

## NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to write with this week's newsletter. Thank you for making the time to read this information each week as it is a key part of our communication with you. This letter and previous versions can be found in the letters section of our website. As well as our weekly newsletter there is also plenty of school news shared throughout the week in the [News Section](#) of our website.

### Safeguarding, Welfare & Wellbeing

Safeguarding and Welfare will always be our very highest priority in helping us achieve our vision of [Love Learn Shine](#). We will use this section of the newsletter each week to keep families up to date with a range of key safeguarding and welfare information.

#### Monthly Online Safety Newsletter

We are pleased to have published our dedicated monthly online safety newsletter for October. Each month in this handy newsletter there are a range of hints and advice to support families to keep up with the ever changing digital landscape. This month there are focus pieces on; You Tube, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and WhatsApp.

This newsletter along with a range of other supportive resources can be accessed via the dedicated online safety page of our website [here](#).

***As mentioned last week here is the link to the recording of the parent safety online presentation that took place earlier this week. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).***

## Online Safety Newsletter

### Emotional wellbeing Support for Families

With thousands of children turning to [Childline](#) for support with emotions and feelings such as sadness and anger each year it's understandable families want to support as best as they can.

The NSPCC have developed a range of age-appropriate advice to support families to help their child deal with common feelings such as anger. These resources are free to access and can be found [here](#). We hope families find them helpful.



### Photos at School Public Events

As we begin our range of annual public events for the year such as our church services, sports events and productions we would like to politely remind everyone with regard to our photography protocol.

At all school public events families are welcome to take pictures of their own children and it is accepted that occasionally other children close by may be captured. Please do ensure no photos are shared via any social media platform. Thank you for your ongoing support to keep all our children and families safe.



## Awards

### SHINE AWARDS

#### Early Years and Key Stage One

**Wrens** – All the Wrens class

**Kingfishers** – Juliet & Violet

**Sparrows** – Rory & Elias

#### Year 3/4

**Owls** – Sylvia & Miri

**Starlings** – Annabella & Jude

#### Year 5/6

**Hérons** – Bea & Harvey

**Ravens** – Bentley & Ashley

**Eagles** – Harlow & Mia



### Golden Light Switch Award

The Golden Light Switch award is presented each week to the class who have earned the most eco points throughout the week. Points can be earned every day by switching off the lights and smartboard when classrooms are not in use. The winning class will keep the trophy in their classroom for the whole week.

### **WEEKLY WINNERS COMING SOON.....**

#### **Climate Crew 2025/26**

After receiving 45 fantastic applications, I would like to say a HUGE thank you to every child who applied to be a Climate Crew representative. The quality of the applications was amazing; it was very clear that the children at St Peter's are very passionate about the environment and looking after the world we live in. It was a challenge to select just 2 representatives per KS2 class...

We would like to announce that the new Climate Crew members for this academic year are:

**Eagles** - Murphy and Grace

**Ravens** - Noah and Emily

**Hérons** - Liliana and Poppy

**Starlings** - Seb and Lucy

**Owls** - Morgan and Lyra

Thank you again to every child who applied. We are looking forward to working together as a school of Climate Champions to keep saving energy through the Golden Light Switch award, looking after our brand-new plants and making St Peter's even more eco-friendly and biodiverse! Really, we're all part of the Climate Crew! Our new reps will attend the meetings and feedback to classes.

Thank you to last year's Climate Crew, you worked so hard and achieved lots of amazing things including our Green Flag with distinction!

Mrs Williams

## **Sharing Our Shine**

### **Share Your Shine with Us**

On Saturday last week, Emily won this incredible trophy for Best Supporting Player this past academic year, 24/25, at her junior orchestra (Harrogate Music Centre String orchestra) held at St Aidan's School.

This was Emily's first year of playing in this orchestra and has already been recognised for her talent playing violin.

Well Done Emily, you should be very proud of yourself, we certainly are very proud of you.

Thank you for sharing your shine with us.

If you would like to share some news for this section, please email it to [admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk](mailto:admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk)



## Diary Dates - All diary dates are now on the Arbor Parent Portal

The term dates for 2025-2026 are published on our website and can be accessed [here](#). Please check when planning any holidays or appointments.

