

NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 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.

Latest News - Website News Feed

It has been another busy and successful week at St Peter's. A huge well done to the 175 children who currently have 100% attendance this academic year. Out of our 236 children, this means that over 70% have attended every day so far, which is a fantastic achievement and reflects the excellent partnership between school and home.

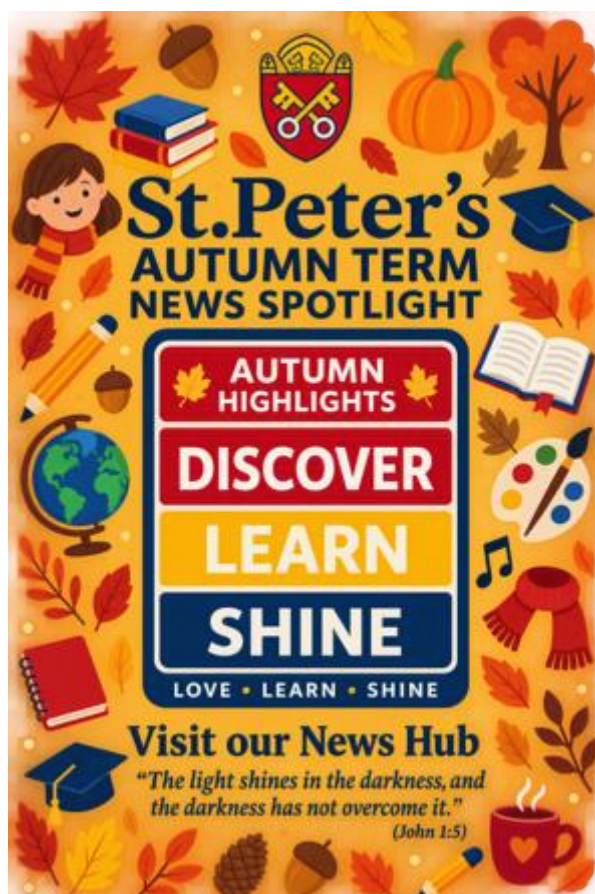
Thank you to all the families who joined us for our Phonics and Story Night. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you into school. Special thanks go to our FOSP volunteers, who helped the event run so smoothly, and to all our staff and story readers who made the evening such a success. We hope families found the session helpful. For follow-up information and guidance, please visit our Phonics and Reading page [here](#).

Children have also impressed us with their mature and sensible response during this week's fire drill. Across school, there has been lots of excellent learning, with a particular focus on oracy strategies, including talk tactics and oral rehearsal before writing.

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.

Mr Griffiths

Headteacher



Attendance Matters- Update & News

Absence of Leave

We are seeing an increasing number of requests for leave during term time where parents explain that annual leave cannot be booked during the school holidays. We would like to update families that these situations will not normally be considered exceptional and are therefore highly unlikely to be unauthorised.

Requests linked to a parent's operational duties are considered differently. In professions such as the armed forces, operational commitments may mean a parent is deployed for extended periods and has no or very limited control over when they are at home. In these exceptional circumstances, requests may be considered where children have a rare opportunity to spend valuable time with a parent before or after deployment. Supporting evidence will be required, and each request will be considered on its individual merits.

We thank families for their understanding and support in prioritising children's attendance.

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. The full pupil attendance policy can be accessed [here](#).



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.

Here When You Need Us

We would also like to remind families about the [Safeguarding](#) section of our website. We know that it is not always easy to remember who to contact or where to find support when concerns arise. Our safeguarding page brings together all key information, contact details and sources of help in one place, making it easy to access whenever needed. Working together helps us ensure all children remain safe, happy and supported.



Morning Drop Off

To help ensure a safe and smooth start to the school day, please remain with your children at morning drop-off until a member of staff is present on the playground. Children should not be left unattended before teachers are on duty. If your child arrives independently, please remind them that once they enter the school playground they must remain on the school grounds and not leave the site. This helps us maintain appropriate supervision and keep all children safe before the start of the school day. Thank you for your support and

cooperation in helping us provide a safe environment for all children each morning. Your assistance is greatly appreciated and helps ensure every child begins the day positively and securely.

