

St Peter's Newsletter

Tuesday 24th July 2018

Don't forget you can contact the school by e-mail at office@stpeters.brighton-hove.sch.uk and find out the latest school information and news on our website at www.stpeters.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Infant lessons start: 8.40am (doors close 8.50am)
Junior lessons start: 8.40am (doors close 8.45am)
Nursery start: 8.55am (doors close 9.00am)

● Infant Lunch: 12.00 - 1.00pm
● Junior Lunch: 12.00 - 1.00pm
● Nursery lunch: 12.00 - 1.00pm

● Infant end of school day: 3.10pm
● Junior end of school day: 3.15pm
● Nursery end of school day: 3.00pm

Sickness Absence

We have a "48 hour" rule for sickness and diarrhoea, as per guidance from the School Nurse Team. We ask parents to keep their children away from school for 48 hours from the last time they were sick or had a tummy upset. This guidance is simply to keep your child as healthy as possible and so we can try to keep our school germs and bugs to a minimum.

Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school and can be prosecuted if they fail to ensure their child's attendance at school or provide an alternative education. If a parent or carer fails to secure their child's regular attendance at school, they are committing a criminal offence. A Fixed Penalty Notice, which includes a fine, may be issued in cases of 'Unauthorised Absence'. Please see our website "policies" page for further Attendance information. Holiday requests in term time will not be authorised for any Year 6 children, nor for Year 1 or Year 2 in May and June due to statutory testing.

It's been quite a year here at St Peter's, but I think we think that every year! There is so much to celebrate as we as a school have grown and developed, and taken on and achieved so much more than we have ever done before. It's not been without its tough times, for both families and staff, but that which does not destroy us makes us stronger, and we all can thrive on the challenges life presents to us. Thank you for your support again this year; you help shape St Peter's into the best version of itself with your positivity and the relationships that have been built.

What's been going on....

As our Year 6 class leave us we can look back on the farewell activities they have had over these last weeks.

- There was the residential weekend at Little Canada on the Isle of Wight, where we saw children overcoming fears and taking on challenges that neither they nor us imagined they would. We saw how much of a team they are as a class, and how independent they have become. We were stunned at their haul of sweets and treats (!) but impressed at how ungrumpy they were from lack of sleep! What a fabulous class they have been throughout!
- Each year, our leavers are treated to a free Mystery trip, and so last Thursday we took them to Chichester Watersports Centre and once again were impressed by their daring-do! There were some who overcame their fear of water to race around the lake on an inflatable sofa pulled by a speedboat; they learned to kayak; learned how to do stand up paddle boarding (Ms Seevaramen is quite the expert in that department, but Miss Lynch and Mrs Lawrie have now acquired a new water skill!) and had an amazing time on the inflatable Aquapark. Our wonderful FOSPS contributed £500 towards the cost of the trip and the rest was funded by money that the school has raised itself through lettings, photograph sales and the like.
- We have had a Red Carpet event with a red carpet and pink fizz (non-alcoholic) in champagne flutes, to view their "Fleeced" video show. They all looked stunning, and it was so lovely to see parents getting into the spirit and putting their glamrags on too!
- Yes, we allowed them to win at Rounders when they played against the staff in Vale Park, and loved how competitive our staff and pupils were!
- At the Year 6 Leavers' Assembly today we saw the tear-jerking video that Mr Logue had put together, which charted their years here at St Peter's right from Reception and Nursery, all the way to the top of the school in Pavilion class. Miss Lynch has made them each a beautiful keepsake of their time here in the form of a photo album. Both Mr Logue and Miss Lynch put all this work in in their own time, working late into many nights, in order to make it a wonderful souvenir.
- We unveiled the beautiful mosaic that Year 6 have been working on with Christina Ure as a lasting memento of their time here. There were gasps of wonder and a few tears when it was revealed in all its glory.
- We were also delighted and proud of their end of Key Stage results :
91% achieved Age Related Expectation (ARE) in Reading
82% in Spelling Punctuation & Grammar
86% in Writing
and 73% Maths

These results are the product of the high quality teaching the class have had throughout their time at St Peter's; it doesn't just happen in one year, it is the gradual accumulation of skills and knowledge backed up with a positive attitude towards learning. Our appreciation goes to ALL the teachers from Nursery upwards who have helped them thus far.

