



ATTENDANCE

Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school and can be prosecuted if they fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at school or provide alternative education, as this is a criminal offence. A Fixed Penalty Notice, including a fine, may be issued for unauthorised absences. *Leave of absence requests in term time will not be authorised for Year 6 children, nor for Year 1 or Year 2 in May or June due to statutory testing.*

SICKNESS ABSENCE

We have a "48 hour" rule for sickness and diarrhoea, as per guidance from the School Nurse Team. Please keep your child 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 to keep our school germs to a minimum.

In the news.....



We've had a very busy few weeks back at school with lots of exciting things going on; Book Week, Science week, Red Nose Day, football matches, netball matches, and the things we do all the time Friday's park runs, our Book Club, our Wizzpops, Yoga, Cookery Club and of course last week we also had our annual trip to the Dome where our amazing children performed in Let's Dance, after weeks of hard work at their rehearsals. We are so proud of all our children and love to see how confident and ambitious they are becoming. It is so important to give them all of these opportunities both in and out of school as it helps them to grow into well rounded individuals with a can do attitude who take pleasure in a wide range of activities. We could not do without the commitment of our teachers and support staff who run these clubs voluntarily and don't get paid for doing it. They also would not happen without the support of you, the parents and carers, who support us both financially through FOSPS and on the ground by going on trips, giving children lifts to matches and generally being supportive of what we do. Thank you all.

There are many more events taking place so keep an eye on our calendar online! We won't be taking part in the Children's Parade this year as we now take part every other year but we'll be back next year!

Important procedures at our school

We are so proud of all the visitors and visits that we arrange at St Peter's for the children but we are finding that office staff and teachers are spending an enormous amount of time chasing parents for the return of trip permission slips. Last week, we had 9 children who were not able to do pedestrian training because parents haven't signed up, despite the letter being sent twice, and additional text reminders as well. **Trips cannot go ahead if we do not receive permission.** Parents must complete the permission slip sent home rather than emailing in permission (this should only be done in an emergency). As a business, we need to have procedures in place to ensure things run smoothly and efficiently.

We are also spending too much time chasing parents up when they are in debt for school meals on Parent Pay; in some schools if the account is in arrears the school will insist that the parent brings a packed lunch in for their child and **the kitchen will not serve them a school meal.** We realise that occasionally a parent may have forgotten to ensure there are enough funds available, but too many are allowing the arrears to amount and only take action when the office staff make repeated calls. We cannot continue to let accounts in arrears continue accessing school meals. Office staff are spending as much as 2 hours a week chasing parents by phone and text message. Thank you.

School communication

Our website is kept up to date so please remember to check it regularly! Photos are in the [Gallery](#), letters sent home are in the [News and Letters](#) section and the [Events Calendar](#) has information about all the latest St Peter's events: www.stpeters.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Free School Meals Entitlement



ALL YEAR GROUPS – PLEASE READ! Free School Meals entitlement is not the same as Universal Free School Meals (UFSM). Free School Meals entitlement can apply to children from Nursery onwards. All parents and carers, including those with children currently receiving UFSM, should still apply for Free School Meals entitlement if they are eligible as **Free School Meals entitlement brings extra, long-term funding to the school and can also give parents access to funding for trips, after school clubs uniform and other school related costs.** The funding can also be accessed for several years after entitlement has ended. Your child may be entitled to Free School Meals if you are eligible for the following (even if your entitlement is only temporary):

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after the 1st April 2018 your household income must be less than £7400 per year

The Free School Meals Team can carry out a check for you so **speak to the School Office if you could be entitled. All that is needed is your full name, DOB and NI number.** Thank you!

Did you know...

The buzzing sound made by bees is actually the sound of their wings, which beat at a rate of around 11,000 times per minute?



- Infant start: 8.40am (doors close 8.50am)
- Junior start: 8.40am (doors close 8.45am)
- Nursery start: 8.55am (doors close 9.00am)
- Lunch: 12.00 – 1.00pm
- Lunch: 12.00 – 1.00pm
- Lunch: 12.00 – 1.00pm
- Infant end of day: 3.10pm
- Junior end of day: 3.15pm
- Nursery end of day: 3.00pm



The past fortnight in school...