Awards

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

★ Early Years and Key Stage One

Wrens - Harry & Kai

Kingfishers - Owen & Posy

Sparrows - Sanuga & Ted

★ Year 3/4

Owls - Phoebe & Rory

Starlings - Faye & Octavia

★ Year 5/6

Hérons - Jude & Naomi

Ravens - Lilly-Dot & Xyla

Eagles - Adnan & Charlie

★ Sharing Our Shine ★

Share Your Shine with Us

We love celebrating the amazing things our children and families achieve outside of school! Whether it's a sporting triumph, a creative project, a community event, or a personal milestone, we want to hear all about it. This is your chance to share successes, achievements and endeavours that make you proud. Our "Share Your Shine" 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!



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

The term dates for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 are published on our website and can be accessed [here](#). Please check when planning any holidays or appointments. Please note school are expected to process statutory penalty notices for unauthorised absences of 5 or more days.

Sunday 27 September 9.00am - St Peter's Junior Parkrun Takeover- All welcome to take part and parent volunteers very welcome - <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/harrogate-juniors/>

Thursday 1 October 9.30am - Harvest Festival in St Peter's Church- All Year Groups, everyone welcome

Wednesday 7 October - External Adviser Visit - Visits to all classes

Tuesday 13 – Friday 16 October - Year 6 Residential Bewerley Park - Year 6

Tuesday 20 October & Thursday 22 October - Individual Parent Consultations for Early Years- Families with children in Early Years

Tuesday 20 October - Open classroom 1-6- Families with children in years 1-6

Thursday 22 October- Decorated Pumpkin Competition- All Year Groups welcome to enter £1 entry fee

Thursday 22 October 3.15pm - School Closes for end of Autumn first half term - All Year Groups

Friday 23 October - INSET Day - School closed - All Year Groups

October Half Term

Monday 2 November - School Starts for Second Half of Autumn Term - All Year Groups

Thursday 3 December- Advent Music Concert in St Paul's Church- Everyone Welcome

Saturday 5 December- FOSP Christmas Fair- St Peters School- Everyone Welcome

Monday 7 December 2pm- Nativity Dress Rehearsal- in St Pauls- EY&KS1 Performing - KS2 watching, space for any family members unable to come to either of the other 2 performances.

Tuesday 8 December 2pm- Nativity Afternoon Performance in St Pauls Church- EY&KS1 Performing- Family & Friends welcome

Wednesday 9 December 5pm- Nativity Evening Performance in St Pauls Church- EY&KS1 Performing- Family & Friends welcome

Thursday 17 December 9.30am - Christmas Service in St Peter's Church- All Year Groups, everyone welcome

Friday 18 December 1.30pm - Carols at the Alms Houses - All Year Groups, everyone welcome

Friday 18 December 2.00pm - School closes for end of Autumn term - All Year Groups

Christmas Holiday

Monday 4 January - INSET Day - School closed - All Year Groups

Tuesday 5 January - School Opens for Spring Term - All Year Groups

General News & Key Messages

Communication Reminder

To help us respond to families promptly and ensure that all messages are directed to the right member of staff, we kindly ask that parents use our established communication channels for all school-related enquiries. If you need to contact a member of staff, please email admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk and mark your message **FAO: [Teacher Name]**, or telephone the school office and leave a message with the office team. The office will ensure that your enquiry reaches the appropriate person as quickly as possible.

Please do not use personal mobile numbers, WhatsApp, social media, or other messaging platforms to contact staff about school matters. These channels are not monitored.

Our simple communication system provides a clear record of correspondence, supports staff wellbeing, and helps ensure that any questions or concerns are dealt with promptly and effectively. Thank you for your understanding and support.



Harvest Festival

We warmly invite parents and families to join us for our Harvest Celebration on Thursday 1 October at St Peter's Church. Children will walk to church from school, and we would be delighted if parents could help accompany the walk. Please meet in the front playground at 9.00am if you can help, or join us directly at church for the service at 9.30am. We are also collecting donations for the St Peter's Food Ministry Thursday Supermarket. Requested items include tinned soup, tinned fruit, tinned tuna, tinned meat (such as meatballs, hotdogs and stews), tinned vegetables (including sweetcorn, peas, carrots and potatoes), pasta sauce, rice and pasta. Children should come in full school uniform and, where possible, bring donations on the day. Parents attending the service are kindly asked to take donations directly to church. Thank you for your support.