- **Thursday 9 October** - VR Geography Experience - Key Stage Two – Please see letter
- **Sunday 12 October** - Applications open for Reception starters 2026 - Any families with children due to start in Reception in September 2026
- **Wednesday 15 October** - YCST School Improvement Adviser Visit - Visit to classrooms to talk with Children
- **Friday 17 October** - Walk to school day - Walking Bus - All families encouraged to walk some or all of the way to school
- **Monday 20 October** - Early Years Autumn Stay and Play - 1.30pm – 3.15pm - Families with children in Wrens class

- **Week beginning Monday 20 October 2025** - Autumn Term Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meetings for parents with children who have an ILP - Parents with children with an ILP
- **Wednesday 22 October** - Decorated pumpkin competition judging – all entries to the front playground by 9.00am and taken home at the end of the day or after the disco - 9.00am - All welcome to enter, phase group prizes
- **Thursday 23 October** - FOSP Halloween Disco - All welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult throughout this event - 6.00 – 8.00pm
- **Friday 24 October** - INSET Training Day - School closed to children - All classes

### OCTOBER HALF TERM

- **Monday 3 November** - School opens for start of second half of the autumn term - All Classes
- **Thursday 6 November** - Open Classrooms - 3.30 – 5.00 - All classes, all welcome
- **Tuesday 11 – Friday 14 November** - Year 6 Residential to Bewerley Park - Year 6 children
- **Monday 17 November** - Nasal Flu Vaccine
- **Tuesday 18 November** - 1.30pm - St Aidan's Trust Performance of FAME - Year Groups attending TBC.
- **Thursday 20 November** - Likely KS2 Movie Night - 3.15 – 5.30 - Children in Key Stage Two (Years 3 – 6)
- **Friday 28 November** - Walk to School Day – Walking Bus - All welcome
- **Saturday 29 November** - FOSP School Christmas Fare - All Welcome - 12.00 – 2.00pm
- **Tuesday 9 December** - 2:00pm - Nativity Dress Rehearsal - EY and KS1 All families welcome - St Paul's Church (Next to school)
- **Tuesday 9 December** - 5:00pm - Nativity Evening Performance - EY and KS1 All families welcome - St Paul's Church (Next to school)
- **Wednesday 10 December** - 2:00pm - Nativity Day Time Performance - EY and KS1 All families welcome - St Paul's Church (Next to school)
- **Friday 12 December** - Whole School Pantomime Trip – Harrogate Theatre - All classes
- **Thursday 18 December** - 9.30am - St Peter's Church - Christmas Church Service - All welcome

- **Friday 19 December** - 1.15pm - Carols at the Alms Houses - All classes & families welcome
- **Friday 19 December** - 2.00pm - School closed for Christmas Holidays - All classes

## CHRISTMAS

- **Monday 5 January** - INSET Training Day – School closed to children - All classes
- **Tuesday 6 January** - School reopens for the start of the spring term - All Classes
- **Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15 January** - Parent Consultation - Appointments for parents of children booked via Arbor - 3.45 – 8.15pm

## General News



## Attendance

We are pleased to provide an update to all families regarding some changes that have recently been outlined by our regulating bodies (Department of Education & Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust) regarding children's attendance, absence requests and medical appointments.

It is widely acknowledged that persistent school absence significantly harms students' academic, social, and long-term prospects, leading to lower exam results, reduced future earnings, and increased risks of social exclusion and poor mental health. Attendance levels falling below 90% are classified as a Persistent Absence issue which can incur fines. To

support positive attendance patterns there are now stricter guidelines around the criteria for approving absences.

With the aim of providing clarity to families we are pleased to outline below when absence can and cannot be permitted.

Absences **can be authorised** for bereavement, external exams, school visits (open days & transition days), awards, and are classed as 'exceptional circumstances'. Absences **cannot be authorised for** holidays, birthdays, concerts, during term time. Consideration will be given for pre-approved elite sporting activities.

Children should attend school every day it is open, except for statutory reasons like illness or when approved in advance (see above). We appreciate many children suffer from coughs and colds daily however we must encourage children to continue to attend school with these minor ailments. However, any child who needs Calpol throughout the day is not considered well enough to attend school. When a child has sickness and/or diarrhoea they need to stay at home for 48-hours in the same way as previously.

Please schedule routine medical appointments with GPs and dentists outside of school hours, except in emergency situations. We are aware that for some of our children regular hospital appointments are unavoidable and will of course be authorised. Please keep the office team updated with any pre-planned appointments by emailing [admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk](mailto:admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk) or by calling 01423 569684.

As a reminder, children must be in their class lines at 8.45am ready to start their day.

