

NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER 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

A Busy Week of Learning, Community and Growth

Another busy, productive and, of course, enjoyable week at St Peter's. I have been working closely with our governors to develop our new Parent Ambassador Strategy. We are incredibly grateful to all the parents who have volunteered to support this exciting initiative. The project will help celebrate our school, provide a welcoming point of contact for new families, and support those settling into both our school and the local community. It is a wonderful reflection of the caring nature of our school community and our commitment to ensuring everyone feels welcomed and valued.

This week, we were also delighted to welcome Mrs Acheson from the Diocese, who has been supporting staff with training focused on spirituality. As part of this important work, we have been finalising our new spirituality poster, which will soon be displayed around school. The poster will help children engage more actively with their spiritual development and provide a shared language for exploring life's big questions, moments of awe and wonder, and opportunities for reflection. Supporting the whole child through holistic development is a key part of our vision, Love, Learn, Shine, and this work continues to strengthen our commitment to nurturing every aspect of each child's growth and wellbeing.

I have also enjoyed spending time across classrooms, seeing learning in action. In Sparrows, I enjoyed sharing some of our fascinating artefacts, including old maps and historic school

logbooks, as part of their exploration of the history of our school building. You may have spotted some local media coverage of this wonderful project. Don't worry if you missed it, you can see it [here](#).

It was also a pleasure to work with Year 4 and see children using some of our new tablet devices to access TT Rock Stars seamlessly during their maths lessons. It was wonderful to see technology complementing practical resources and written work so effectively, helping children develop confidence and fluency in their learning.

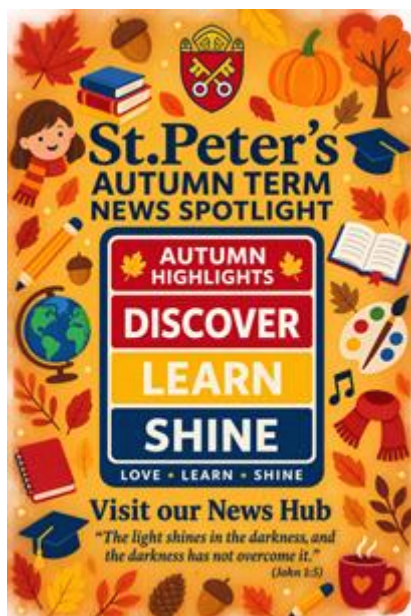
Alongside the excellent learning taking place in classrooms, the children enjoyed the Wrens' Autumn Walk and our whole-school Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church. Thank you for your generosity with Harvest gifts and for your support of the service. These shared experiences help strengthen our sense of community and remind us of the importance of gratitude, kindness and service to others.

As always, it has been a pleasure seeing our children love, learn and shine throughout the week

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

Supporting Successful Starts

Being on time for school gives children the best possible start to the day. Arriving by 8:40am for the start of the school day at 8:45am helps children settle into their classrooms, spend time with friends and take part in valuable morning learning activities. Even a few minutes late each day can add up over time and may mean children miss important opportunities to develop confidence and build on their learning. At the same time, we know that mornings do not always go to plan. Traffic, unexpected delays and the many demands of family life can sometimes make punctuality a challenge. If this happens, please remember that it is always better for children to arrive a little later than not at all. Every child will receive the same warm St Peter's welcome whenever they arrive, and we are always here to support families. Thank you for working with us to help every child arrive ready 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.

Policy Update

We would like to inform parents that our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy for 2026-2027 has been reviewed and updated in line with the latest national guidance and statutory requirements. The revised policy ensures that our procedures continue to reflect current best practice and provide the highest level of protection and support for all children.

The updated policy includes key changes to safeguarding processes, staff responsibilities, reporting procedures and wider measures to help keep children safe both in school and online. Safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility, and we are committed to maintaining a culture where children feel safe, valued and heard.

The full updated Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is now available on the [Policies page](#) of the school website for parents to read.

