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*

4th November 2026

Last Sunday was the Solemnity of All Saints
Matthew 5:1–12a

Dear Parents

Welcome Father Michael

It is with great joy that we welcome Father Michael Fava to our parish community and to St Peter's School. We are delighted that he is joining us from Newbury and beginning this new chapter of ministry here in Winchester. As a school and parish family, we look forward to getting to know Father Michael and sharing with him the faith, learning and sense of community that are at the heart of St Peter's. We hope that he quickly feels at home among us and experiences the warmth, friendship and support of the people he now serves.

Father Michael can be assured of a very warm welcome from our pupils, staff, governors and families. We look forward to celebrating Mass together, growing in faith under his guidance, and working in partnership to ensure that Christ remains at the centre of all we do. As he settles into life in Winchester, we pray that he will find great happiness and fulfilment in his new parish and school community, and know that he is already held in our prayers.



"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
Romans 15:7.

Thank you from Father Mark

Father Mark has asked us to pass on his thanks for all of your kind words, cards and gifts. We wish him every happiness and fulfilment in his new role in Abingdon.

Remembrance Day

If your child is a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide, or a Beaver, Cub Scout or Scout, then they are allowed to wear their Guiding/Scouting uniform if they would like to on Remembrance Day, Wednesday 11th November. We will be holding a liturgy of remembrance and praying for peace on that day.



Poppies for sale

We have a supply of poppies and poppy merchandise for sale in the school office. Suggested donations are as follows: everything is £1, paper poppies 50p.

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

School Council - Harvest Collection

Thank you to all of our families for your wonderful generosity in supporting this year's Harvest collection. Your donations of food and essential items will make a real difference to local people and families who are facing hardship.

We are grateful for the many contributions made for the Carroll Centre Food Bank and Winchester Basics Bank. Through your kindness, we are able to support these vital local charities in their work of providing practical help and hope to those most in need. Thank you for helping our children put faith into action and for demonstrating so clearly the Gospel values of love, service and generosity.



"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."
Proverbs 19:17.

Year R/1 Carroll Centre Foodbank

This half term the three Year R/1 classes are collecting food and toiletries for the Carroll Centre. Please send in any donations – they are grateful for packets and tins of in-date food. Many thanks for thinking of others in our community.

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to all our families who donated a shoebox to the annual appeal. We received 26 boxes in all. I know these gifts and your love will be appreciated.



Mass for All Saints

Everyone is invited to mass this **Friday, 6th November, 2pm** as we are celebrating the feast of All Saints.

Playtimes

We have lots of exciting new activities to keep our children active and entertained during playtimes this term! From enjoying the slide and adventure playground to trying out table tennis, animal stompers, scoops and balls, there are plenty of opportunities to get moving, develop new skills and, most importantly, have fun with friends. For those who prefer something a little quieter, our Calm Zone offers a lovely space to relax and enjoy cars, paper crafts, LEGO and card games. A big thank you to our fantastic Year 6 Sports Leaders, who help set up and pack away the equipment each day. Their enthusiasm and support help make our active playtimes a success!





Prayer Diary and Families of Faith

Attached to this newsletter are a Prayer Diary for November and Families of Faith newsletter which you may like to use at home.

Anti-bullying Week

Odd Socks Day – Friday 20th November

Every year, bullying impacts the lives of countless young people and silence helps it grow.

That's why, this Anti-Bullying Week, we're empowering young people to use their Power for Good to safely speak up and raise awareness when they see bullying, face to face or online.

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 will take place from Monday 16th - Friday 20th November, with the theme: Power for Good. On **Friday 20th November**, we will celebrate Odd Socks Day, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to honour and remember our differences.

Together, we can use our Power for Good to end bullying - for good!



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.

Year 2 Nurses Day

On the Thursday before half term, Year 2 transformed the school hall into Scutari Hospital, 1854! After rigorous training in military marching for our soldiers and proper bandaging techniques for our nurses, we went to help. Our nurses took excellent care of injured soldiers and followed the instructions that Florence gave about keeping the hospital clean. Once the war had ended, we thought carefully about our 'Big Question': Was Florence Nightingale the most important nurse in the Crimean War? We spent the afternoon creating Lanterns to remember Florence's famous nickname 'The lady with the lamp' and continued our role play from the morning. The children looked fantastic and were true St Peteronians in their work and play.