Poetry Writing

Last term, all the children in Year 3 entered a poetry competition run by the Premier League. Their poems were all about how everyone is different and has different interests and skills. The competition has not yet been finally judged. However, because we were among the first 1,000 schools to submit our entries the Premier League has awarded us a collection of 12 poetry books to add to our library.

World Book Week

The week before last, the school was all abuzz with books and reading and writing. At lunchtimes Year 1 were thrilled to listen to Mr Palmer reading David Walliams story about the terrible Mr Stink. On Wednesday the whole school was totally inspired by our author-illustrator visitor, Aaron Blecha. He entertained us all at the start of the day with an assembly that gave us a bit of an insight into how he found his ideas for drawing and story writing, showing us some of his earliest publications; his homework aged 10! And then some of his more up to date work. In the course of the day he worked with each class showing them how to develop stories and the pictures to go with them. Year 3 are now in the middle of drawing and illustrating their very own caveman picture books, so watch out for the finished copies which will be displayed around the school. On Thursday of course we all dressed up. As always there were some pretty amazing costumes: Mrs Ward was a fantastic blue crayon and there was the Queen of Hearts, The Worst Witch, The Tiger who came to tea and many more. After school many of us swapped some of the books we had got tired of in exchange for some new reading to fire our imaginations. Thank you all for your support and we look forward to reading all the stories and comics the children created so that we can give away some of the David Walliams books we have as prizes.

Cricket in Years 3 and 4

This term Year 3 and 4 have been lucky enough to participate in a course of six cricket coaching sessions delivered by a professional coach from Sussex County Cricket Club, Alan Perrin. The children have really enjoyed the whole experience and we have noticed how much they have been able to improve all of their ball skills whilst having great fun. This week Alan came back and organised a skills competition between years 3 and 4. It was a bit of a riotous occasion as each class cheered on their own players, but great fun was had by all. Thank you to Sussex Cricket Club and the Chance to Shine programme.

Boulder Brighton

Just before half term Year 3 and 4 had their Fabulous Finish to their volcanoes and earthquakes topic – climbing the walls and boulders around the corner at Boulder Brighton. It was a great morning and absolutely everyone had a go at climbing some very difficult routes, including all the way to the top! Even though it was scary everyone had a go at exploring the dark tunnel too. We seem to have some really budding rock climbers amongst us!

Scavengers and Settlers

This half term Year 3 and Year 4 are learning all about prehistory. We started with our stunning start at Brighton Museum. We were the first school to participate in their new workshop and everyone loved it. There was a scavenger hunt to find the clues to open the cases to find out what life was like in Neolithic times for our human ancestors, there was drama as we practised trading without money and special facts to hunt for in the amazing new exhibition at the museum. We had a great time and would recommend

the exhibition to anyone keen to find out about the longest era in human history! Thank you to Su Hepburn and all her staff for a great start to our topic.

Sensational Science Week at St. Peter's

Children and teachers were thrilled to take part in the annual British Science Week which ran from the 8th to the 17th of March.

This year's theme was 'Journeys' and children from Red Class to Pavilion Class all began the week by going on a *Journey through the Solar System* courtesy of a Virtual Reality experience. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn much about the Earth's neighbouring planets and moons and it was wonderful to hear the children so enthusiastically answering tricky questions about the cosmos afterwards!

During the week, each class went on different scientific journeys including bridge building for Gingerbread men, analysing owl pellets and creating fossils!

The whole school were also able to take part in a *Journey Through Nature* in a special project set up by Sussex University. Harbour Class helped Mr. Logue design and build a Night Vision Camera Trip, which took photos of the nightly animal visitors to our School Grounds!

The end of Science Week 2019 was marked by a remarkable Rocket Launch. After two postponements due to inclement weather and one aborted launch attempt, children and teachers watched in awe as our rocket blasted high up into the sky. The wind really took hold of the rocket on its descent and it drifted towards North Portslade. We have yet to locate it, so please keep an eye out and bring it back to the school should you find it.

Thank you to all the teachers and children for their enthusiasm during science week and for making it the sensational success it always is. Thank you also to FOSPS for helping to fund the Virtual Reality Experience.

REMEMBER TO SHUT THE MAIN INFANT ENTRANCE GATE EVERY TIME YOU ENTER AND LEAVE, EVEN IF ONLY POPPING IN AS IT'S A SECURITY RISK! THANK YOU.