Future Starters September 2027

Thank you to everyone who has completed our September 2027 Sibling Survey so far. Your responses have been incredibly helpful in supporting our future planning and helping us understand anticipated admissions for the coming years. If you have a younger child due to start school in September 2027 and have not yet completed the survey, there is still time to do so. We would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to share your information. Your response helps us plan effectively and continue to meet the needs of our growing school community. The survey remains open and can be completed here: [👉 Sibling Survey Click Here](#) We would also be delighted to welcome you and your future starter for a school tour and the opportunity to meet Mr Griffiths. Tours can be booked via Eventbrite or by contacting the school office directly. We look forward to welcoming you and your children to St Peter's.



Friends of St Peter's (FOSP) News

Junior Parkrun Takeover

Join us for the St Peter's Junior Parkrun Takeover at 9:00am on Sunday 27 September.

This is a fantastic opportunity for children to experience junior parkrun, be active, and take part alongside other children and families from St Peter's. It is also a great chance to collect sponsorship in support of the Friends of St Peter's (FOSP).

Sponsorship Money can be donated via our [Just Giving Page](#).

There is no need to book in advance. Families can simply turn up on the day and join in.

If you would like to find out more about the event, register for junior parkrun, or volunteer as a marshal, please visit:

🔗 <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/harrogate-juniors/>

We look forward to seeing lots of St Peter's families there!



Community News

I'm really excited to share that Premier Coaching has been shortlisted for TWO Harrogate Mumbler Awards 2026!

I'd really appreciate your support with a vote for Lee McArthur – Premier Coaching in both categories:

- 👤 Favourite Teacher, Childcare Professional, Coach or Leader
- 👤 Favourite Class or Activity (Toddler to 5 years)

It takes less than 2 minutes to vote and would mean a lot, especially after such a brilliant first year working with so many fantastic schools and children.

👉 <https://harrogate.mumbler.co.uk/awards/shortlist-vote/>

Thank you for your support! ❤️ 🇬🇧

Lee McArthur
Premier Coaching
<https://share.google/LAKYekUKW8YArY0ej>
07359355962



Back 2 school!

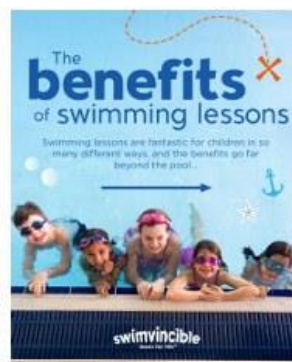
Cundall Manor School, Helperby
Queen Mary's, Topcliffe
Birdforth Hall, Thirsk
Robert Wilkinson Primary, Strensall
The Mount, Malton
Henshaws College, Harrogate
Ripon Grammar School
The Milner, York
The Crown, Boroughbridge

Swimming lessons help children build confidence, develop essential life skills, and have lots of fun along the way. Whether they're dipping their toes in for the first time or progressing to the next level, now is a great time to dive in.

Secure your place today and make swimming part of your school-year routine!

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learn for life®

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waterbabies.co.uk



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Woodwind Lessons with Mr Lappin

Woodwind lessons are now available at school. Mr Lappin is an experienced tutor and flute specialist, offering friendly, encouraging lessons tailored to each child, whether they are just starting out or looking to develop their playing further.

Alongside his work with North Yorkshire Music Service, Mr Lappin teaches and performs with leading musical organisations including Chetham's School of Music and Opera North's Young Musicians' Studio. He is a core member of Manchester Baroque and regularly performs with other leading ensembles.

Please contact school reception for details and to sign up.



*Sporting Influence have now opened their bookings for **Play2EmpowHER Bridging Academy** on Monday, 5-6pm at Rossett Acre Primary School. This is for girls and will be **FREE** of cost! Parents can book this via the Sporting Influence website - www.sportinginfluence.com.*

As places are limited, it is recommended you express your interest early to secure your booking.

ALL NEW
SATURDAY SESSION
CRAFTY LLAMAS
ARTS & CRAFTS

A RELAXED AND WELCOMING CREATIVE
SESSION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE **AGED 10-15**
WITH SEND (NO DIAGNOSIS REQUIRED)

EVERY SATURDAY

10-11AM

ARTIZAN CREATIVE SPACE

OXFORD STREET, HARROGATE
(ABOVE THE ARTIZAN SHOP)

FULLY ACCESSIBLE & FREE TO ATTEND
DROP IN - NO BOOKING REQUIRED
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