If children arrive after 9.00am, they will be recorded as late having missed morning registration. This is the responsibility of the family to ensure safe arrival on time, ready and prepared.

At St Peter's we want to work together with our pupils and families to build resilience within our children and encourage determination & self-belief, by promoting a positive culture in which they can independently learn and grow.

### **Harvest Festival**

We were delighted to welcome so many families to St Peter's Church this week to share in our Harvest Festival. This service is the first of four shared worships (Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers) at St Peter's Church throughout the school year for all children and families.

The children led a lovely worship with songs, readings and prayers helping us reflect and give thanks for Harvest. They linked their thoughts very well to our current collective worship theme of generosity. Thank you to everyone who supported by attending, helping with walking safely to and from church, sending donations or a mixture of all three. The support for our children and the wider community exemplifies the kindness and thoughtfulness of



our school community. All the donations will go to support the work of St Peter's Church Thursday supermarket.



### Walk to School Days 2025-2026

We are pleased to share the walk to school dates for this school year. We hope to operate our walking bus from the Stray on each of these dates.

- Fri 17 Oct 2025
- Fri 28 Nov 2025
- Fri 6 Feb 2026 (Also Green Jumper Day 2026)
- Fri 13 Mar 2026
- Fri 8 May 2026
- Fri 19 Jun 2026



## Curriculum & Extra-Curricular Spotlight

### My Happy Mind update

We are all enjoying our My Happy Mind sessions on Mondays. Classes have now concluded the unit on 'Meet the Brain' and from Monday will be moving to a new unit titled 'Celebrate'. We are pleased that with each unit we can share dedicated parent newsletters, which outline more information with regard to the learning the children will undertake in this aspect of their curriculum. This newsletter can be accessed [here](#).



### **Reading Assessments**

We are delighted to have invested in a digital software platform to support children's reading vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. In our initial roll out of this, over the term, we will be assessing all children from Year 3 using this software. This involves the children completing a short 10-minute survey about their reading habits and beliefs about their reading. It then assesses their understanding of vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. From the assessments we will identify children who will benefit from regular use of the digital content within the platform which can be accessed at school and also at home. If parents are interested in learning more about this they can read the Reading Plus welcome letter which can be accessed [here](#).




### **Early Years and Year 1 Phonics Home Learning**

The children in Wrens and Kingfishers are working hard to retain sounds they are learning in their phonics lessons at school. Each week there is a fantastic guide to everything taught in these phonics sessions which families can access in the appropriate class page of the website:

- [Reception Phonics Home Learning](#)
- [Year 1 Phonics Home Learning](#)

Looking at these resources at home with the children will support the children's learning in school too. If you have any questions regarding phonics, please don't hesitate in asking your child's teacher.

<b>Little Wandle – Letters and Sounds</b> <b>Year 1 Phonics Home Learning</b>			
<b>Phase 3 &amp; 4 (review) / Phase 5 – Autumn 1 Week 1</b> <b>Focus – Review Phase 3 phonemes</b>			
<small>Please support your child to practise and reinforce the phonemes and graphemes we are learning in school. More information and support can be found on the Little Wandle website – <a href="https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/">https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/</a></small>			
<small>Phonemes we will be focusing on this week in school –</small>			
ai	ee	igh	oa
oo	ar	or	ur
oo	ow	oi	ear
<small>We will be reading and writing words. Can you see this week's focus phonemes?</small>			
tail	feel	right	road
food	bar	born	surf
down	join	near	soap

## Bikeability Cycle Training

Our first groups of children in year six have been accessing their cycle training this week. Starting on the playground and progressing to carefully assessed local roads they have been developing their knowledge and skills alongside accredited cycle instructors. The Bikeability Trust aims to activate a nation of cyclists by ensuring everyone has the confidence to enjoy the life skill, independence and fun of cycling. Giving everyone the competence and confidence to cycle is our core mission, making cycling the norm for short journeys. You can find out more about the Bikeability programme [here](#).



## Communicating Children's Progress

We value enormously the close working relationships we have with parents. Following on from feedback given in the parents survey last year we have made some adjustment to the timings of our open classroom and consultation events for 2025-2026. We have written to parents in an [additional letter](#) that contains key dates. Please do take a moment to note down these dates for your diaries and they represent important points in the year when you can meet with staff about your child.



