



# St. Peter's Post

Reach for the Sky

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## Welcome back to St. Peter's

Welcome to a new school year at St. Peter's. I hope that you had a lovely Summer break and made the most of the lovely weather. This new term brings a new start for all of our boys and girls as they will have moved classes, some to a new Key Stage, and others starting at our school for the very first time. Change can sometimes be daunting but it also offers opportunity. The new term gives us all chance to make a fresh start, to build on the successes of the past and to be ambitious for our future. The world we live in often seems confusing or uncertain, especially to our children, so we must encourage them to do their best, rise to new challenges and be prepared to persevere towards new goals, even when they don't seem achievable. That's why we want every child at St. Peter's to 'Reach for the Sky' in all that they do and to be proud of what they achieve.

This week in worship, I've talked to the children about what makes our school special. They told me that it is: our sense of pride in our school; the way staff, pupils and visitors all care for each other; they described the importance of being a St. Peter's pupil in all that we do and most of all the fantastic opportunities they have to learn and to grow while being at our school. "Work hard, be kind and amazing things will happen." Everyone has made a great start back to school this week and all our pupils should believe in this sentiment as they start the new year.

I feel immensely privileged to become the headteacher of a school whose identity is so strong, where the children feel that they all belong in our safe, caring and nurturing environment and that learning is inspired by our dedicated team of staff. I have great ambitions for the school, the education it offers to our pupils and the role we have in enabling children to grow into independent, successful and conscientious citizens of society. Over the coming months and years, I look forward to working with the whole school community in leading the school to even greater success.

As the new term starts, if you have any questions, issues or have any information to pass on please speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Tarbuck (the new Deputy Headteacher) or myself (in person, over the phone or via email). We are all committed to providing the best education we can for your child and are here to help in any way we can.

**"Work hard, be kind and amazing things will happen."**

*Conan O'Brien*

## Some Exciting New Developments

Many of you will have seen some of the extensive work that has been completed over the Summer holidays. Mr Holroyd has been working non-stop to deliver these new developments in just six weeks. The school is extremely fortunate to have his expertise and commitment; without it, very few of these projects would have been possible.

The most significant of the works has been the construction of the outdoor classroom on the school field, with its direct access to the school wooded area and decked frontage. This year, all children will have timetabled lessons in the outdoor classroom presenting them with the opportunity to learn new skills, learn in different contexts and utilise both the school fields and the Hednesford Hills, as part of their weekly learning. There will be a grand unveiling in the coming weeks. A huge thank you to the Friends of St. Peter's, and all the St. Peter's community, for raising the funds to build the outdoor classroom. It presents wonderful new opportunities for the children right across the school and is just the starting point on inspiring new ways of learning in school.

Further to this, work has been completed on the entrance into the Reception classrooms allowing for the creation of a dedicated outdoor classroom space for Reception. A walkway has been created from Reservoir Road onto the Key Stage 1 playground too, requiring the moving of some 95 tonnes of soil! The redevelopment of Early Years has also seen the completion of the building work to provide a new multipurpose space between the Nursery and Reception classrooms for withdrawal groups, workshops and wraparound provision. Nursery classrooms have also been refitted, redecorated and new flooring installed. Both Reception and Nursery have also had new furniture for the new academic year. It really is all change!

In addition, to all the building work and physical changes at school, we also welcome a new member of staff to our school and to the senior leadership team. Mrs Lisa Tarbuck is our newly appointed Deputy Headteacher and is joining us from Jerome Primary School in Norton Canes. Mrs Tarbuck has experience teaching right across the primary age range, including most recently in Year 6. In her previous role she has been involved in many aspects of school leadership, including leading English across the school, as well as governance. She is an extremely creative and passionate teacher who will be an excellent addition to the school. I hope you will join with me in welcoming Mrs Tarbuck to the school and look forward to the exciting plans she has for us at St. Peter's.

