



St. Peter's

Church of England Primary School

Love Learn Shine

NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 17 APRIL 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to write with this week's newsletter. This letter and previous versions can be found in the [letters section](#) of our website. 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.

Welcome back.....

Latest News - Website News Feed

Your Insight into Life at St Peter's Each Week

It has been a positive and purposeful first week back at St Peters, with children settling in quickly into the summer term and embracing new opportunities for learning and wellbeing. Two classes enjoyed a visit to the Railway Museum with the remaining classes looking forward to their visits in the coming weeks. We are delighted to be getting ready to welcome families to our upcoming Parent Consultation meetings, reinforcing the importance of working together to help every child shine. Children have begun engaging with our new Big Green Heart programme, supporting emotional wellbeing and inclusion across school. Our playground has been brightened thanks to Horticap's generous flower donation, adding colour and joy to daily playtimes. Lunchtimes were full of smiles as Makaton Club reunited, and children are already enjoying our new Climate Education Display Zone, showcasing our commitment to caring for God's world. A wonderful start to a busy and exciting term ahead.

For all this and much more take a peek at the photos and stories that capture the energy and enthusiasm of life at St Peter's visit the [News Section](#) today.

Follow us on [Instagram](#) also.

Mr Griffiths

Headteacher



Attendance Matters- Update & News

Attendance Matters

We would like to remind families that you can check your child's attendance live, daily, on Arbor to see how they are progressing. Attendance is so important, as learning builds cumulatively, and even when attendance looks "okay", being below 90% can add up to as much as four weeks of absence across the year. At St Peter's, we always aim for 98%+ so children can make the most of all the opportunities on offer.

Please do take a moment to look on Arbor and see how your children are doing. We will always call home if a child seems genuinely unwell, but if it's a minor cold or small tummy ache, we are very happy to give things a go in school and contact you if needed. Being present every day brings huge benefits for learning, confidence and friendships.



Holiday Planning

As we look ahead to the summer, we would like to remind families that this year includes a seven-week summer holiday, offering plenty of time to enjoy days out, family time and holidays together. We fully appreciate the additional cost of travel during school holiday periods and understand the pressures this can bring. However, we strongly encourage families to plan holidays within the designated school holiday dates and avoid taking children out of school during term time. Please always check our term dates, which are published on the school website a full year in advance, before making any bookings. Authorisation for term-time absence can only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances. Where absence is unauthorised and reaches five days or more, the school is required to refer this to the local authority for consideration of a penalty notice, in line with [DfE expectations on attendance](#).



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.

Staying Safe Online

At St Peter's CE Primary School, children's safety and wellbeing are always our highest priority. As part of our commitment to helping every child Love, Learn and Shine, we work closely with families to support children in using the online world safely and responsibly. Our April Online Safety Newsletter highlights key themes for parents and carers. These include understanding game age ratings such as PEGI, which consider violence, language, online interaction and in-app purchases. The newsletter also explores growing awareness of AI and deepfakes, encouraging open conversations and reassurance so children know they can seek help. In addition, it reminds families that while parental controls and new account features can help, they work best alongside supervision and regular discussion. These messages reflect our Christian values, supporting children to think critically, act respectfully and stay safe online. The full newsletter can be accessed [here](#).



Medical Need –Awareness

We would like to remind families aware that one of our children, who is receiving treatment for cancer is extremely vulnerable to measles, chicken pox and shingles. To help us keep them safe, please inform school immediately if your child or anyone in your household shows signs of these illnesses. If you would like information about measles immunisation, please speak with your GP.

Your own child is not at any risk. Thank you for your support. Please read the full letter, which can be accessed in the [letters section](#) of our website.



Wellbeing Reminder – Items from Home

We would like to remind families that, as shared at the start of the academic year, children should not bring toys, key-chain accessories, fidget items, jewellery, makeup or stationery into school. This approach supports the wellbeing of everyone by reducing pressure on families to provide unnecessary items and removing the stress children can feel about losing belongings. It also helps staff avoid time spent resolving issues linked to these items, allowing more time to focus on learning and relationships.

School continues to provide all necessary stationery and any sensory resources children may need. Only small stud earrings and a wristwatch (not a smart watch) may be worn. All other items should be kept safely at home. Thank you for your support with this



Awards

✨ This Week's SHINE Award Winners Are...

★ Early Years and Key Stage One

Wrens - Arielle & Mercie

Kingfishers - Olivia C & Saule

Sparrows - Evie & Stan

★ Year 3/4

Owls - Kyler & Lyra

Starlings - Amelie & James

★ Year 5/6

Hérons - Charlie & Hugo C

Ravens - Charlie & Robbie

Eagles - Florence & Lola



1 - 🌟 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.

