

Parent Newsletter

Autumn term 2018



Dear parents,

Welcome back to a new school year. It's great to be back. The children look great in their new uniforms and have settled really well – ready to **“Learn, sparkle & shine...”**

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your wonderful thoughts, words and gifts presented to the staff at the end of last year. Your comments on the children's end of year report slips were very much appreciated as is your support for the school. Thank you.

School continues to expand and flourish; we have admitted 60 children to our reception class again this year, and most classes now have a waiting list should a vacancy arise. This is due to the reputation held by the school and the great word that you, our parents, spread around Farnworth - thank you.

We welcome three new members of staff to St. Peters; Miss Berry is a new teacher in Year 1, Mrs Curme is a new teacher in Year 4 and Mr Lynch is a new teacher in Year 5. Mrs Sharples has returned from her maternity leave to teach in Year 3. In addition Miss Clarke and Mr Pendlebury join us as student teachers. I know you will make them all feel very welcome.

Our theme for this half term is:

‘Life is all about making choices. Always do your best to make the right ones, and always do your best to learn from the wrong ones!’

Job 34:4

“Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good”

“ Learn, sparkle & shine..”

Your child will soon be bringing home a 'welcome booklet' which gives details of the all arrangements specific to your child's class. They will also be bringing home a class curriculum 'jigsaw' which tells you all about the areas they will be studying this year. A spelling leaflet and a numeracy leaflet will be given out at parents evening. If you don't receive any of these, please ask the class teacher.

General diary items for the term for the whole school are shown below. Please make a note of the important dates, although as always we will send out plenty of reminders!



Diary dates.

Week beginning 5th September – Breakfast Club and Walking Bus

Our Breakfast Club starts again on the first day of term for those parents who need a little assistance with childcare at the beginning of the day. Breakfast Club is held in the studio and starts at 8:00am for a small charge. Please call into school if you need more details.

Walking Bus also starts again on the first day of term. This leaves the Tesco car park at 8:40am and the children are walked to school by two members of staff and some parent helpers!

Thursday 6th September – Music Performance

A contemporary ensemble from Bolton Music Service will be visiting to perform in front of the whole school.

Monday 10th September – Toddler Dance Group 9:15-10:15am

This is a new initiative being run by Vicky Holt, a dance teacher and is aimed at toddlers.

Tuesday 11th September – Growth Mindset Y6

Year 6 children will be taking part in a six week intervention on growth mindset led by Luke Askew.

Family Service in School Sunday 16th September 2.00pm

This is the first of our Family Services. More details to follow.

Tuesday 18th September – Growth Mindset Y6

Week 2 of the Growth Mindset intervention.

Saturday and Sunday 22nd and 23rd September

The Kearsley Scarecrow Festival is once again being held and the school will once again be taking part! **Please see the reminders at the end of this newsletter for further details about our entry this year - we need your help!** For more information about the Festival check out their Facebook page www.facebook.com/kearsleyscarecrowfestival

Friday 21st September – Y4 Trip

Year 4 will be visiting Chester as part of their history work – more details to follow.

Friday 21st September – Y6G Class Assembly and SATs meeting

Year 6G class assembly, followed by a SATs meeting for parents

This is an important year for these children and it is hoped that as many parents as possible will be able to attend to find out how to support your child, during, and in the weeks leading up to SATs.

Monday and Tuesday 24th and 25th September – Healthy Mind UK

All the children will be taking part in workshops to help them understand how their brains work.

Tuesday 25th September – Growth Mindset Y6

Week 3 of the Growth Mindset intervention.

Tuesday 25th September – STEM Y6

Year 6 will be having visitors to school to talk about Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Tuesday 25th September – Y3 Stone Age workshops

The children will be taking part in Stone Age workshops as part of their history work.



Wednesday 26th September – E-Safety workshops

The children will be taking part in workshops to show them how to stay safe online.

Wednesday 26th September – MacMillan Coffee Morning

The School Council will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning in School. More details to follow.

Friday 28th September – Y6B Class Assembly and SATs meeting

Year 6B class assembly, followed by a SATs meeting for parents

This is an important year for these children and it is hoped that as many parents as possible will be able to attend to find out how to support your child, during, and in the weeks leading up to SATs.

