

NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 18th 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 What a wonderful first full week back we have enjoyed at St Peter's! It has been an absolute pleasure to see our children settling so confidently into their new classes and routines. Classrooms have been full of enthusiasm, curiosity and excitement as the children have thrown themselves into their learning and embraced all that a new school year has to offer. The positive atmosphere around school has been fantastic, and I am incredibly proud of how quickly the children have adapted and begun to shine.

This week also saw our annual school photographs take place. It was lovely to see the children looking so smart and well-presented in their uniforms. They represented our school brilliantly and demonstrated the pride that we encourage in all that we do. Taking pride in our appearance shows respect for ourselves, for others and for our school community. Thank you for your continued support with our uniform expectations. The children looked fantastic, and it would be wonderful to maintain these high standards throughout the year.

Our collective worship life has also been thriving as we completed our first full week of worship together. On Monday and Friday, I had the pleasure of leading worship as we reflected on our school values and Christian vision. On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Dr Garrow from St Peter's Church, who helped us deepen our understanding of our new half-term focus of Love and Belonging. Alongside this, children took part in class worships on Tuesday and Thursday, providing opportunities for reflection, prayer and

discussion within their own class communities. It has been heartening to see how thoughtfully the children have engaged with this important theme and considered how they can help everyone feel valued, loved and included.

Across school, there has been some truly wonderful learning taking place. In Sparrows Class, our Year 2 children became history detectives as they began investigating how our school building has changed over time. Armed with evidence, clues and a sense of curiosity, they embarked on an exciting journey into the past. In Wrens, the children were delighted to meet Numberblock 1 as they started their mathematical learning journey, using a range of creative activities to develop their understanding of number. Wrens also enjoyed their very first RE lesson, exploring the Christian Creation Story and impressing adults with their focus, enthusiasm and thoughtful contributions.

In Kingfishers, children explored the importance of recycling and caring for God's world, turning everyday materials into imaginative creations while learning about their responsibility to look after the environment. Meanwhile, Starlings demonstrated excellent resilience and determination as they tackled a series of mathematical challenges, developing their problem-solving skills and embracing the importance of a growth mindset.

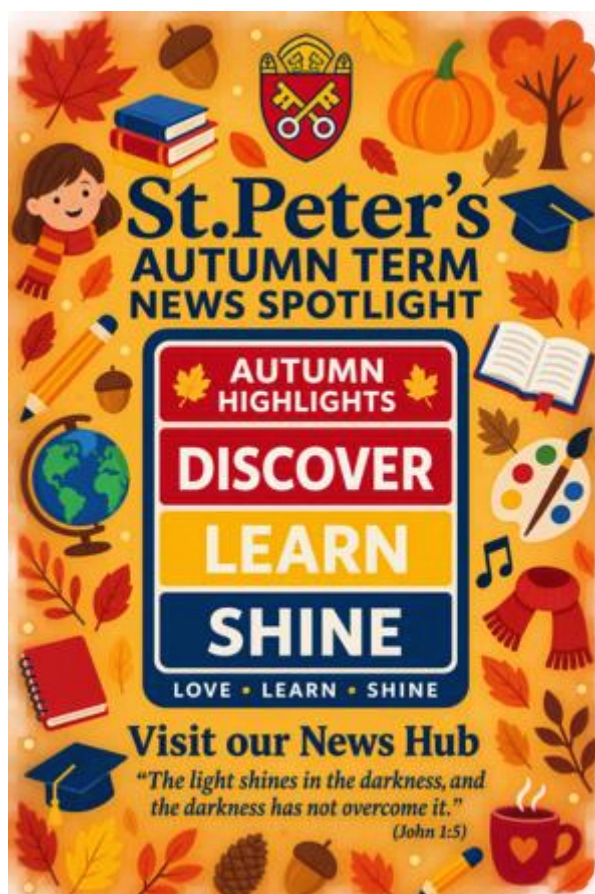
Beyond the classroom, we are also excited about our upcoming St Peter's Junior parkrun Takeover on Sunday 27 September. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity for our children and families to come together, celebrate our school community and enjoy being active together. We hope to see as many families there as possible.

