well as attract more insects
- Joining a local Swift Group. For more local information, contact Hampshire Swifts at info@hampshireswifts.co.uk

It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to represent our school whilst finding out more about how we can be guardians of God's creation.



Visiting our neighbours

Last week some of our children visited our friends at St Catherine's View Care home. They worked alongside the residents in making art and having a lovely relaxing time! We do enjoy our visits there.








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.



Relationships Education

Following changes to the national framework for teaching RSHE we are holding a parent workshop on Monday 16th November at 2.45pm which allows us to share the work that we are planning on doing this year and promotes parental involvement, recognising you as the prime educators of our children.

Pupil Leadership - Mission Ambassadors

Thank you Mission Ambassadors for leading our weekly prayers at lunchtime. With October being the month of The Rosary they led us beautifully in saying a decade of The Rosary, with lots of children joining us.





Message from Grace Foster SENDCo

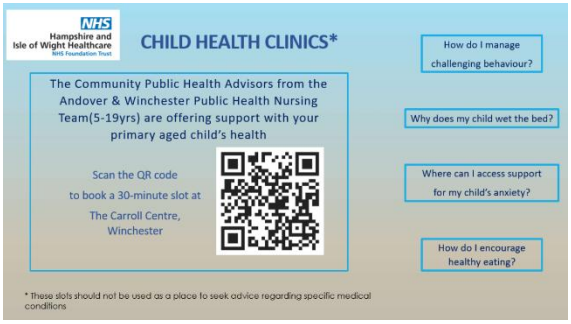
Mental Health in Schools

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.

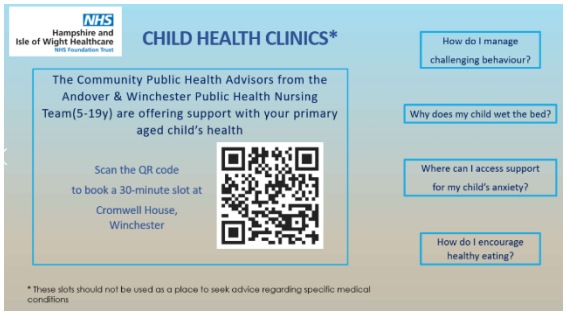
School Nurse

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)




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

Led By:
Carson Elday
(Osborne School Outreach Service)
Laura Watts (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 01962 854537

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 – volunteers needed

Once again we are looking for wonderful Volunteers to support the PTA in hosting our Bonfire Night. Please join us to help make the evening a fantastic event. Click on the following web link to access the volunteer signup sheet:

http://volunteersignup.org/QY4RR

Thank you very much in advance for your support.

The PTA



Music Notices

Music Ensembles and Clubs

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

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 over the next few weeks as we introduce new players to the group.

Busking Wednesdays
Our next date for busking will be **WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER**. This gives us time to get our buskers ready to roll after half term.

Instrumental Lessons - available lessons

We have a few places left for instrumental lessons this year:

Year 3: cornet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, cello or oboe
Year 4 and 5: saxophone

If you are interested in learning piano, guitar or drums, please let Miss Owens know as there is the possibility of spaces coming up in the near future.

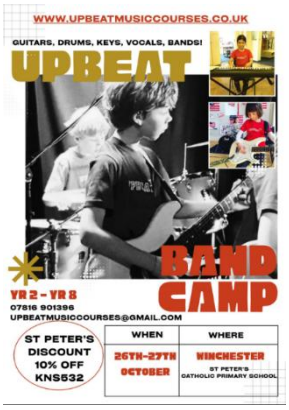
Any questions, email Miss Owens (music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk).

Have a lovely half term break and keep practising!