Monday 1st October – Thursday 4th October – Rock Kidz Y3-Y6

This programme will teach key topics of the PSHE curriculum in a fun and meaningful way, also touching and directly benefiting other areas of the curriculum such as music education. The programme will consist of 4 morning sessions with Y3-Y6 in the school hall Monday to Thursday followed by concerts on Thursday and Friday evenings. During the week pupils will have the opportunity to learn fun and original songs with key PSHE learning objectives in the song content. Topics such as anti bullying, “good to be me”, friendship, inclusion and respect will be taught in a fun and meaningful way. On the fourth day a sound recording will be made, of the pupils singing the songs they have learned and then later a CD will be produced. On Thursday and Friday evenings the children will have the opportunity to perform a concert to their parents which will be held at St. James C.E. High School. **The concert for children in Y3G, Y4G, Y5G and Y6G will be held on Thursday 4th October 6pm – 8pm** and the concert for children in **Y3B, Y4B, Y5B and Y6B will be held on Friday 5th October 6pm-8pm**. Tickets will be on sale nearer the time.

Monday 1st October – Year 6 Swimming

Year 6 children will be taking part in swimming lessons at Farnworth Pool every Monday for 10 weeks. More details to follow

Tuesday 2nd October – Growth Mindset Y6

Week 4 of the Growth Mindset intervention.

Thursday 4th October – Starlights Collection

We are once again holding a Starlight Clothing Collection. Time for that clear out and help us to support the charity and also raise some money for school. More details to follow.

Friday 5th October – Y6 Trip

Year 6 will be visiting Skipton Castle as part of their history work – more details to follow.

Week commencing Monday 8th October – Book Fair

We will be having our very popular Scholastic Book Fair every day after school in the hall. Please come along and have a look at the fantastic children's books on offer.

Tuesday 9th October – You are awesome Y6

Year 6 will be taking part in this event being held at Bolton School 1:30pm – 2:45pm – more details to follow.

Wednesday 10th October – Hello Yellow – Mental Health Day

The children are invited to come to school dressed in something yellow to support Mental Health Day.



Thursday 11th October – Parents Evening

The children are now in their new classes and this is the first parents evening of the school year. This will give you the opportunity to meet the new teacher, find out how well your child has settled and what will be expected of them this year in their new class in reading, maths, science and the other subjects. We strongly recommend that the parents of the junior children bring them along so that they can be part of the discussion and understand what will be expected of them. **We have a new online booking system which is explained in the reminders below.**

Friday 12th October – Fire Service Y6

The Fire Service will be visiting Y6 to talk about keeping safe.

Family Service in School Sunday 14th October 2.00pm

This is the second of our Family Services. More details to follow.

Tuesday 16th October – Growth Mindset Y6

This is the last two sessions of the Growth Mindset intervention (all day).

Wednesday 17th October – Flu Vaccinations

Children in Reception to Year 4 will be invited to have their flu vaccinations in the form of a nasal spray. More details to follow.

Wednesday 17th October – French Day

The children will have a fun day based around France. More details to follow.

Harvest Festival Thursday 18th October

Our harvest thanksgiving service will once again be held in the hall this year. To ensure there is enough space in the hall for all the parents and visitors that want to attend, we will be having two services, one for KS1 at 9.00am and then one for KS2 at 9.45am. We will be supporting Winterwatch and The Farnworth Foodbank again this year. More details to follow.

The KS1 service will be led by Year 2 only

The KS2 service will be led by Year 4 only.

Other classes will participate and be part of the congregation but will not play a leading role.

This is to ensure we have enough space in the hall at each event over the year to allow for all the parents who wish to attend.

Friday 19th October – Staff Training Day

Half term

Friday 19th October – Friday 26th October (one week and one day). School reopens on Monday 29th October

Week beginning Monday 29th October - Science week

This will be a WOW week in school. The children will be doing lots of exciting activities all week based around science. We will be having visitors into school to do science workshops on Monday, Thursday and Friday of this week.

School Photographer – Tuesday 6th November 9.00am

The photographer will be in school on this day to take individual and family photographs. If you wish your child to have his/her photograph taken with a pre-school age brother or sister please bring them along to the studio at 9.00am. More details will follow nearer the time.



Friday 9th November Remembrance Assembly

Y5 class assembly on Remembrance.

Thursday 15th November 9:00am

Year 3G Class assembly in the hall.