As I walk around school each day, I continue to be impressed by the kindness, enthusiasm and positive attitudes shown by our children. They have made such an excellent start to the year, living out our values and demonstrating what it means to be part of the St Peter's family. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we are creating a school where our children can truly love, learn and shine.

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

Under The Weather No Worries.

At St Peter's, we know that good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children thrive both academically and socially. We appreciate that children will sometimes feel a little under the weather, but many minor illnesses do not prevent them from attending school. To support families, we have shared the NHS guidance ["Is my child too ill for school?"](#), which provides clear and helpful advice about when children should stay at home and when they are well enough to attend. If your child is feeling slightly unwell but able to come to school, please do let our office know. We are always happy to keep an eye on children during the day and will contact parents if we feel they need to go home. An incredible over 90% of our children currently have 100% attendance since the start of term. What a fantastic achievement! Establishing strong attendance habits in these first few weeks sets children up for a successful year ahead. Achieving 100% attendance across a whole term or year can be challenging, but the longer we can maintain these excellent attendance levels, the better. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring every child has the very best opportunity to love, learn and shine.



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.

Reach Out

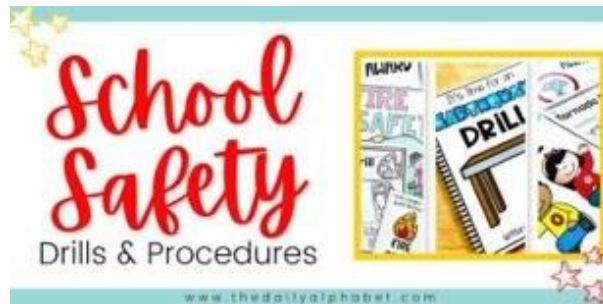
At St Peter's, we strongly believe that the best way to resolve any concerns is through open and honest communication. We always encourage families to contact school directly if they have a worry, question or concern so that we can work together to find a positive solution as quickly as possible. However, we recognise that there may be occasions when a child or family does not feel able to raise a concern directly. To support this, we have a [Reach Out](#) option, allowing concerns to be shared anonymously if needed. Families can send a letter to the school or complete our online anonymous concern form. 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.



Emergency Drills

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and keeping everyone safe, we will be carrying out a fire drill next week. Regular fire drills are an important part of our school safety procedures and help ensure that all children know how to leave the building quickly, calmly and safely should there ever be an emergency. Before the drill takes place, staff will

carefully explain the process to the children so they know what to expect. We understand that some children may feel a little worried about hearing the alarm, so we will provide reassurance and support as needed. Fire drills are a normal part of school life and take place each term to help everyone practise the routines and build confidence. By rehearsing these procedures regularly, we can ensure that our whole school community remains safe and prepared.



Awards

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

★ Early Years and Key Stage One

Wrens - Jonah & Noa

Kingfishers - Mercie & Nehir

Sparrows - Juliet & Lily

★ Year 3/4

Owls - Chisom & Freddie

Starlings - Alex & Finley

★ Year 5/6

Hérons - Aaradhya & Grace SW

Ravens - Cedric & Emily

Eagles - Evie & Joshua

★ 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.