Dress up costumes for enrichment days

We welcome dressing up costumes that have been used for enrichment days by many of our year groups. If your family no longer need the costumes please can you consider donating them to us for future years to help parents and also ensure we recycle! Many thanks.

Clearing the Leaves

During our recent INSET training, staff rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in to help clear the EYFS outdoor area of fallen leaves, ready to welcome the children back after the break. A huge thank you to everyone who helped! Their hard work has made the outdoor space clean, tidy and ready for the children to enjoy as they learn, play and explore. It was a lovely example of our staff working together to make a difference for our school community.



St Stephen's Travelling Nativity

This Advent, Mary and Joseph are travelling with the little donkey to Bethlehem. On their way they are hoping to find a different inn to stay at every night. Could they come to stay at your house?

The Travelling Nativity will come to you for a night and then you are expected to pass them on to the next family. This is a good opportunity to meet other families and pray together this Advent.

Please let me know if you would like to participate and I will add your family to the rota. Please can you share your address and your contact details (these will be shared on the group rota – let me know if you do not want this). The first Sunday of advent is November 29th so please do email me in the next few weeks if you would like to take part. You can contact me on emily.lee150@gmail.com

Thank you – Emily Yong



Stella Maris Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal

Stella Maris are again appealing for Christmas gifts for seafarers who will be away from home at Christmas. This year they are asking for chocolate gifts. Please send any chocolate into school during December and no later than **Monday 14th December**. Thank you for your generosity to this worthwhile cause.



STELLA MARIS

Southern Region

Southampton • Fawley • Portsmouth • Poole • Shoreham Weymouth • Portland • Isle of Wight • Channel Islands

Stella Maris Southampton Seafarers Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2026

Can you help us give a Christmas chocolates to Seafarers this December?

What do you want for Christmas? Whatever it is it's highly likely it will have come to this country by sea. Did you know there will be about 400,000 Seafarers working over Christmas, separated from their families and friends? Theirs is a tough, relentless life, long hours, boring, noisy, temperature extremes, dangerous and exhausting. Stella Maris meets and supports seafarers around the world. We want to show them that they are not forgotten this Christmas, so **we're planning to collect hundreds of chocolate Christmas presents** for seafarers visiting the Southampton ports in the days before Christmas. We need to prepare now. **Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts?** Please contact your Stella Maris Southern Region Port Chaplains, Luke or Gregory, using contact details below, to arrange collection or delivery. Your gift may be the only present a seafarer receives this Christmas.

Suggested Chocolate Gifts

Stella Maris Southern Region, 48 Bugle Street, Southampton. SO14 2AH.

Chaplain: Mr Luke Phillips Tel. 07843 739 579 Email: luke.phillips@stellamarismail.org

Chaplain: Mr Gregory Hogan Tel. 07963 345 618 Email: gregory.hogan@stellamarismail.org

STELLA MARIS SUPPORTING SEAFARERS AND FISHERS AROUND THE WORLD

National Office, 39 Eccleston Square, London. SW1V 1BX. Tel. 020 7901 1931 Email: info@stellamarismail.org www.stellamaris.org.uk

Registered charity in England and Wales no. 1069833. Registered charity in Scotland no. SC043085. Registered company no. 3320318









Message from Grace Foster SENDCo

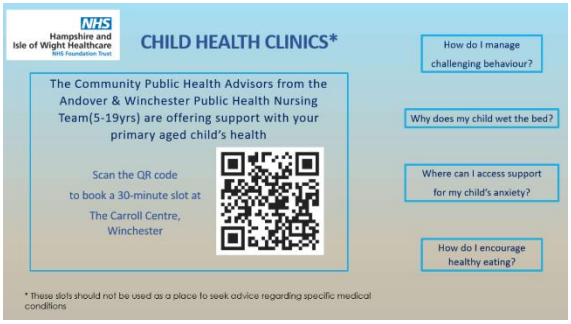
Mental Health in Schools

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.

