



St Peter's CE Junior School

Learning and living life in all its fullness



THE SCHOOL BELL

Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we have had two sessions with our governing body and a full-day visit from our Hampshire advisor to look at all aspects of teaching & learning. Apart from needing a good sleep tonight, it was a pleasure to talk about everything we are working on in school this year and what we believe the future holds. The advisor's work in particular will inform several targets which we will incorporate into future planning and I will share some of these when we have them.

Away from meetings, I was able to escape from my office a couple of times (ssh—don't tell anyone!) to get out and about on the playground. One of the things I was looking out for was how a couple of children who have recently joined us are getting on. Having found a couple of them in amongst groups of their peers, it was actually hard to tell who was the new pupil and who had been here for years from the chatter and fun going on—a fantastic example of the warmth and friendship our children generate, even in these cold winter months.

Have a great weekend,
Mr Hogan-Fleming

Science request from Mrs Burgess

Do you have any old glasses, sunglasses, 3D glasses or ski goggles which are no longer needed? If so, please could we have them for science? Thank you! [See Page 2 for more science news!](#)



Dates for your Diary

- Weds 21st Jan: Y4 to Ufton Court
- Fri 23rd Jan: Y4 Return from Ufton Court
- Tues 27th Jan: Y5+6 Cross Country Fun Run at Frogmore—3.45-4.30pm
- Weds 28th Jan: Ogden Trust Star Gazing Evening—Invited Y5 Children
- Fri 30th Jan: Y5 Trip to Hindu Temple
- Tues 3rd Feb: Y5+6 Choir—We Will Rock You—Wavell 9am-12.30pm—Details to Follow
- Weds 4th Feb: Cross Country—Farnborough Hill—4-4.30pm
- **Mon 16th Feb-Fri 20th Feb: HALF TERM—SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN**
- **Mon 23rd Feb: Term Starts for Children**
- Mon 23rd Feb: Young Voices at O2
- Tues 3rd Mar: Parents Evening
- Weds 4th Mar: Parents Evening
- Mon 9th Mar: Y6 guitar workshop
- Thurs 19th Mar: Whole School Indian Dance workshop
- **Fri 27th March: last day of term - 1.45pm finish for all children**

INSET DAYS 25/26: Fri 22nd May, Mon 1st June

More term dates available at: <https://www.stpeterscofejuniorschool.co.uk/term-dates/>

DB primary Advance Notice

Having evaluated the use and benefits of DB Primary, we believe that the very high cost, along with the complexity of managing it, outweighs any benefits it provides, most of which came during the Covid era. We have also noted some parent concerns around the way the messaging element works. We will therefore move away from it at half-term, first of all to a weekly email detailing any homework, links and/or attachments needed.

Because this won't be as instantly accessible to children as it will be sent to parent emails, for next year we will be looking into other ways of linking to homework, including the potential to use the website and, in time, either Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams, both of which are free to schools once we have set them up. Please look out for this change after half-term.

Attendance Matters!

Weekly Attendance for Spring Week 1

Class	Attendance
3 Baden-Powell	95.8%
3 Holmes	89.4%
4 Mary Seacole	99.5%
4 Shackleton	98.4%
5 Newton	94.5%
5 Turing	95.7%
6 Churchill	96.3%
6 Pankhurst	99.2%
Whole School	96%

Congratulations to Mary Seacole Class, the winner of the highly coveted (judging by the volume of the cheer in celebration assembly) St Peter's Attendance Trophy this week!



New guide for parents on children's digital lives

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has published a new guide, *What I wish my parents or carers knew*, to help parents and carers manage children's everyday online habits. Developed with direct input from children and young people across England, the guide reflects their views on online safety, boundaries and the challenges of growing up in a digital world. It highlights the importance of firm, informed and protective boundaries, and recognises the shared role of families, schools and society in keeping children safe online.

The guide is intended as a practical resource for communities to support conversations between parents, carers and children. See the link below for more:

[What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](#)

As promised on Page 1, more science news!

Our science ambassadors spoke to us all today about an exciting new opportunity: science library bags! Starting soon and thanks to our partnership with the Ogden Science Trust, children will be able to check out a bag in the same way they would with a book. Each bag contains a book, or information about a famous scientist; an experiment to try at home; science vocab and information to support the experiment; and a notebook to jot down any findings from your experiment, stick a photo in or say what you learned from the book. It's optional, open-ended and, we hope, lots of fun too. We hope the children (and parents!) enjoy this new opportunity and we look forward to hearing all about what children have got up to with the bags.

In addition, look out next week for a parent survey all about how you could support us using your job, skills, knowledge or hobbies by coming in to talk to a group of children.



🌳 ✨ Writing Competition! ✨ 🌳

Do you enjoy writing stories or poems? We would love you to take part in our writing competition!