**“A huge thank you to the Friends of St. Peter's and all the St. Peter's community for raising the funds to build the outdoor classroom.”**



## The School Day

The timings of the school day are listed below. Children are welcome to enter the building from 8.45am to complete their Start of Day Activities with their teachers. The register is taken at 8.55am and it is important that the children arrive promptly for their learning day.

<b>KS1:</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Y1 and Y2</b>
Registration	8.55 a.m.	8.55 a.m.
Learning Session One	9.05 – 10.15 a.m.	9.05 – 10.15 a.m.
Collective worship	10.15 – 10.30 a.m.	10.15 -10.30 am
Morning Break	10.30 – 10.45 a.m.	10.30 – 10.45 a.m.
Learning Session Two	10.45 – 12.00 noon	10.45 – 12.00 noon
Lunch	12.00 – 1.00 p.m.	12.00 – 1.00 p.m.
Registration	1.00 – 1.05 pm	1.00 – 1.05 pm
Learning Session Three	1.05 – 3.10 p.m.	1.05 – 2.05 p.m.
Break		2.05 – 2.15 p.m.
Learning Session Four		2.15 – 3.15 p.m.

  

<b>KS2:</b>	
Registration	8.55 am
Learning Session One	9.05 – 10.15 a.m.
Collective worship	10.15 – 10.30 a.m.
Morning Break	10.30 – 10.45 a.m.
Learning Session Two	10.45 – 12.15 p.m.
Lunch	12.15 – 1.15 p.m.
Registration	1.15 – 1.20 pm
Learning Sessions Three/Four	1.20 – 3.20 p.m.

**Our  
Attendance  
Target for  
this year is  
96.7%**



*Early Years now have a dedicated entrance to welcome them into school.*



*Our Castle wall backdrop to the new Reception Outdoor Classroom (above) and improved access to the Key Stage One playground (below).*



## KS2 SATS week 2020

Next summer's SATs for our Year 6 pupils will take place between:

**Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2020.**

I do hope that parents can avoid taking pupils out of school during this period so that their child can sit the tests at the appropriate time.

## New Term Reminders Curriculum Information

Our school website is a great source of information, such as dates, school policies and latest news. Each year group has an information page. Follow the link from the Home Page >Pupils >Year Groups and you will find information about what your children will be doing this half term: the topics, PE days, and other useful information. You will also find details of the 'Take 15' Home learning tasks for this half term, as well as spelling and Maths homework. Please take a look and re-visit regularly to check for any updates.

Our school newsletter, published every fortnight, is available on the Home Page; additionally, you can subscribe to receive an electronic copy straight to your mobile device. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the school office. You can also follow us on Twitter! @StPeters\_tweets

## Changes to Home Reading

As the new term begins, the school is introducing a new approach to home reading for KS2 pupils (years 3 to 6). Each child will be able to choose a text which is appropriate to their reading ability, from our recently resourced KS2 Reading Library.

As well as using these books to read at home, we are now asking for all KS2 children to have their reading book in school **every day**. This is because it will be used as part of their free reading opportunity in lessons. Please ensure that your child brings their book with them to school as this will help to instill good habits and enable them to change their reading book as soon as it is finished it. The children are also being asked to record their daily reading in their reading log so we can see that your child is reading regularly.

Many of the school books are longer, chapter-based books which will take longer to read than books they may have taken home previously. It is expected that these may take several weeks to finish but by having the book in school on a daily basis, teachers can discuss this reading and support children with any difficulties they may have.

We hope that the children enjoy their new reading books and that these new arrangements encourage them to read regularly, widely and for pleasure.

## Uniform

As the new term begins the children look very smart in their uniforms, and from chatting with them, I know that many children have had new clothing, shoes, bags etc. I can imagine how frustrating it is when they come home without their jumper or cardigan, or as winter arrives, gloves and scarves. Can I please remind parents to name all of your child's clothing and belongings? It makes it much easier to re-unite mislaid items with their owner and reduces the amount of 'lost property' we have in school.