Friday 16th November Children in Need Day

The School Council will be organising a Children in Need Day. More details to follow.

Family Service in School Sunday 18th November 2.00pm

This is the third of our Family Services. More details to follow.

Assessment Week – week commencing 19th November

We will be assessing the children in Numeracy and Literacy this week. It is important that all children are in school during this week.

Friday 23rd November 9:00am

Year 3B Class assembly in the hall.

Road Safety Week – week commencing 26th November

Saturday 8th December – Christmas Fair

More details to follow.

Family Service in School Sunday 9th December 2.00pm

This is the third of our Family Services. More details to follow.

Class Assembly Dates: These will continue to take place in the school hall at 9.00am. Please come along to watch your child.

Date	Class
Fri 21 st September	Year 6G
Fri 28 th September	Year 6B
Thurs 18 th October	Year Y2 and Y4 Harvest
Fri 9 th November	Year 5 Remembrance Service
Thur 15 th November	Year Y3G
Fri 23 rd November	Year 3B

Family Service Dates: These services are led by members of the Church and are held in the school studio once a month. Regular attendance at these services would be beneficial if you would like your child to attend a Church secondary school.

Sun 16th September
Sun 14th October
Sun 18th November
Sun 9th December

The diary of Christmas events will follow at a later date.



School closes for Christmas on Friday 21st December and will re-open on Monday 7th January

Just a few reminders

Please would you help and support your child with the following;

St. Peter's is a "nut free zone"; We have a child in school who is allergic to nuts so we ask that you do not send anything to school which contains nuts. This includes items sent for morning snack and any items in your child's packed lunch.

School Gates: Can I please remind you that children should not be arriving at school before 8:30am as there is no-one to supervise them. **From Monday 10th September we will not be opening the school gates until 8:30am.** If your child comes to Breakfast Club they should be signed in at the school office through the main entrance.

School App: Many of you will already be aware of our School App but for those of you who aren't you can download this through Google Play or your usual Apps download. It is called OurSchoolsApp If you download it to your phone and then search for our school using the postcode BL4 9JT it should bring up our school. You can then receive any of the newsletters, events, holiday lists or other important communications.

As part of the App there is also the facility book an appointment for **parents evening online**. When the system goes live you will be notified by text and you can then book your own appointment to see your child's teacher.

If you need any help with either the App or the appointment booking system please do not hesitate to call into school.

Holidays in term time:

Holidays must not be taken during term time as this has an extremely detrimental effect on your child's education. As from September 2013 Government regulations state that head teachers **may not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. Anyone who takes their child out of school in term time without authorisation risks being issued with a penalty notice and being fined £60 per child per parent. Non payment could result in a prosecution in a Magistrates Court. From 1st September 2018, the criteria for issuing a penalty notice will be reduced and a fine will be considered where a pupil has had 10 sessions (equivalent of **five days - consecutive or otherwise**) of **unauthorised absence over the period of two consecutive half terms**.

This change has been introduced because of:

- Requests from Headteachers to strengthen sanctions for unnecessary absence from school
- Increasing numbers of pupils who are classed as persistently absent
- An increase in the amount of absence due to family holidays in term time

The borough's schools and Bolton Council want all pupils to achieve the best possible results and there is a strong link between regular school attendance and attainment.

In law, an offence occurs if a parent or carer fails to secure their child's regular attendance at school and that absence is not authorised by the Headteacher.

The vast majority of pupils in Bolton have an excellent attendance record and we recognise the efforts of so many parents to ensure their children attend school regularly and make the most of their educational opportunities.

The School and Bolton Council will continue to work closely together to ensure our children can achieve the best possible outcomes.

Should you have any concerns about your child's attendance or are experiencing difficulties, please contact the school and ask for help.

More information about penalty notices can be found on Bolton Council's website:

<http://www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/Truancy.aspx>



Kearsley Scarecrow Festival: This year the Kearsley Scarecrow Festival will take place on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd September and the school will once again be taking part. We are asking for our families to make scarecrows at home on the theme of "Learn, Sparkle & Shine" and then bring them into school where they will be displayed together as the school entry. We hope that as many of you as possible will take part and make this St. Peter's best ever entry!!