But of course the amazing things didn't just happen in Year 6!

- Year 3 had their sleepover in the hall last weekend with Mrs Palmer, Ms Seevaramen and Mrs Ward. They started off with games in Vale Park, came back for Circus skills workshops and performances, had a lovely dinner cooked by Mrs Palmer and watched a video.....and they did manage to get some sleep!
- Year 4 had an amazing time at Blackland's farm with Mr Logue, Mrs Mannion and Mr Smith. They packed a HUGE number of activities in over the 3 days and tried all sorts of new things, including kayaking.

We are very grateful to all the staff who have given up their weekends and evenings to enable children in those 3 year groups to have a residential experience. We how committed they are to their classes, and to the school as a whole and how much they believe that these experiences develop the children's confidence, resilience, courage and independence.

The end of year trips and visits were also in abundance:

- Year 5 went to the Amex and to the Brighton Dome to see "Kid Normal" as part of Young City Reads. They also experienced being a Roman slave at Fishbourne Villa and the joys of extracting the internal organs of an ancient Egyptian!
- Years 3 and 4 went to Shoreham Harbour for a boat trip and also went to Cuckmere Haven for the Fantastic Finish of their topic, had a fabulous time and came home exhausted!
- Years 1 & 2 went to Bentley Wild Fowl and Motor Museum
- Red class went to Hove Lagoon
- Nursery went to Vale Park for a picnic
- Red class and Nursery had their Spanish day

Throughout the year in every classroom we have had some amazing visitors; we had an audience with David Walliams organised by Carole Ward; Nursery had gorgeous Grannies afternoon, when learning about Little Red Riding Hood's grandma; we've had fire fighters, police officers , a real-life mermaid , a giant snail called Mr Shell Blob , giant African Snails in class and real live owls flying in the hall for Science Week. There have been so many inspiring and interesting visitors to the school from Google VR, to specialist film experts teaching year 5 how to film and edit professionally, and the scientists from STEM organised by Cat and Mr Logue.

We've celebrated Autumn Harvest Assembly; Christmas Shows and carol concerts; Diwali with food tasting, dancing and handling artefacts; Chinese New Year – food tasting, dancing and handling artefacts.

In preparation for the Children's Parade and the Open House exhibition at PACA we had our Marvellous Miro Art Festival across the school. And then we got involved in the Martlett's Snail Space project. Under Mrs Tribe and Ms Ransley's expert eyes, we created the most amazing decorated snail. There's been gardening and cooking both in class (Nursery Cup cakes and Bean Soup) and after school in Cookery club.

And of course there was our annual Splash Day – perfect weather for once! Our brilliant Sports Day at PACA (which was maybe a little too hot!) and the Nursery Sports day were a roaring success!

All our visits and visitors are a key part of the educational philosophy here at St Peter's and link directly to the children's learning. Across the school, children have had exciting opportunities for both learning and extra-curricular activities. We are so lucky to have staff who lead on this. A special thanks thanks in this regard should be extended to our PE lead, Mrs Mannion, and to Mr Logue, who have worked together to provide a tremendous number of sporting opportunities for our children throughout the year. St Peter's despite our small size and limited grounds, have punched well above their weight with some incredible results in a range of competitions, but particularly at the athletic tournament at Withdean where we came away with 23 medals – 20 more than we got last year!

Mr Logue also ran a very popular ukulele club! Thanks too must go to Mrs McNeil for our Netball club, to Ms Ransley for our Yoga club and to Miss Lynch and Miss Otter for Let's Dance. Mrs Palmer and Mrs Tribe have also run many clubs including cookery, computing and Snail club with Ms Ransley. Miss Otter and Miss Helyer ran the quilling club and Miss Lynch and Mrs Lawrie ran a recorder club.

We've already started putting together the clubs for next year so keep an eye on the website for details of how to sign up.

