



St. Peter's

Church of England Primary School

Love Learn Shine

Tuesday 8 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we begin the new school year, I write to ask for your help to work together as a school community to support the wellbeing of all our children and thank you in advance for reading this letter and supporting us. We are proud of our vision of Love, Learn Shine, which has been developed over time with input from children and families. We continually reference back to it when presented with situations that challenge us.

*'Love and a strong sense of belonging are the foundation of our school community's life. We want **everyone to know and feel they are nurtured, precious, unique and loved.***

We have learnt overtime that, in Year 6, children are sometimes given access to/or provided with their own mobile phone. We would like to take this opportunity, at the start of the year, to make very clear our position on mobile phones:

No child requires or needs a mobile phone to attend St Peter's School. We actively discourage children from bringing any form of mobile phone to school.

We respect that the families of a small number of our older children, who are coming to or leaving school more independently, may feel they need children to have a way of keeping in contact with parents. While having a mobile phone may feel like it provides an additional sense of safety for children travelling independently, there are many other ways to support safe journeys, including careful route planning, agreeing timings and check-in arrangements, and ensuring children know what to do if they encounter a problem. A phone does not automatically equate to safety and can, in some circumstances, increase risk by distracting children when walking or making them a target for loss or theft. Parents should therefore consider carefully whether a phone is genuinely necessary, as travelling independently does not automatically mean a child needs to carry one.

To ensure any phones in school are absolutely necessary and are being brought with parents' full knowledge, we ask parents to complete the form at the bottom of this letter. Phones will be stored centrally and securely in the main school office, and children must bring their phone to the school office as soon as they arrive on site. They must then collect it at the end of the day and must not switch it on until they have left the school premises.

Paper copies of the form below are available from the revolving leaflet stand in the main front entrance area.

Sadly, in previous years we have been made aware of some very unpleasant name calling and language being used between children in Year 6 online and that some children in Year 6 have created or joined multiple different 'WhatsApp' and 'I-Chat' groups. While much of the content in these groups has been harmless, some of the messages posted and general phone usage have been more concerning including:

- Making unkind comments and mocking other children, including negative references to physical appearance such as weight, height, body shape and size and hair colour.
- Derogatory and inflammatory language and 'emoji' symbols being used.
- Some of these messages mock school staff and are suggestive of a lack of respect for school adults and adults in general.

- The proportion of time some children appeared to be spending sending and receiving messages has been unhealthy.
- The timing of some messages was concerning; at times they were sent in the early hours of the morning.
- Children being distracted from their learning, dysregulated and anxious because of worries and concerns caused by issues that have stemmed from these messages.

We are asking for the support of families to help our children prevent any incident of this nature occurring. We strongly encourage parents to review the access their children have to devices and how they monitor their children's use of these devices including frequently checking messages sent and received. Our clear and strong preference is that children do not have any access to any collective group chat apps. The age rating given to [WhatsApp is 13+](#). If parents are wishing to begin to prepare their children for messaging in the digital world, we suggest a sensible first step for primary age children would be, with direct support and supervision, to send and receive messages to individual friends or family members only and avoid all group chat software and apps. For further information families may find the [common-sense media website](#) and app a helpful point of reference.

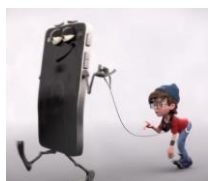
We would also appreciate your support in reinforcing the key messages we have given to the children in our discussions today. I have outlined these towards the end of this letter.

We very much recognise our role in educating children for their futures which includes helping them to understand the impact of words and actions on themselves and those around them. We recognise that the types of devices and platforms the children have access to beyond the school day is outside our control. We are, however, clear on our position as a school that no primary age child needs a mobile phone or tablet to attend St Peter's. As a result, and in line with our vision, our focus is very much on helping children to understand the power of kindness and the importance of thoughtful and responsible communication with others.

In preparation for their year ahead, I have spoken personally with the whole of the Year 6 cohort today. In doing so, I have made clear our position on phones in school and our thoughts on group messaging apps. I have also made clear that having or not having any given device is a personal decision for each family and that the presence or absence of any device in any child's life should not be debated or used as a criticism or a taunt.

Our discussions recognised they are still young children trying to navigate the world of social interaction using tools and devices that were not designed with their age group in mind. Discussions were very positive focusing on the key theme of kindness. We have asked all children to focus on proactively applying the 'kindness test' to their words and actions over the coming days and weeks. We have asked them to ask themselves the question '*Is this kind?*' when considering what they are going to say and how they are going to act towards each other. We have reminded the children about our special 'Kindness Merit' which is worth 5 merit points. Each day, a class teacher will choose a child to receive this special merit award which parents will be able to see on Arbor. We will take time to pause each day to reflect on who this has been awarded to and why. We will also be encouraging children to privately nominate others to the class teacher where they see and experience kindness from others.

I am pleased to share the link to some video material that can help emphasise the power of reducing device time.



[Short animation](#)

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions or queries, please do get in touch via admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk or by calling 01423 569684.

Best wishes

Mr Paul Griffiths – Headteacher



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LOVE LEARN SHINE

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out"
(John 1.9)

Request for child to bring mobile phone to school.

Typically, there is **no need for children to bring mobile telephones to school**. If there is a particular occasion or exceptional reason, then parents should request permission from the Headteacher, and the mobile phone must be left at the school office. School cannot accept responsibility for the loss of expensive personal belongings such as mobile phones. We recommend that parents add such items to their home insurance policies.

Date:

Childs Name: Class:

I request permission for my child to bring a mobile phone to school on:

Date/s:

Reason (please explain particular occasion or exceptional reason):

I understand that this is subject to the following:

- My child will ensure their phone is always switched off and out of sight while on the school grounds including on the playground before the start of the main school day and at the end of the day.
- My child will hand in the phone to the school office as soon as they arrive on site.
- My child will collect the mobile phone from the school office at the end of the school day. They will not switch it on until they have left the school premises.
- I acknowledge that school does not accept responsibility for the loss, damage or theft of the phone whilst it is on the school premises.

Name of parent/carer

Signed: (Parent / Carer)