Your challenge is to write a **story or poem** called *'Happiness in Nature'*. You can write **fiction or non-fiction**, and your work can be **handwritten or typed**, as long as it is neat and easy to read.

📝 Important rules:

- Stories must be **no more than 550 words**
- Poems must be **no more than 40 lines**
- Please **do not include pictures or drawings**

🌿 Think about how being outdoors, animals, plants, or special places in nature can make people feel happy — and let your imagination shine!

We can't wait to read your wonderful writing!

Entries to be handed in to Mr Hudson on **Friday 13th February**.



A brilliant use of Lego (the best toy in the world says Mr Hogan) in Year 5 this week. As part of their essential question: *'What makes our local area unique?'* the children made their own maps of Farnborough from memory. On this map, the children said "We replicated Farnborough as well as we could, including the Clockhouse roundabout and our own school with our church!"

Scaling the heights in Year 6!

As part of their work based on the book 'Everest,' by Alexandra Stewart and Joe Todd-Stanton, Year 6 have been trying to build suspense and tension in a piece of writing set as Tenzing and Hillary reached a critical point in their climb.

Their success criteria included using vivid vocabulary, short, snappy sentences to add to the effect, 'show not tell' to improve their descriptions, and the use of devices like ellipsis (...) and rhetorical questions to enhance their writing even further. If that seems as impossible as climbing the mountain itself, be assured that Year 6 absolutely rose to the challenge! Here's just five awesome extracts from their efforts this week:



The knot in his stomach tightened as he gazed at the Kumba ice fall ahead. Tenzing gripped on to his walking poles; his hands turned white while his legs were dragging behind him. Hillary could barely breathe as every breath became ragged with shallow gasps of air. He stared at the crevasses. Danger. Deep, dark danger.

Doubting every single step they made, out of nowhere, a chunk of ice fell. Tenzing realised it was Hillary. His heart pounded like a drum as a pleaded for help. Was this the end?

By Hayden

Frozen on the spot they stared at the infamous Mount Everest. Snow was pouring down like heavy rain; this was the mountain they would conquer. Knuckles turned white, feet went numb and faces went red. This wasn't from the conditions. This was fear.

They had started the climb. Soon, they encountered the 'cemetery' - aka the Kumba Ice Fall. Lives taken from multiple climbers- anyone could be part of the killing spree; no-one could trust the ice. Doubt was in every step. Many who climbed the ladders stared down the deep, black crevasses and it wasn't a surprise when someone would fall. But, it was when Hillary saw the ice disappear beneath him.

By Anu

Gazing at the impossible challenge he was about to embark, Tenzing quivered in his boots; the Kumba ice fall was once his dream yet now, standing before it, it was his dreaded nightmare. Hillary fingered his pickaxe- which was heavy against his aching muscles- as he watched his partner approach the first crevasse with newly discovered ambition. Cautiously, Hillary followed behind and before long, the pair of fearless mountaineers were making breath-taking progress across the frozen labyrinth of ice.

The blanket of snow crunched seamlessly beneath their hiking boots. Every step Hillary took became more confident until the perilous sight before them felt less threatening. Tumbling into the abyss was always a possibility and, out of nowhere, boldness evaporated just like the ice beneath him. Everything happened in a matter of seconds. CRASH! Tenzing heaved the rope towards a flailing Hillary inside a pit; anxiety rising in his chest, Hillary grabbed the rope and pulled himself to refuge. Just as everything seemed okay, the mountain groaned and an avalanche sped down the cliff like a bloodthirsty storm.

By Imogen

The wave of snow made the men clumsily fall back. They had to be strong. They had to get up the mountain. On the ice fall, the crevasses are a lethal hazard. Edmund attempts to leap across the abyss under them but the shelf of ice cracks. With Tenzing's reaction time, it's a lucky save- the pathway was a dangerous risk to take. Would they be another way around?

The men carried on treacherously hoping for an easier way. The biting wind sweeping past pointed them to the summit. The top looked like a distant dream to them but they still trudged on.

By Xavier

The men battled the raging blizzard as it blew recklessly against their pale faces, not from the cold but pure fear. Doubting every step they made, they made their way into the deadliest part of Mount Everest. Many lose their lives battling this famous ground. Breathing was slow and ragged as they made their way across the Kumba Ice Fall.

Crevices cracked open as the men prodded and poked the ground, continuing their journey across the ice. Would they make it? Glancing ahead, a huge crevice had peaked open, revealing a deathly drop into the unexplored world of tunnels below. They took a step forward. And another, and another. Fearing for their lives, they attached ropes and one by one spun onto the other side. Suddenly... disaster struck!

By Isabella



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available for you to
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