## Drinking Water in School

From Y1 upwards children are welcome to bring in a **clearly named drinking bottle** to have available in their classroom so that they can access a drink of **water** during lessons. Only bottles with 'sports caps' are permissible as these reduce the likelihood of spillages on clothing and pupils' books. Children can then re-fill their bottles as necessary from the drinking water taps available in every classroom.

**Fruit juice and squash type drinks are not suitable to drink in lessons, but can be brought in to drink at play time and with packed lunches.**

Children in **Nursery and Reception** do not require a water bottle as drinking water and cups, as well as milk and fruit, are available at all times as part of the 'snack bar'.

### Break-time snacks

If they wish to, pupils from **Year 1 to Year 6** can buy milk (20p a carton) and toast (25p a slice) at morning break. Please bring change in a named purse.

### Sunscreen

In the event of some late summer sun, we would advise parents to apply a thorough application of high factor sunscreen, or sun block, before pupils come to school, and to provide a suitable sun hat, sunglasses, etc. (all named please), for children to wear when they go outside. If you wish your child to apply further sunscreen during the day then **we recommend that you show your child how to do this** as school staff are unable to apply sunscreen to pupils. **It is important that** pupils understand that they should not share sunscreen with other children. Please label sunscreen clearly with your child's name.

## Important Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Year Groups involved
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Y6 Parents Meeting with Kingsmead Staff - 3.30pm	Y6
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Y6 working with Chase against Crimes of Hate	Y6
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Friends of St. Peter's (FOSP) AGM 5.30pm	All Parents Welcome
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Y5 Deposits due for Standon Bowers	Y5
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Condover Residential Parents Meeting - 6pm	Y6
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parents Evening 4pm - 7pm	All Year Groups - details to follow
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Evening 4pm - 7pm	All Year Groups - details to follow
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Influenza Immunizations	Reception to Y6
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up for Half Term	All Year Groups
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	All pupils return to school	All Year Groups
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Outdoor Classroom Day	All Year Groups - details to follow
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6 Residential to Condover	Y6
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET training day - school closed to pupils	All Year Groups - Keystones will be open
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Y5 Standon Bowers money due	Y5
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	FOSP Christmas Fayre	All Year Groups - afterschool
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	FOSP Christmas Discos	Year Groups 1 - 6
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas Holidays	All Year Groups at the end of the school day

Further details about performances, Celebration of Achievement Assemblies, educational visits and other Friends of St. Peter's events will be distributed in future newsletters. Please consult the calendar on the school website for an overview of events for the coming year.

## Keystones Before and After School Club, including wraparound care.

Keystones Before & After School Clubs provide parents and carers with a flexible and friendly childcare service to pupils of St. Peter's Primary Academy.

Bookings: 01543 229308 (Miss Bullock between 8am and 2pm). Booking forms available on the website.

Email: [keystones@stpetersprimary.academy](mailto:keystones@stpetersprimary.academy)

Direct Landline to Keystones: 01543 229307

Services offered:

Breakfast Club

7.00am - 8.45am £5.60 (includes breakfast)

7.30am - 8.45am £4.60 (includes breakfast)

After School Club

3.10pm - 4:30pm £4:10

3.10pm - 6.00pm £7.00

4.20pm - 6.00pm £4.10

(Light tea is available for £1.00 extra)

After Nursery Club

3.30pm - 4.30pm £3.10

3.30pm - 6.00pm £6.00

(Light tea is available for £1.00 extra)

Prices listed above are correct as of the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

## Keystones Holiday Club

Keystones Holiday Club provides parents and carers with a flexible and friendly childcare service available on school INSET days and selected school holiday weeks. This provision is available to pupils of St. Peter's Primary Academy only, effective from the 1st September 2019. Please see the school website for dates and booking details.