We will be welcoming quite a few new members of staff to St Peter's in September.

Lisa Wozley – Higher Level Teaching Assistant providing PPA cover for years 1 to 4

Alvaro Puertas - SEN TA in Key Stage 1 and Reception/ Nursery

Chantelle Parkin - SEN TA in Year 3

Emma Wyborn - SEN TA afternoons in Year 4

Patrick Palmer - TA in year 4

Amanda Palmer - TA year 6

Miss Natalia Foster who is currently a Play Leader at lunchtime will be working in Year 4 in the mornings and Miss Wiszniewska will be working in Year 5 in the mornings and Year 2 in the afternoons.

However, sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Helyer who is off to train to be a teacher. We have been so lucky to have her here with us for the last 3 years, but we know she will be an amazing teacher and we wish every good wish as she sets off on this new path!

School Development Plans

Each year as a staff we write a School development plan to provide the focus for our work in school over the year. It's based on what Ofsted may have identified as an area for improvement and on analysis of each year groups' academic needs, and training or support is planned accordingly. Our action plan focus following the Ofsted report recommendations for children's learning during last year was to work to improve pupil's progress in reading during Key Stage 2, particularly the most able and the most disadvantaged pupils by ensuring that:

** Teachers set pupils reading tasks which deepen and extend pupils reading skills consistently*

** Leaders provide a sufficiently wide range of stimulating and challenging books and reading materials for the most able pupils.*

Our SATs results with a 91% achieving the expected level are a good indication of the work we have done as a school in this regard. We have continued to build on the work begun last year with focused guided reading of a range of quality texts across all year groups. We have continued to invest in guided reading books for each year group, as well as continuing to develop our Key Stage 2 fiction library which now has more than 1,000 titles and in fact is rapidly outgrowing the space and the beach themed shelving we located it in only in February of this year!

We also needed to:

** Improve Writing across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and ensure all children are making good progress towards achieving at least Age Related Expectations.*

We have continued to build on the Talk For Writing. We embedded this across the school and we have worked on consistency and improved achievement by all pupils. Our end of Key Stage 2 results reflect the impact that this has had.

We had identified Maths as a particular area for focus last year and began the research and then training to address the needs we'd identified. We agreed to adopt the Maths No Problem programme and with financial support from FOSPS were able to pay for the first of the resources and some training. The roll out of Maths No Problem (MNP) is a priority for the whole school this next academic year. Some staff have already had some training, we have been working closely with Saltdean Primary who adopted the programme some 3 years ago and on the 10th September in our INSET we will be having a Maths No Problem trainer lead both staff and governors on MNP techniques and approaches. We intend to have a Maths No Problem workshop for parents in the Autumn term in addition to the usual parent meetings on curriculum and pupil progress meetings. We will share more information about those dates soon.

We are very proud of all that has been achieved at St Peter's this year and it is my staff's hard work and commitment that I wish to thank for that. Everyone from office staff, caretaking and cleaning staff, lunchtime play leaders, teachers and support staff are wholly committed to providing the very best for your children. Their jobs are not getting any easier and yet they continue to give it their all. I am very proud of them and wish to acknowledge that the successes of the school academically, and on the sporting front, and in the children's well-being and excellent attendance, reflects the entire staff's commitment. Of course we are also grateful for your support in all this, too – all together we make a very good team!

Responses to the Parents Questionnaire

By the closing date for the questionnaire we had 35 responses from parents, which are tabled below, along with their comments. We also carried out a questionnaire with children but their results have not yet been tabulated.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child enjoys coming to school	21	14			
My child is safe at school	21	13	1		
The school understands and responds to my child's needs	21	12	2		
My child is taught well at school	24	11			
My child is making good progress	24	11			
My child is encouraged to work hard and do their best	24	10	1		
My child receives an appropriate amount of homework for their age	18	11	6		
My child enjoys the stimulating range of learning opportunities the school provides	18	15	2		
The school provides a wide range of sporting opportunities	14	11	7	3	
The school communicates with me effectively about how to support my child's learning	18	13	4		
The school communicates with me effectively about school events and activities	21	12	2		
The schools seeks my views and listens to my concerns	16	16	2	1	
There is a good standard of behaviour at St Peter's Primary school	18	15	2		
The school deals with bullying effectively	9	15	7	3	1
The schools is welcoming and there are opportunities to get involved	23	11		1	
The school is well led and managed	21	9	3	1	1
The school encourages my child to live a healthy lifestyle	17	14	4		
The school encourages my child to respect children from other backgrounds	23	11	1		
The school encourages my child to respect children with different needs and abilities	24	10	1		
My child is encouraged to positively contribute to the wider community	12	18	5		
I would recommend St Peter's Community Primary School to another family	25	8	1	1	