Tuesday 22 September - Parent Phonics Information Evening and Story Night - Early Years , Year 1 and Year 2

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 Beverley 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

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

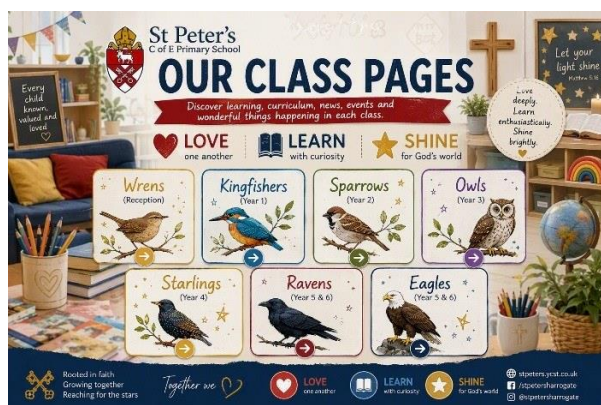
General News & Key Messages

Curriculum Overviews & Class Welcome Letters

Each term, we publish curriculum overviews to provide families with information about the areas of learning their children will be covering in class. These overviews are designed to help families support their children's learning at home and understand what will be taught throughout the term.

We are pleased to share that the latest curriculum overviews are now available on the relevant class pages of the school website. Alongside these, you will also find class welcome letters containing key information about routines, expectations and important dates for the term ahead.

We encourage all families to take a look at these documents, which can be accessed via your child's class page on the website. They provide a helpful overview of everything children will be learning and experiencing this term.



Admissions September 2027 Sibling Survey

Future Starters

To support our future planning and ensure we have the best possible understanding of upcoming admissions, we would be very grateful if families with a younger child due to start school in September 2027 could complete our short sibling survey [here](#). The information you provide helps us with strategic planning and ensures we can continue to meet the needs of our growing school community.

We would also love to welcome you and your future starter for a school tour and an opportunity to meet Mr Griffiths. Although many younger siblings are already familiar with school through daily drop-offs and pick-ups, visiting the classrooms and school environment can be a valuable part of helping children feel excited and prepared for starting school. Tours can be booked via [Eventbrite](#) or by contacting the school office directly. We look forward to welcoming you.



Working Closely with All Families

Alongside this week's newsletter, families will receive a letter outlining our communication strategy and the many opportunities available throughout the year to engage with your

child's learning and wider school life. At St Peter's, we believe that strong partnerships between home and school are key to helping children shine, and we are committed to providing a range of ways for families to stay informed, involved and connected. The letter explains the different opportunities available, including communication with teachers, information-sharing events, celebrations of learning and ways to support your child's education at home. We would be grateful if you could take a few moments to read through the information and familiarise yourself with our plans for the year ahead. By working together, maintaining open communication and sharing in our children's successes, we can provide the very best support for every child. Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to our school community.



PE & Swimming Days

Children should wear their PE kit to school on PE and Swimming days.

Wrens – Reception - Monday & Friday

Kingfishers – Year 1- Tuesday & Friday

Sparrows – Year 2- Tuesday & Thursday

Owls – Year 3- Monday & Wednesday

Starlings – Year 4 - Wednesday (swimming) & Thursday (PE)

Herons – Year 5&6- Wednesday & Friday

Ravens - Year 5&6- Wednesday & Friday

Eagles - Year 5&6- Wednesday & Thursday



Lost Property

We aim to minimise the amount of lost property by always returning named items directly to parents or children. This can be achieved very easily where all uniform, coats, lunchboxes, snack boxes and any other items are clearly labelled with the child's name (not just their initials).

Where items are found to be lost with no clearly identifiable name they will be placed in one of two locations for up to the remainder of the term and will then be responsibly disposed of.

Unnamed clothing items will be in our uniform store in the medical room. Unnamed lunch and snack boxes will be placed in the boxes at the back of the meeting room.



KS1 Pyjamas & Story Night: A Great Evening for Children and Parents!