### **Early Years Stay and Play – Save the Date**

We are pleased to have set the date for the first Early Years Stay and Play event of the year. This will take place from 1.30 – 3.15 on Monday 20 October 2025. Families with children in Early Years are invited to come and spend some time playing and learning alongside their children during this afternoon. Families can come for the whole session or just part to suit their schedule. No booking is required. Simply turn up and sign in at the school office from 1.30pm onwards on the day.



### **Our Sporting Shine**

As the term continues so does our calendar of sporting fixtures with our partners at Sporting Influence. This week it was the turn of a mixed team of boys and girls from Years 1&2 to take part in mini football.

After some warmup activities they took part in a series of matches against other local schools, giving 100% in all they did including communicating really well with each other. Thank you to all the parents and Mrs Oldfield for helping to get them there and supporting them as they played.



### **Reception New Starters**

🌿 A Little Oasis of Joy in the Heart of Harrogate! 🌿

Our Reception children have been having the most wonderful time in their very own little oasis right here at St Peter's Primary School. From exploring nature to imaginative play, it's a joy to see their smiles, laughter, and curiosity blossom each day in such a nurturing and inspiring environment. ❤️

See what makes St Peter's so special 😊 [Watch](#) the video here!

## FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S (FOSP)





## Community News



Founded in February 2024 after one WhatsApp group went viral, [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) is now a community of over 350,000 parents working together to stand up for healthier, happier childhoods.

We've made it our mission to provide solidarity, support and solutions to parents who are struggling with what's become one of the defining parenting challenges of our time.

And we're using the voice of our community to push for more support from the government in the battle to reclaim childhood from Big Tech's addictive algorithms.

Sign the pact [here](#).



## SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

OUR STORY

# An accidental movement

Sort by:

Leaderboard

School name

### School

### Pacts

Pannal Primary School ↗	172
Poppleton Ousebank Primary School ↗	76
Oatlands Community Junior School ↗	70
Monk Fryston Church of England Primary School ↗	64
St Peter's Church of England Primary School ↗	62
Rossett Acre Primary School ↗	56

London, West ↗	790
Manchester ↗	2928
Merseyside ↗	1914
Norfolk ↗	1493
North Yorkshire ↗	2216
Northamptonshire ↗	798
Northern Ireland ↗	2883
Northumberland ↗	569
Nottinghamshire ↗	1598
Oxfordshire ↗	4291



1 - All ages are welcome

- Weekly lessons
- Small class sizes
- Experienced teachers
- Fun structured approach
- Learn core aquatic skills, water safety and swimming strokes
- Take part in exciting activities including water polo, snorkelling and artistic swimming

**Swim strong  
and stay safe  
with  
Swimvincible**

The fun, exciting swimming programme for children aged 4+ building water confidence and teaching independent swimming - skills for life!

Every lesson will teach your child to swim strong, and stay safe, as their skills grow at their own unique pace.

Email: [littlefish@waterbabies.co.uk](mailto:littlefish@waterbabies.co.uk)  
 Socials: Water Babies Yorkshire North  
 Call: 01423 457 000

**swimvincible**  
learn for life®

Our Venues:

Birdforth Hall, YO61 4NW  
 Cundall Manor School, YO61 2RW  
 Ripon Grammar School, HG4 2DG  
 Queen Ethelburga's, YO26 9SS  
 Robert Wilkinson School, YO32 5UH  
 Henshaws College, HG1 4ED  
 The Mount, Malton



# Childrens Festival

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October  
The Crown Hotel | Harrogate

## Ballet Joy

Age 5-11

Royal Ballet star **Steven McRae** shows why ballet is for everyone. Interactive and inspiring.

## Dino Fun

Age 4+

Creativity and palaeontology meet to inspire curious kids and their grown ups

## Panto Queen

Age 3+

Songs, stories and plenty of dancing with storyteller, panto queen and star of Britain's Got Talent's **Mama G**. A celebration of being who you want and loving who you are. Dancing and giggles galore!

## Badgers Are Go!

Age 6-10

Mischievous storytelling and playful activities for families

## Hercules Hero

Age 8+

Greek myths meet modern mayhem with author **Tom Vaughan**

**BOOK NOW**  
Box Office | 01423 562 303  
[Harrogateinternationalfestivals.com](http://Harrogateinternationalfestivals.com)

**HARROGATE**  
FESTIVALS  
INTERNATIONAL

2 - **Venue:** The Crown Hotel, Harrogate

**Tickets:** £7

**Recommended Ages:** 3–11

### Saturday 18 October

- Steve McRae – *Anything is Possible with Ballet* | 10:00am
- Anne & Steve Brusatte – *My Grandparents Were Dinosaurs* | 11:30am
  - Mama G (Panto Dame) – *Oh Yes I Am!* | 1:00pm

### Sunday 19 October

- Susannah Lloyd – *Badgers are Go!* | 10:00am
- Tom Vaughan – *Hercules – Hero to Zero* | 11:30am

You can find full details and book tickets on our website: [Raworths Harrogate Literature Festival](http://Raworths Harrogate Literature Festival)

FREE TRIAL for the 1st half-term of ensemble tuition for new students!

