

St. Peter's C.E. Primary School

# Parent Newsletter

Autumn term 2019



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 two new members of staff to St. Peters; Miss Brooks is a new teacher in Year 1 and Mr Wakes is a new teacher in Year 3. Miss Porteous and Mr Litchmore join us as student teachers. I know you will make them all feel very welcome.

Our theme for this half term is:

**‘Life isn't what you are given, it's what you create’**

**Philipians 4:13**

**“I can do all things through Him, that strengthens me!”**

**“ 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 three members of staff and some parent helpers!

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Healthy Minds Workshops

All children in Year One to Year 6 will be taking part.

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September – Rock Kidz Y6

Year 6 children will be working with Rock Kidz to compose a song for the school.

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September – Rock Kidz Y6

The second session with Rock Kidz.

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 SATs meeting 9:00am

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.

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Fire Brigade Y6

The Fire Service will be visiting Year 6 to take about keeping safe.

### Saturday and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.facebook.com/kearsleyscarecrowfestival)

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Chess League Match

This will be held at Kearsley West and children involved will receive further details.

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Rock Kidz Y6

The third session with Rock Kidz.

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September – 5 a side football

This will take place at All Saints and children involved will receive further details.

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September – MacMillan Coffee Morning

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

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2.00pm Family Service in School

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

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – School Council trip to Mayors Parlour

The school council have been invited to visit the Mayors Parlour. More details to follow.

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Rock Kidz Y6

The final session with Rock Kidz.



### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October – Y6 Trip**

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

### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Harvest Festival Friday 11th 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.

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October – cross-country**

This is for children in years 3-6 and will take place at St. James. All children involved will receive further details.

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Parents Evening meet and greet**

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 18<sup>th</sup> October – Staff Training Day**

## **Half term**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October (one week and one day). School reopens on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October

### **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Flu Vaccinations**

All children will be invited to have their flu vaccinations in the form of a nasal spray. More details to follow.

### **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October – EYFS Reading meeting**

Parents of children in Reception class will be invited to a meeting to talk about reading.

### **Family Service in School Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2.00pm**

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

### **Week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Careers / Aspirations Week/UK parliament week**

More details to follow.



### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – 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.

### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Y6B DT Workshop**

Year 6B will be visiting Bolton Curriculum ICT unit for a DT workshop.

### **School Photographer – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Grow Your Mind Y3**

Year 3 will be taking part in workshops.

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – curling competition**

This is for children in years 1 and 2 and will take place at Cherry Tree. All children involved will receive further details.

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Safari Ranger**

This is for children in Year 3 and more details will follow.

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November – BWFC**

This is for children in Year 3 and more details will follow.

### **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Y6G DT Workshop**

Year 6G will be visiting Bolton Curriculum ICT unit for a DT workshop

### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Assembly**

Y5 class assembly on Remembrance.

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November Children in Need Day**

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

### **Assessment Week – week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Chess Match**

This will be held at St. Peters and children involved will receive further details.

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Y5 Trip**

Year 5 will be visiting Stockport Air Raid Shelters as part of their history work – more details to follow.

### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Year 3 Class assembly 9:00am**

Year 3B and Year 3G will be holding a class assembly in the school hall. Parents of these children are welcome to attend.

### **Family Service in School Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2.00pm**

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



## Road Safety Week – week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> November

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November – benchball competition

This is for children in years 1 and 2 and will take place at St. Gregorys. All children involved will receive further details.

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Fair

More details to follow.

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Mayor's Christmas Concert

This is for children in Year 4. More details to follow.

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December – St. John's Winter Fair

This will take place from 11am to 1pm and everyone is welcome.

### Family Service in School Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm

Another of our Family Services. More details to follow.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> September

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> November

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> December

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

## School closes for Christmas on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and will re-open on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

### **Just a few reminders**

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

**Allergy Awareness:** We have a child in school who is severely allergic to eggs so we ask that you do not send egg sandwiches or eggs in your child's packed lunch. The school kitchen will no longer serve eggs at lunchtime.

**Water bottles:** We encourage the children to drink lots of water during the school day. However we are trying to do our bit to save the planet and cut down on plastic waste. We will therefore no longer be selling bottles of water in school and instead ask that all children bring their own water bottle, each day, clearly labelled with their name. These will then be sent home each afternoon for cleaning and refilling.

**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. The school gates do not open 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 21st and 22nd 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!!

**#Farnworth Matters:** This year we are taking part in a collaborative project with all the primary schools in Farnworth highlighting that "Farnworth Matters". There will be many initiatives including the children in Year 6 writing their own song and a celebration event at the end of the year. Please keep a look out for **#Farnworth Matters**

**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](http://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 on 20<sup>th</sup> 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 £8.50 per week. Snacks are £1.50 per week and Juice is £1.50 per week.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_.