5p Friday: May I remind you that each Friday we have a collection for our sponsored child. Arjuma Mondol lives in a deprived area of Bangladesh. The money we send each month helps to provide her with a better quality of life. If you wish to find out more about this scheme you are welcome to call in and chat to me at any time. Alternatively you may wish to visit www.worldvision.org.uk to look at the work of this organisation. Please could you send 5p each Friday to support this very worthy cause?

School Uniform: The children look very smart at the start of this new school year. Could we stress that sports clothing, **trainers**, tracksuit bottoms and jeans should not be worn in school at any time. (other than on non-uniform day). Can you please make sure that every item of clothing is marked with your child's name – we are finding it increasingly difficult to re-unite lost property with its owners. Can we also remind you that jewellery should not be worn to school. Stud earrings are allowed but please be aware that children are asked to remove these for PE and Games lessons and if your child is unable to remove his/her own earrings can you please remove them before school on PE or Games days. Can we also remind you that children should bring a coat to school. The weather can change very suddenly at this time of the year and children do need a coat at playtimes.

Hair that is long enough to be tied back must be. It is only by taking such precautions and being vigilant that we can keep headlice outbreaks to a minimum.

SATS and School Tests: All children will be sitting their school tests and SATs in May. It is important that parents do not take their children out of school for holidays during this week and the previous weeks. I can not stress enough the importance of full attendance at these times. We are holding a SATs meeting for parents; Year 6G 21st September, Year 6B 28th September.

Money into School: Any money sent into school for dinners, snacks, trips, photographs etc. should be sent in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class and what the money is for, and handed to your child's class teacher. Can I please remind you that dinner money is £7.00 per week. Snacks are £1.50 per week and Juice is £1.50 per week.

Water bottles: We encourage the children to drink lots of water during the school day. The children are allowed to bring their own bottles into school if you wish but we do sell bottles of water in school at a cost of 30p which is a bargain compared to purchasing them elsewhere. These are available from the school office.

Walking Bus: To help with the congestion around school we run a "walking bus" service from Tesco car park each morning. The children meet the staff at the Bradford Street end of the car park at 8:35am each day. The children are then walked to school along Bradford Street and join the Breakfast Club in school.

Breakfast Club: We run a Breakfast Club in school each morning from 8:00am for parents who may need to drop off their children early. **Children should be brought through the main entrance by the school office.** The cost of the service is £2.50 per session and the children receive a variety of breakfast food and drink including cereals, bagels and fruit juice. If you would like to know more about this please do not hesitate to call into school.



School Attendance Matters: Can I remind you of the importance of **full attendance** at school. If a child misses school they do miss important lessons and it is not always possible for them to catch up. Children should therefore be in school every day unless they are too unwell to do so, in which case we would appreciate an early morning phone call to let us know.

Appointments in School Time: We would request that if you make appointments for your child (dentist, doctors etc) that you try to make them for after school. We understand that this is not always possible, so if you do have to collect your child from school for an appointment we ask that you call at the office to sign your child out. When you bring them back they need to be signed back in again. Please ensure that you bring your appointment card or letter with you.

Parking outside school: We would like to remind you that parking / stopping is NOT allowed on the zig-zag lines outside school. There is often traffic enforcement cameras outside of school and you WILL be prosecuted if you are caught illegally parking. Please help us to ensure our children are able to get to school and leave safely. Can we also ask that you are considerate of our neighbours when parking.

Packed lunches: We would like to remind you that children are permitted to bring a packed lunch to school; however, we expect that the lunch is sent in a sealed lunch box each day. **Packed lunches must not be sent in plastic bags.**

It is also a requirement of the Government that children eat a healthy meal whilst at school. We therefore request that you support this requirement by ensuring your child's lunch box is nutritionally balanced and provides them with a healthy midday meal. If you have any concerns about this then please do not hesitate to contact school.

Please look out for our weekly newsletter for regular updates. We look forward to seeing you during the term. Please remember to come in to school to talk to us if you have any concerns or worries.

Thank you for all your support
L.M. Williams
Head teacher

✂ Please cut off the slip below and return it to school – we welcome your feedback!

If you wish to make a comment about anything about our school, please do so by returning this slip to your child's teacher with your thoughts. We appreciate your feedback and will always seek to take your comments on board.
Thank you. L.M. Williams (head teacher)
I wish to make the following comment – my child is in Year _____.