#winners will be announced next week

☆ Sharing Our Shine ☆

Share Your Shine with Us

We love celebrating the amazing things our children and families achieve outside of school! This is your chance to share successes, achievements and endeavours that make you proud. This section is dedicated to showcasing these wonderful stories and inspiring others. If you would like to feature here, please email us at admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk with a short description and any photos you'd like to include. Let's celebrate the fantastic things happening beyond the classroom together!



2 - Congratulations to Paige who participated in the friendly Harrogate Gymnastics Spring extravaganza and achieved 3rd in Vault, 1st in Bars and 3rd Overall for her age group. Well Done Paige!

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

- **Tuesday 21 April** - Railway Museum Trip - Kingfishers & Sparrows
- **Tuesday 21 April**- St John's First Aid Yorkshire Dales Thousand Life Savers Campaign
- **Tuesday 21 April** - evening - Parent Consultations
- **Thursday 23 April** - Railway Museum Trip - Starlings and Herons
- **Thursday 23 April** - evening - Parent Consultations
- **Tuesday 28th April**- Murton Park History Workshops- Starlings and Eagles/ Ravens Year 5's
- **Thursday 30 April** - Railway Museum Trip - Eagles and Ravens
- **Monday 4 May** - May Bank Holiday - School Closed
- **Tuesday 5 May - Wednesday 6 May** - Herd Farm Residential - Year 4
- **Friday 8 May** - Walk to School Day Walking Bus 8.20am West Park Stray
- **Monday 11 - Thursday 14 May** - Key Stage Two SATS Week - Year 6
- **Friday 15 May** - Bed Race - 60s Day - All classes
- **Wednesday 20 May** - Starlings Class Showcase 9.10am Lower Hall- Parents and families welcome
- **Wednesday 20 May - afternoon** - Key Stage Two Swimming Gala - Selected children - parents will receive a letter if child is selected
- **Friday 22 May 3.15pm** - School closes for half term break - All classes

Half Term

- **Monday 1 June - Friday 12 June** - Year 4 Multiplication Check Window
- **Monday 1 June** - Class photos - All children full school uniform please
- **Wednesday 3 June** - Reserve day for class photos - All children full school uniform please
- **Monday 8 – Friday 12 June** - Phonics Check window – children in Year 1
- **Tuesday 9 June** - Mike Smitt – External Adviser Visit
- **Friday 12 June** - Climate Crew Harlow Carr Visit - Climate Crew
- **Saturday 13 June** - Knaresborough Bed Race - All Welcome to support the team running on behalf of St Peter's
- **Friday 19 June** - Walk to School Day Walking Bus 8.20am West Park Stray
- **Tuesday 23 June 2026 – 3.30pm – 5.00pm** - Open classrooms event - All classes, all welcome!
- **Friday 26 June** - Year 6 Crucial Crew
- **Wednesday 1 July** - King James's School Transition day - Year 6
- **Thursday 2 July** - Year 2 Saltburn Trip
- **Tuesday 7 July** - St Aidan's High School Transition Day - Year 6 children going to St Aidan's in September
- **Tuesday 7 July & Wednesday 8 July** - Harrogate High Transition Days - Year 6 children going to Harrogate High
- **Wednesday 8 July & Thursday 9 July** - Rossett High Transition Days - Year 6 children going to Rossett High
- **Tuesday 7 – Thursday 9 July** - Harrogate Grammar School Transition Days - Year 6 children moving to HGS
- **Friday 10 July** - End of Year reports to parents via Arbor
- **Friday 17 July 9.30am** St Peter's Church - Year 6 Leavers Service - All classes and families welcome
- **Friday 17 July 2.00pm** - School Closes for end of Term

Summer Holiday

General News & Key Messages

Curriculum Overviews

Our Summer Term Curriculum Overviews give you a clear picture of the learning ahead for each class. They outline the key subjects, themes and experiences your children will be exploring, helping you understand what learning looks like in school and how it all fits together. The overviews are available on each class page of the website.

We hope you find these overviews helpful in supporting your children and gaining insight into their learning journey. Please also remember families can keep up to date with the [News section](#) of the website and our [Instagram](#) account, where we share ongoing curriculum updates, events and highlights from across school. Together, these updates help you stay connected and support your children's learning throughout the summer term.



Parent Consultations

Our Parent Consultations will take place on Tuesday 21 April and Thursday 23 April 2026 for all classes. **Bookings on Arbor can be made until midday on Tuesday 21 April. Please contact the office if you need to make an appointment.** We encourage every family to make an appointment. These important conversations are a chance to hear how your child is doing, celebrate their progress, and discuss their next steps. You will also be able to talk through any points from the end-of-term reports and look at your child's work.