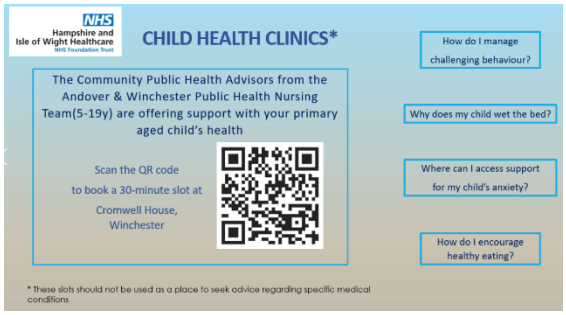
School Nurse

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 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)





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 run every Thursday morning from 8.15 - 8.45am. You will have already received an email if your child is involved in this group.

Worship Band - rehearsals will now run until 5.00pm on Thursdays as we introduce the School Band material 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 from next week as we start to introduce new players to the group.

Busking Wednesdays

Our next date for busking will be **WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER**. Please let Miss Owens know by Thursday 5th November if your child is keen to play.

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).

Road Safety Leaflet and Webinar

Hampshire County Council's road safety team have asked us to share their newsletter with you:

https://sway.cloud.microsoft/xEzqLOV8RGtXGhKN?ref=Link

They are hosting a webinar 'Modelling good behaviour' on Monday 16th November 12-12.30pm which explores simple ways to teach children how to stay safe when walking, cycling, travelling in vehicles and using roads. Register for the webinar at the following link:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/J1K8Y4HHYX

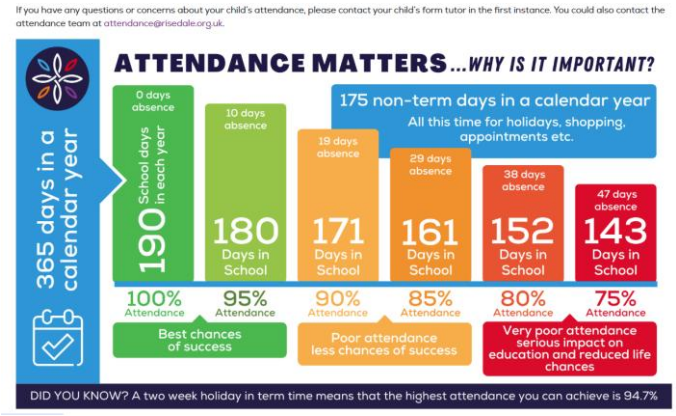
Attendance

Year R	95.74%
Year 1	96.81%
Year 2	93.95%
Year 3	97.08%
Year 4	96.23%
Year 5	97.33%
Year 6	95.09%
Overall school Attendance	96.00%

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/



Supporting Attendance through Pupil Premium

Good attendance helps children build friendships, confidence and strong learning habits. At St. Peter's, some Pupil Premium funding is used to support attendance initiatives, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to make the most of their education. Every school day really does matter, and we thank parents for working with us.

Research consistently shows that pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve well academically and develop positive social skills. Through targeted support, strong communication and practical assistance where needed, we work closely with families to remove barriers to attendance. Together, we can ensure every child enjoys the best possible start in life.



PUPIL PREMIUM

BRIDGING THE GAP

Future School Dates

Event	Date
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
Odd Sock Day – Anti-bullying Week	Friday 20th 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	Friday 11th December, 9.30am
Deadline for chocolate for seafarers	Monday 14th December
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 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)	
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:

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.



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







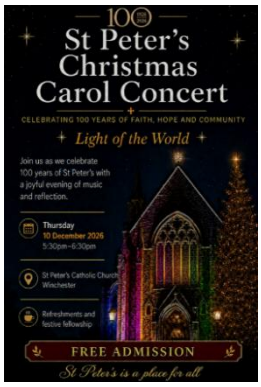


















Best wishes

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