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October Online Safety Newsletter

This month's online safety update highlights the growing use of AI companion apps by young people. These services are designed to simulate friendship and conversation, but many are intended for adults and may expose children to inappropriate content. Parents should be aware that some AI tools can encourage emotional reliance and may not always provide safe or accurate advice. Children should never share personal or confidential information with AI services and should always speak to a trusted adult if something online causes concern. Regular conversations about online activity remain one of the most effective ways to keep children safe. Please take time to check age ratings, privacy settings and parental controls on any devices your child use.



Awards

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

★ Early Years and Key Stage One

Wrens - Agnes & Penny

Kingfishers - Esme & Lydia

Sparrows - Esme & Hayley

★ **Year 3/4**

Owls - Fraser & Stanley

Starlings - Jonathan & Scarlett

★ **Year 5/6**

Hérons - Hugo C & Summer

Ravens - Rafi & William

Eagles - Emily L & Tabitha

★ **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.

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 3.30-5pm - Open classroom 1-6- Families with children in years 1-6

Thursday 22 October 9am- Front Playground- 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 1-3pm- 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

Coats Please

As we move further into autumn, a reminder that all children should bring a coat to school every day. While the mornings can still be bright and sunny, the weather is becoming increasingly changeable, with cooler temperatures and the possibility of showers throughout the day. Whenever possible, children will continue to enjoy outdoor play and learning opportunities, even when the weather is a little damp. Having a suitable coat in school helps ensure that everyone can stay comfortable, warm and active during breaktimes, lunchtime and outdoor activities. Please take a moment each morning to check that your child has their coat with them before leaving for school. Thank you for your support in helping us keep children prepared for the changing autumn weather



Owl Class Request

As part of their Design and Technology learning over the next two weeks, the children in Owl Class will be exploring pneumatics and creating their own moving models.

To support this exciting project, we would be very grateful for donations of clean plastic bottles, empty washing-up liquid bottles and egg boxes. These recycled materials will help the children design, build and test their creations while encouraging sustainability and creative thinking.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent items into school. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you have any of the requested materials at home, please send them into school with your child over the coming days.

We are very grateful for your help in bringing this learning to life.



Harvest Festival Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents, families and friends who joined us for our Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church. The service was beautifully led by our children, who shared readings, prayers and songs with great confidence and reverence. We were incredibly proud of the way they represented our school community.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude for the many generous donations received. Your kindness and support will make a real difference to the work of St Peter's Church Food Ministry and its Thursday Supermarket, helping local individuals and families who may be facing hardship.

Thank you for supporting both the celebration and this important community mission. Your generosity truly reflects the caring values at the heart of St Peter's School.



Sibling Survey

A huge thank you to everyone who has already completed our September 2027 Sibling Survey. Your responses have been incredibly helpful and are greatly appreciated as we plan

for future admissions and ensure we can continue to meet the needs of our growing school community.

This is our final call for any families with a younger child who is due to start school in September 2027. If you have not yet completed the survey, we would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to do so. Even if you are still considering your options, the information you provide is valuable for our planning.

Thank you once again for your support and cooperation.

The survey can still be completed via the link below. [👉 Sibling Survey Click Here](#)



Friends of St Peter's (FOSP) News

Community News

Climb Harrogate

Powered by My Expedition Rocks



Our fun, structured sessions teach young climbers everything from knot tying and belaying to lead climbing in a supportive environment. Growing a lifelong hobby and interest in climbing.

- **Sundays**
10:00–13:00

Live for Today
Climbing Centre,
HG2 8QT

- 👤 7+ years old
- 📅 8th November 2026
- 💷 £180.00 (6-week block)
- 💳 Klarna, Childcare Vouchers
- 🧰 All equipment supplied

What's covered?

- Knot tying
- Belaying
- Coaching
- Lead climbing
- Confidence
- Teamwork

OFSTED REGISTERED - ROCK CLIMBING 6



[WWW.MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM](https://www.myexpeditionrocks.com) [INFO@MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM](mailto:info@myexpeditionrocks.com)



OCTOBER HOLIDAY ROCK CLIMBING



Holiday climbing sessions are an ideal way for kids to get out and enjoy the great outdoors at Ilkley. The other option is climbing indoors and receive an amazing introduction to such an awesome sport. Activities include climbing, abseiling and weaselling. An action packed day they'll remember.