## Mobile Phones in school

An increasing number of pupils in Y5 and Y6 are bringing mobile phones and wearable technology into school. During the school day, it is essential for our safeguarding procedures, that these devices are turned off and handed in to the School Office. The school cannot accept any responsibility for these devices while on the premises and actively discourages children from bringing them in to school. Unless a child needs their device to contact you after school (for example they walk home alone and ring to notify you they have arrived home safely), please consider not sending your child to school with their devices. They have no use in school and are therefore unnecessary.

## Reporting absence from school

We all know how important it is for children to be in school to help their learning and allow their confidence to grow. However, we also appreciate that there are times when children are poorly. If your child is unwell and is not going to be in school, please notify the school office on 01543 227205. The office will need the following information from you when you call in accordance with our attendance procedures:

- The name of your child and their class
- The reason why they are poorly e.g. sore throat, tonsillitis etc.
- Whether you have been to the doctors or whether you intend to visit them
- Any treatment that has been administered or recommended to you
- When you expect your child to return to school

Please note that children who suffer from sickness are asked to be absent from school for 48 hours after the last episode to prevent the illness from spreading.

## This week in school: "What's the best thing about being back at St. Peter's?"

### Reception

"I like playing with my friends in the castle because it's new and shiny."

*Tigertily*

"It all looks new and I really like it!" [talking about the new outdoor classroom for Reception].

*Isaac*

### Year 1

"I like working with Miss Rawlings because it is fun. Sometimes it is hard but I get lots right."

*Georgia*

"I liked seeing my friends and getting my drawing done with Mrs Brown."

*Elsa*

### Year 2

"I've grown up and I'm in a new year group. I've already done better learning and better writing!"

*Frankie*

"It's been lovely to play with my friends and I really like the castle because it's got team St. Peter's name on it."

*Brooke*



### Year 6

"The best thing about this week is being back at St. Peter's with all my friends ready for a great year!"

*Amelie*

"It's great to be back learning and having loads of fun."

*Lewis*

### Year 3

"I liked Guided Reading this week because it's quiet and I can enjoy my story."

*Libby*

"Mr Garner made us balance a basketball on a tennis racket and walk along a bench - it was hard but very fun!"

*Jackson*

### Year 4

"I've enjoyed having my new teacher, who is really nice, and learning new Maths already."

*Grace*

"I have loved seeing Mr Varker and my friends: Mr Varker because he helps me with my learning and I have fun with my friends."

*Harry*

### Year 5

"I've enjoyed Arts week: learning about David Hockney and doing lots of painting."

*Summer*

"I've enjoyed completing my colour wheel and using it to create my own pictures."

*Liam*



## Administration of Medicine

As part of our annual review of school policies, I would like to draw your attention to our 'Medication in school' Policy, as detailed in our prospectus:

"Medicines are not normally given in school. It is expected that prescribed medicines needing to be taken three times a day can be administered at home. On the rare occasions that medicines are prescribed four times a day, arrangements can be made through the school office for them to be administered at school. Parents who wish us to do this are asked to contact school and fill in a form. No medicines can be administered without written parental permission. Please ensure that medicines are clearly labelled with your child's name and date of birth and that the dosage required is clear. The medicine should be delivered to and collected from the school office daily.

Medicines must be handed to an adult in the school office and not the class teacher. Where children have asthma inhalers and are being encouraged to manage their own condition, we will do what we can to help. Further information can be obtained by contacting the school office.

## Free School Meals

Did you know that for every child registered for Free School Meals we get an extra £1,320 per year in our school budget? We continue to receive this extra funding for a further 6 years, even if your child is no longer eligible!

You may be entitled to Free School Meals depending upon your financial circumstances, and even if your child doesn't want to have a school meal, we would encourage you to register. Please go on-line and check as benefits to your family could also include remissions such as free educational visits. If in any doubt ask at the school office or visit: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>



Everyone welcome!

Police Dog Demos

Staffordshire Police

# OPEN DAY

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
11am - 4pm

At Police HQ, Weston Road,  
Stafford, ST18 0YY  
Free Park & Ride

Free entry!

Vehicle Experience



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