## Music Centre Ensembles & Times

9.30 - 10.05	Musical Munchkins. For children ages 2-4
10.15 - 10.50	Sound Explorers. For children ages 5-7
9.30 - 10.45	Blast Off!
9.30 - 10.45	Harrogate Youth Percussion Ensemble (HYPE)
9.30 - 10.45	Concert Orchestra
9.30 - 10.45	Strumming Strings
9.30 - 10.45	Harrogate Youth Jazz Orchestra session 1
11:15 - 12.30	Harrogate Youth Jazz Orchestra session 2
<small>HYJO rehearsals take place over the whole morning. Students are advised to attend both, but alternative solutions can be arranged on a case-by-case basis.</small>	
11.15 - 12.30	Youth Choir
11.15 - 12.30	String Ensemble
11.15 - 12.30	Concert Band
11.15 - 12.30	Adult Ukuleles (Adult Ensemble)
11.15 - 12.30	Parental Guidance (Adult Wind Band)
<b>We also offer tuition in the following disciplines:</b>	
• Bowed Strings	• Woodwind
• Brass	• Guitar & Bass Guitar

For more information about our ensembles or to enquire about lesson availability, please visit [harrogatemusiccentre.org.uk](http://harrogatemusiccentre.org.uk) or contact [martin.berger@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:martin.berger@northyorks.gov.uk)

Facebook: Harrogate Music Centre

Website: [harrogatemusiccentre.org.uk](http://harrogatemusiccentre.org.uk)



### Girls, get your boots on!

Pannal Ash JFC U11 Girls, the Tigers, and Sharks are looking for new players who are currently in year 6.



Why join us:

- **Fun & fitness:** Enjoy weekly sessions focussed on football skills and staying active.
- **Team spirit:** Make new friends and be part of a supportive team.
- **Learn and grow:** Develop both technical and life skills like teamwork and communication in a fun, supportive, and inclusive environment.
- **Confidence Building:** Football is a fantastic way to boost self-esteem, build resilience, and develop leadership qualities.
- **Physical & Mental Health:** Improve fitness, coordination, and enjoy the positive mental health benefits of regular exercise and team interaction.
- **Be Part of the Growth:** Women's and girls' football is booming! Join a club that is passionate about nurturing the next generation of players.

Our coaches are enhanced DBS checked, and qualified to coach football. We are looking for all types of players including budding Goalkeepers.

Training takes place:

- Wednesday evenings 6-7pm.
- Saturday mornings 9-10am.
- Matches are generally held on Saturday mornings.

For more information or to register your interest, please contact:


Email: [Lilirobinson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Lilirobinson@hotmail.co.uk)

Phone: Liam mob 07590 296354

Thank you,



'Guides is the most adventurous thing... It gives you the opportunity to meet people and see things you wouldn't normally see, and it's just an amazing experience'  
Bryony



**Guides**  
10th Harrogate Tuesday 7.15pm  
10thharrogateguides@gmail.com

**Girls laugh, learn and expand their horizons**  
for ages 10 to 14

At Guides, all girls are welcome to enjoy our fun-filled space, where she'll make good friends, learn to be herself, explore what she loves and do stuff she's never done before!



Registered charity number: Exempted from registration

Join a local Guides group [girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://girlguiding.org.uk/joinus)

10th Harrogate Guides have places for new starters this term - register directly with the Girl Guiding / join us link or for more information please email Sue at 10th Harrogate Guides.  
Thank you

[www.netball4all.com](http://www.netball4all.com)

★ **HARROGATE** ★  
**QUALITY JUNIOR COACHING**

Our Junior Hub has been a huge success so far & we are excited to be able to release more spaces & a new session, so more children can get involved. Contact us to register for a **FREE TASTER SESSION !!**

St John Fishers School  
Wednesday, 5-6pm  
Years 3 to 5

Ashville Sports Centre  
Thursdays, 6-7pm  
Years 6+