Holiday Session - from £62.50 (7-17 years old)

Ilkley Cow & Calf: 26th, 28th, 30th October 2027

Big Depot Leeds: 27th-29th October 2027

Childcare Vouchers accepted



Book online or contact us via email



WWW.MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM INFO@MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM



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 busy school days to clubs, homework and everything in between. Repeating lessons give them a weekly dose of fun, a place where they can relax, breathe and just be in the moment.

The steady rhythm of the water carefully helps lift their mood and ease 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. It features a llama in the top right corner, a paint palette in the bottom left, and a paintbrush on the right. The background has abstract colorful shapes and patterns.

**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



Oakdale

Festive wreath making workshop.

Join us for a relaxed morning of festive wreath making. All profits go to the Oakdale Charitable Fund, helping to provide low-fee counselling and psychotherapy for people in our community who might otherwise be unable to access the support they need.

WHEN
Saturday 28 November
10am – 12.30pm

WHERE
St Wilfrid's Church Hall
Duchy Rd, Harrogate
HG1 2EY

PRICE
£40 per wreath
Ages 16+, one person per wreath.
All materials provided.



Book your place.

Places are limited and booking is essential.

In aid of the Oakdale Charitable Fund



With thanks to Spofforth Golf Club, Harrogate Golf Club and Oakdale Golf Club for their kind donations of foliage.

www.oakdalegroup.org

Kinky Boots THE MUSICAL CHILDREN'S CASTING OPPORTUNITY

HOPS Musical Theatre Company are looking to cast two boys to fill the shoes of Young Simon in our upcoming production of Kinky Boots. This is a fantastic opportunity for young actors to gain experience performing with a full adult company on Harrogate theatre's stage, be part of a brilliant feel-good musical and have their own moment in the spotlight.

Think you've got what it takes? Take note of key dates below and fill in our audition form:

- Thursday 8th October - Audition Prep Evening
- Saturday 11th October - Auditions
- Performance dates: 15th-19th June 2021
- Audition sign-up: <https://forms.gle/a93cCW6L3Zt4LqJ78>
- More info? Visit HOPS social media pages or contact us through our website: www.hops-mtc.co.uk

The Role of Young Simon

HE KNOWS HE WANTS MORE OUT OF LIFE!

He already knows there is something special about those red heels!

A small but unforgettable moment gives us our first glimpse of the person Lola will become

He is never going to meet his father's expectations.



Scenes & Songs:	Approx. 1 scene / 1 song. No lib
Voice Type:	Treble
Dance Ability:	Average
Character Traits:	Vulnerable, sensitive, courageous
Playing Age:	8-12
Stage Presence:	Strong emotional connections

Could you become Young Simon?



Kinky Boots

THE MUSICAL

CHILDREN'S CASTING OPPORTUNITY

HOPS Musical Theatre Company are looking to cast two boys to fill the shoes of Young Charlie in our upcoming production of Kinky Boots. This is a fantastic opportunity for young actors to gain experience performing with a full adult company on Harrogate theatre's stage, be part of a brilliant feel-good musical and have their own moment in the spotlight.

Think you've got what it takes? Take note of key dates below and fill in our audition form:

- Thursday 8th October - Audition Prep Evening
- Saturday 17th October - Auditions
- Performance dates: 15th-19th June 2021
- Audition sign-up: <https://forms.gle/s93cCWtL3Zt4Lq78>
- More info? Visit HOPS social media pages or contact us through our website: www.hops-mtc.co.uk

The Role of Young Charlie

EVERY BIG DREAM STARTS SMALL

A thoughtful and reflective young boy

*A glimpse of the boy
before he becomes the man
facing the biggest change of his life.*



Scenes & Songs: Approx. 1 scene / 1 song No lib

Voice Type: Treble

Dance Ability: Average

Character Traits: Young, hopeful

Playing Age: 8-12

Stage Presence: Character driven

Could you become Young Charlie?