We are delighted to be holding our KS1 (Reception to Year 2) Phonics Information evening and Story Night on Tuesday 22 September, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. This event has been designed to benefit both children and parents. While children enjoy a fun-filled evening of stories, milk, biscuits and time with their friends (all whilst wearing their pyjamas and bringing along a favourite teddy!), parents will have the opportunity to hear important information about the year ahead, including phonics and curriculum updates. We know that attending parent information events can sometimes be challenging when childcare is needed. That's why we are so pleased to combine our parent information session with Story Night, allowing parents to attend knowing that their children are having a wonderful time

with friends in a safe and familiar environment. The evening is also a fantastic opportunity to meet other parents, strengthen connections within our school community and gain practical information about how you can support your child's learning at home. There is a suggested donation of **£1 per child**, with all proceeds going to support the **Friends of St Peter's (FOSP)**. We would love to see as many families as possible there and encourage all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents to come along. We look forward to welcoming you for what promises to be an enjoyable and informative evening.



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

Hello Partner Primary Schools.

Please could you share the following with the parents from your schools or put into your weekly newsletter?

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



RHS
Garden Harlow Carr

Trail dates
extended

Brick Explorers

Until Sun 27 Sep

Don't miss the incredible wildlife sculptures* taking over the garden this summer. Explore and learn as you come face to face with amazing animals made from hundreds of thousands of bricks!

AT ALL RHS GARDENS
£6
 entry
 8-16 years
 ALL YEAR ROUND

Book online and save



*Sculptures vary by garden, image shown is illustrative

rhs.org.uk/harlowcarr



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!

swimvincible
 learn for life®

01423 457000
littlefish@waterbabies.co.uk
waterbabies.co.uk

The benefits of swimming lessons

Swimming lessons are fantastic for children in so many different ways, and the benefits go far beyond the pool...



swimvincible

Sharpens concentration

Following instructions in the pool from listening for cues to watching demonstrations helps sharpen their concentration and attention span, while also building stronger listening skills. It's a fun, active way to practice focusing, absorbing information and putting it into action, all while fun, go beyond the pool and design back into the classroom.



swimvincible

Encourages resilience

And building resilience in the water is a great way for children to learn to keep swimming up, down, trying and being going, surviving real persistence and resilience in the pool.

They start to understand that confidence isn't something you either have or you don't, it's something you build one small attempt at a time.



swimvincible

Improves mood

Life can feel pretty full on for children, from being school days to clubs, homework and everything in between. Repeating lessons give them a weekly dose of fun, a place where they can make friends and just be in the moment.

The steady rhythm of the water carefully helps lift their mood and take the edge off stress and anxiety, so they come out feeling calmer, brighter and more like themselves.



swimvincible

swimvincible
learn for life®

01423 457000
littlefish@waterbabies.co.uk
waterbabies.co.uk



DementiaUK
Together brighter lives

Small designs make a big difference

All proceeds go to Dementia UK

PROPERTY OF THE FUTURE

DESIGN COMPETITION

Pop down to William H Brown, Harrogate on Albert Street to collect your sheet!



What will the homes of tomorrow look like?



All entries will be displayed in our window!

A chance to win 1 of 3 fantastic prizes!

£1 ENTRY

ENTRIES IN BY 25TH SEPTEMBER

WINNERS ANNOUNCED 28TH SEPTEMBER

Creative ideas for a brighter tomorrow



Scan me!
to donate to Dementia UK

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.

A colorful poster for an arts and crafts session. The background features abstract shapes in yellow, blue, green, and pink. At the top, there's a string of colorful pom-poms and a small llama illustration. The text is arranged in a central column, with the title in large, bold, multi-colored letters. Below the title, a dashed box contains details about the session being relaxed and welcoming for young people aged 10-15 with SEND. The time 'EVERY SATURDAY 10-11AM' is prominently displayed. The location 'ARTIZAN CREATIVE SPACE' and 'OXFORD STREET, HARROGATE (ABOVE THE ARTIZAN SHOP)' are listed below. At the bottom, it states 'FULLY ACCESSIBLE & FREE TO ATTEND', 'DROP IN - NO BOOKING REQUIRED', and provides a contact number. The 'ARTIZAN INTERNATIONAL' logo is at the very bottom.

**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
QUESTIONS? CALL 01423 509251

ARTIZAN
INTERNATIONAL