We are pleased to offer free childcare for school-age children during your appointment. Simply drop your children off in the lower hall when you arrive for your appointment. We look forward to welcoming you everyone is invited, and we really do want to see every family.



Ofsted Letter

We would like to reassure families about recent national changes to inspections. Ofsted has introduced a new inspection framework, moving away from single overall judgements such as Good or Outstanding. Instead, schools are now assessed across key areas, with Expected Standard set as the benchmark for strong and effective practice. Higher outcomes recognise particularly strong or exceptional work, while lower grades clearly identify where further improvement is needed. Importantly, safeguarding remains a clear and essential judgement. As a school, we continuously reflect, evaluate and improve to ensure children receive the very best education, care and support. We are confident in our provision and remain committed to meeting national expectations while serving our local community well. We have written in more detail in a full letter which can be accessed [here](#).



Staffing Update - Welcome

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to St Peter's this term. Miss Wrightson and Mrs Plummer are joining our classroom-based support staff team and will be working across both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. They each bring a wealth of experience from similar local schools and already share our commitment to nurturing, supporting and challenging children to be the very best they can be. Both have settled quickly into school life and are already building positive relationships with children and staff. Additional skilled adults in classrooms make a real difference, helping children feel confident, supported and ready to learn. Please join me in offering Miss Wrightson and Mrs Plummer a warm St Peter's welcome as they become part of our school family.



Lost Property

Please help us keep lost property manageable and ensure items get back to children quickly. All named uniform, snack boxes, lunch boxes and water bottles are always returned directly to children and their classrooms. Unnamed items are placed in boxes in the meeting room for the duration of the term and are then disposed of responsibly, as we do not have space to store them for longer. To make space under the bike store for bikes and Early Years equipment, unnamed lunch boxes and water bottles are now kept in these meeting room boxes rather than by the bike store. If your child has lost something, please check the meeting room boxes. The lost property trolley is cleared regularly. Naming items helps: belongings can go back to children.



Bed Race

We are delighted that enterprising and enthusiastic members of our St Peter's community have secured a place in the Knaresborough Bed Race for this summer's event. This iconic local tradition is a wonderful opportunity for our school to be represented in such a vibrant community celebration; while also raising valuable funds for FOSP to support the ongoing work of the school and the experiences we offer our children. We are extremely grateful to the dedicated team who have been working hard behind the scenes to make this happen. More details will follow, including a special fundraising and events day in school. Children will also be producing artwork that will feature on the bed during the parade section of the race. It promises to be a fantastic community effort and a lot of fun for everyone involved.



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.

Access resources for families [here](#). Sign the pact [here](#).

**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**

How should I talk to my child about smartphones? Tips for parents at every stage



Cycling Training for Young Riders

Harrogate Nova Cycling Club are running a series of weekly youth training sessions on Tuesday evenings at the Harrogate Army Foundation College Hildebrand Barracks car park (just off Pennypot Lane).

The sessions start on April 21 and run through to July 14. There is a break over half term and the summer holidays and then some final sessions in early autumn (approx 16 sessions in total). All sessions are run by fully qualified [British Cycling](#) coaches. To cater for different abilities and ages there are two groups:

Group 1: Entry level/younger riders (minimum age: 6). Tuesday evenings: 18.00-18.30. £55 for 16 sessions (plus £11 Harrogate Nova membership fee). These sessions are ideal for riders who want to develop their basic cycling skills (i.e. bike control, braking, riding safely in a group)

Group 2: More experienced riders (typically age: 8 - 11). Tuesday evenings: 18.30-19.15. £80 for 16 sessions (plus £11 Harrogate Nova membership fee). These sessions are suitable for those who want to progress their skills and become highly competent riders. The sessions cover skills such as riding in a group at speed and more advanced bike handling.

All sessions take place in a car free area with the riders having the opportunity to use Timberfly ramps to help develop their skills.

If you are interested in the sessions and would like further information or would like to go along and attend a free trial session, please complete the 'Open Form' enquiry form on the Harrogate Nova website: <https://www.harrogatenova.cc/youth-coaching>



A promotional graphic for 'Fit Like a Girl Studio'. The top half features a circular logo with the text 'FIT LIKE A GIRL STUDIO' and the website 'WWW.FITLIKEAGIRL.CO.UK'. Below the logo, the text reads 'SPECIALLY STRUCTURED FITNESS CLASSES FOR GIRLS. 8-18YRS'. At the bottom, it says 'RAISING CONFIDENCE, SELF ESTEEM & RESILIENCE THROUGH FITNESS' and includes the social media handle '@fitlikeagirl' with a Facebook icon. The background of the graphic shows a group of girls in a gym setting.