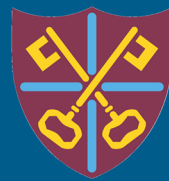




St Peter's News



16th December 2022

Achievement certificates

None this week— but a special mention to Jake (Y6) who passed his Grade 1 Piano exam with merit.

This week in school...

Dear Parents and Children,

Our week began in school with our final EYFS Nativity and a chance to gather and reflect on the reason for this season of celebration before the busyness of the final week of term. Thank you for your generous contributions towards our collection in support of the Catholic Children's Society - we raised an incredible £664.80.

Also on Monday, pupils in Y2 visited Windsor, we enjoyed fun in the snow, and the children who had finished the Reading Challenge had their reward. It was great to see how many children had completed the Reading Challenge this term; reading is a key skill and we encourage all our children to read as much as they possibly can.

Our Carol Service at St Michael's Church on Thursday was a joyful occasion. Thank you to the children in Poplar, Hawthorn, Chestnut and Sycamore classes for leading our service so wonderfully. You spoke clearly and confidently and sang beautifully too. Thank you also to Fr Livie for hosting us, Mrs Hall and the KS2 teachers for helping to prepare the children, and to everyone who helped with the last minute transport arrangements so that we could all get there safely. I would also like to thank Fr. Michael, Fr. Livie, Fr. Stephen and Fr. Daryl for their wonderful support of our school; praying for us, saying Masses, leading liturgies, talking to the children and allowing us to come and worship in their beautiful churches on special occasions. We are very grateful to them.

This week was also our Christmas Lunch week, and I must say a huge thank you to our caterer, Jess, and her team in the kitchen for cooking such a delicious meal, and to Mr. Jacek, the office team and the FOSP helpers for setting the hall up so wonderfully on both days. The excitement on the children's faces was clear to see as they shared their lunch together.

On behalf of all the staff and governors, I wish all of our children and their families a happy, holy Christmas.

*May the blessing of joy abide within you; May the blessing of peace rest upon you;
May the blessing of love flow out through you;
May all the blessings of the Lord be yours at Christmas and in the New Year.*

Have a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in January, refreshed and ready for the term ahead. See you on 4th January 2023!

Best wishes,
Richard McKenzie
Headteacher

From Sunday's Gospel

This coming Sunday is the 4th **Sunday of Advent**. In this week's Gospel, ([Matthew 1:18-24](#)) an angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

The Gospel reminds us that, even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service to God. We pray that our own family lives will be built upon trust; trust in God and trust of one another. Please take time to read the Gospel with your child.



The Gospel of the Nativity

We celebrate the great feast of **The Nativity of the Lord** during the Vigil of Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. In the Gospel from the Mass of Christmas Day, ([John 1:1-14](#)), John invites us to consider Jesus' birth from a different perspective. He reminds us that the image we see in our Nativity set is a most remarkable sight: God made himself at home with us by taking on flesh and becoming a human person. Through his birth among us, we have seen the face of God and have become nothing less than God's own children. Please take time to read the Gospel with your child, and if possible, attend one of the Masses in our Parishes.



Contact us:

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School Safeguarding Team

If you are worried about something that your own, or another child has told you, or you think that they may be at risk of harm, please contact our Designated Safeguarding team:

Mr. McKenzie
(Lead)
Mrs. McDonnell
(Deputy)
Mrs. Hall (Deputy)

dsl@stpeters-leatherhead.surrey.sch.uk

Supporting Families

We are able to offer support to families experiencing financial or other difficulties.

Please contact Mrs. Walsh our [Family Support Worker](#) in confidence and we will do what we can to help you.

FREE Online Safety Awareness Session for Parents

Wednesday 18th January 7pm –8pm

Parents and Carers of children in **ALL YEAR GROUPS** are invited to join us on Wednesday 18th January for an Online Safety Workshop led by the NSPCC Learning team.

The "Keeping Children Safe Online" workshop helps parents and carers understand why young people go online and gives them resources to help keep them safe. The workshop gives parents and carers an overview of some of the risks and benefits children face online including:

- gaming
- social media
- cyberbullying
- parental controls
- online challenges, hoaxes, and scams
- spotting the signs of online abuse
- mental health and wellbeing

and shares key advice on how they can help to keep them safe.

Please do put the date in your diary – 96% of parents who attended a workshop would recommend it to another parent.

Joining information will be sent out in the New Year.

NSPCC Learning

Congratulations

To **Thomas & Carys (Y3)** for their work supporting and raising money for the people of Ukraine.

Our Lady and St Peter's Church recently had a collection for the Ukraine, and inspired by this and by his recent school trip to Butser Hill (where he was taught to make jewellery with copper wire), Thomas asked to buy a kit to make his own jewellery at home.

Thomas then made a selection of rings, bracelets and earrings and asked Father Michael if he could sell them at church and give the money to Ukraine. Carys also sold cakes and cookies, decorated beautifully with Ukrainian colours.

Between them, Carys & Thomas raised a wonderful £130 which was donated straight to the collection.

Congratulations to you both - what a wonderful way to use your talents in the service of others.



FOSP News

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and/or helped out at one of our Christmas events: The wreath making evening raised over £500. The Grotto and Market raised over £700 and so did the raffle.

Congratulations to our vice chair Lisa and her husband Binay on the birth of their baby girl. Hope you all have a lovely Christmas and happy new year!

School would also like to say a big THANK YOU to the FOSP for these wonderful commemorative ornaments which were given to every child today. What a very special keepsake they are.



Y2 Visit Windsor Castle

Windsor Castle was looking its best in the snow on our Year 2 trip this week.

The beautiful decorations and Christmas Trees made us all feel so festive and ready for Christmas.

We had a very prayerful moment when we had the opportunity to pay our respects to our late Queen Elizabeth II in St George's Chapel.

A great day was had by all.



Service of Light

We ended the term this morning with our beautiful 'Service of Light' where the whole school gathers to hear the story of Jesus' birth, told in parts by our staff, and to reflect quietly on the wonder of that first Christmas.

Watching our children's faces as they came to worship this morning in the hall, lit only by candles, was a delight. In the words of Miles (Y2) "This is my favourite assembly of all".

We hope that the same excitement and awe will continue as you prepare to celebrate Christmas with your families. Thank you to Mrs Hall for organising the service, and Mrs McWilliams, Mr Barlow and everyone who helped to set-up the hall.



Dates for your diary

16.12.22 School finishes for Christmas Holidays at 1pm

03.01.23 **INSET DAY - School Closed for children**

04.01.23 All children return to school

18.01.23 NSPCC Parent Session (via Zoom)

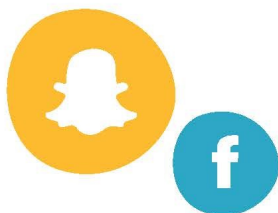
NEW



The online world is an important part of kids' lives nowadays. It's an exciting place for them to explore, with all sorts of fun and educational stuff to discover, but there can be some risks too.

'Keeping children safe online' will teach you how to help kids explore their favourite apps, games and sites safely. Our workshop will:

- help you understand how children experience the online world
- show you resources and tools that could help keep them safe
- empower you to guide them on their journey.



Date: Wednesday 18th January
Time: 7-8pm
Location: Zoom - register through your school.

NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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