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 a**t the checkout!

www.upbeatmusiccourses.co.uk/

upbeatmusiccourses@gmail.com

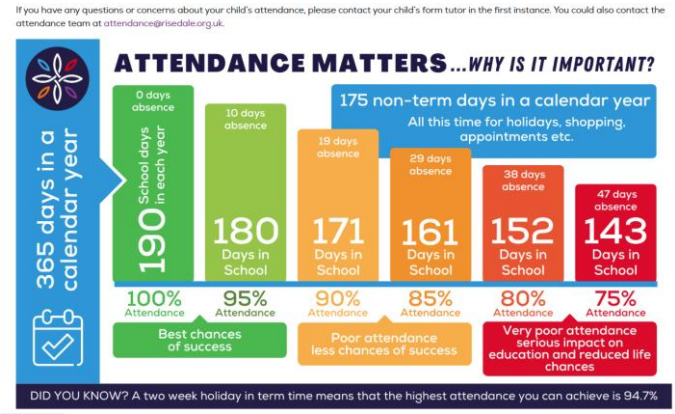
Attendance

Year R	96.21%
Year 1	97.01%
Year 2	94.96%
Year 3	97.60%
Year 4	96.55%
Year 5	97.70%
Year 6	95.37%
Overall school Attendance	96.40%

Well done Year 5 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/



Pupil Premium Spotlight: Supporting a Love of Reading

At St. Peter's, we believe reading is the key to success across the curriculum. Pupil Premium funding helps us ensure children have access to high-quality books, engaging reading experiences and the support needed to become confident readers.

This may include additional reading interventions, small group support and opportunities to read with trusted adults. Strong reading skills help children access the whole curriculum while also building confidence, independence and a love of learning.

You play a really important role in this! Please help your children with their reading journey by sharing books, listening to your child read and talking about stories. This can make a real difference. Together, we can help every child develop a lifelong love of reading and achieve their full potential.



PUPIL PREMIUM

BRIDGING THE GAP

Future School Dates

Event	Date
Year 2 Nurses and Soldiers day	Thursday 22nd October
Harvest Mass, Father Mark's last celebration with us before leaving	Friday 23rd October, 2pm
Autumn half term Monday 26th – Friday 30th October	
Inset Day – school closed to pupils	Monday 2nd November
Show Around 4	Wednesday 4th November, 1.30pm
All Saints Mass, all invited	Friday 6th November, 2pm
PTA Bonfire Night	Saturday 7th November
Show Around 5	Thursday 12th November, 10am
Parent RSHE Workshop	Monday 16th November, 2.45pm
Individual and sibling photos	Tuesday 17th November
Show Around 6	Monday 23rd November, 9.30am
Nativity – Reception, Years 1 and 2 - families invited	Friday 4th December, 9.15am
Show Around 7	Monday 11th December, 9.30am
Advent Liturgy – KS2 – parents invited	Tuesday 15th December 2.30pm and 6pm
Christmas Holiday Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January	
Inset Day – school closed to pupils	Monday 4th January
Children return for beginning of term	Tuesday 5th 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

Applying for a Secondary School (Year 7) Place

Applications for children transferring to secondary school in September 2027 opened on 7th September. 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**.

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)	
	23rd	Harvest Mass - 2pm
	30th	Half Term
November	6th	All Saints Mass - 2pm
	13th	5CJ Class
	20th	4GK Class
	27th	3BW Class
December	4th	KS1 Nativity - 9.15am
	Christmas	Holidays
February	5th	6DL Class
	12th	5AH Class
	19th	Half Term
	26th	4RS Class
April	Easter	Holidays
	16th	3GD Class
May	28th	Corpus Christi Mass - 1.30pm
June	4th	Half Term
	11th	Year 2 Seals Class
	18th	Year 2 Otters Class
	25th	Year R/1 Seahorses Class
July	2nd	Year R/1 Dolphins Class
	9th	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:

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.

Applications open on 1st November and close on Friday 15th January 2027.



Poppies for sale

We have a supply of poppies and poppy merchandise for sale in the school office. Suggested donations are as follows: Slap bands, wrist bands, reflectors and pencils £1.

These will be on sale from Thursday 22nd October until Remembrance Day on 11th November. Please send your child with the correct amount of cash as we cannot give any change.

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.



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



Direct4Logos Closure

Direct4Logos, our school uniform supplier, have asked us to let you know that their shop will be closed from Friday 23rd October at 2.00pm and will reopen on Monday 26th October at 9.30am.



























Best wishes

Louise Buxton

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

'Christ at the Centre'

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 20th October 2026 Thursday 22nd October 2026
Year R/1, Year 2 and Year 6:	Tuesday 9th February 2027 Thursday 11th February 2027
Year 3, Year 4, Year 5:	Tuesday 22nd June 2027 Thursday 24th 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	Integr8 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

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