In your opinion what are the school's strengths?	Small friendly all the teachers know all the children by name Family atmosphere Openness, welcoming All staff very approachable The zero tolerance on bullying Caring passionate teachers Caring Head Communication, uniform, behaviour attendance Friendliness Amazing teachers Teaching the children to respect one another Friendly and familiar attitude of all staff Children are well behaved
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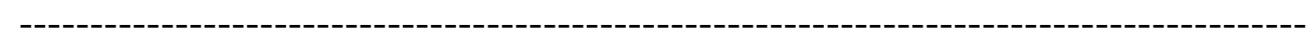
	<p>They learn good values Small, inclusive, nurturing, welcoming SEN how kids in school view and support other kids- very evident on Sports Day. The support for the kids running the races with severe SEND was heart-warming Small friendly school Approachable staff Encourage children to do their best and respect each other Its small everyone knows each other , its like family and its easy to get support Small and friendly They have good teachers to help kids with difficulties Inclusion/Inclusive Teachers and how its led/managed The family feel with all staff knowing the children well. Nurturing of children’s individuality/quirkiness Lots of effort put into make topics fun and exciting Teachers and support staff After school clubs are fantastic –huge variety I believe that the school is a nice friendly environment and supportive. The communication is fantastic The warmth, dedication and enthusiasm of the Nursery staff The school’s strength is that there is good progress, behaviour, understanding, communication and well led. Office staff Nursery and Early years is amazing Family feeling strong community positive learning ethos Growth mindset especially the learning characters Increase in sports activities Discipline</p>
<p>In your opinion what does the school need to improve?</p>	<p>Communication More info on after school clubs More use of Vale park to increase outside learning, PE etc. Basic learning Dealing with complaints/issues Maybe have a larger range of age appropriate toys in Nursery More outside activities and sport for all years not just 4/5/6 Nothing x 2 Bigger portions for older children On site breakfast club General afterschool provision for reception aged children Shorter/cheaper residentials More notice please for payments required for trips and for events I’d like to see better events at the fayres maybe but believe this is due to funding and size Offer more independence and responsibility to Year 5&6 Identify its own weaknesses More art, music, drama/dance etc incorporated into the curriculum/day More boys clubs for sport</p>
<p>If you wish, please add any further comments you feel would be helpful:</p>	<p>Learn to walk before they can run I couldn’t be happier with the care my son has received in Nursery Do a children’s questionnaire too (We do!) Shout about all the wonderful things you do at St Peters, there are lots we parents don’t know and some are very quick to moan about what’s wrong than what’s right and there is tons of that Alternative to Golden Pupil for yrs 5/6 Buddy System older years matched with younger years Very happy with the experience my child has had this year It is safe and well managed I’m really happy my daughter goes here and believe the staff do their best in every area. Cannot fault Nursery in any way Love all the increase in sport, dance at the dome, Christmas singing, dedicated staff including Mr Tyler, friendly office staff and friendly atmosphere in general, etc</p>

Upcoming events... Please check the [online calendar](#) regularly for updates!

And finally, on behalf of all the staff a heartfelt "Thank you" all for our lovely cards, gifts, letters, and supportive and thoughtful words. Enjoy our lovely summer !

Michele Lawrie

PAPER COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE.



St Peter's Parent/Carer Comment Slip



Name.....Date:

Or email us at office@stpeters.brighton-hove.sch.uk