



# St Peter's CE Academy, Alton

## Newsletter March 2020



LOVE, RESPECT AND FRIENDSHIP

Telephone: 01538 702321

Web site: [www.st-peters-alton.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.st-peters-alton.staffs.sch.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs R Walker

Executive Deputy Headteacher: Mrs A Bennett



### World Book Day

World Book Day is **Thursday, 5 March**. Our theme this year is Poems and Rhymes. The children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. Each child will receive a £1 book voucher that can be used in local stores or towards purchases from the Scholastic Book Club magazine (order deadline Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March).

### Coronavirus - please also see final paragraph

Latest advice and information from Public Health England and Department for Education can be found on our web site under Academy Information, then Useful Links. We will keep this updated.

### Lateness

The door opens at 8.50am and registration takes place at 8.55am ready for a prompt start with lessons at 9.00am. Children that arrive late disrupt this process by disturbing or missing the lesson introduction, delaying the ordering of lunches and the closing of morning registers. Please ensure your child arrives in school by 8.55am unless they have a medical appointment or there are unusual circumstances. Once the security door is closed, please sign the register held in the office as a record of the time your child arrives in the classroom. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Mobile app



Have you got our latest mobile app? Please search for Phenix Digital on the app store, then once the app is installed just search for our academy. Full instructions can be found on the web site.

### Dogs in the playground

Following the message on previous newsletters, thank you for co-operating and keeping your dogs outside the playground and away from the gates. We have children in school who are allergic to dogs and some who are afraid of them. Thank you!

### Parent Pay

**Please check your Parent Pay account weekly** for visits, meals, out of hours club and Nursery fees. Please make sure all outstanding items are paid by the end of each half term at the latest. School meals should be paid **weekly in advance** as we are invoiced by our supplier and the money is taken from the school budget until it is recouped via your payments on Parent Pay. Thank you!

## Community Tea

Our next Over 60's afternoon tea is planned for Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. If you know someone in the local community who would like to come along, please let us know. Due to the popularity of these events, it would be helpful for our catering arrangements, if people could book in advance on 01538 702321.

We are supporting the Lichfield Diocese 'Share a Miracle' scheme. Each over 60's person who attends our afternoon tea will be given an Easter Egg. Donations of Easter eggs will be much appreciated. Any surplus eggs will be donated to the Cheadle and District Foodbank. Thank you!

## Car parking

Parking outside school is a nightmare but thank you to everyone for co-operating with our efforts to make it safer outside the gates! Please DON'T park opposite the yellow zigzags or block the car park or our neighbours driveways. If you are running a little late, please don't pull up outside the school as it is a danger to others who are either entering or leaving the school gates. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Thank you.....

To all our volunteers. We do appreciate your time. To those of you who have been doing handyman jobs for us and to those who have volunteered for the 'little jobs' rota!

## Year 4 - Smallwood Manor

The children in Year 4 are to join with other local schools for an afternoon of activities organised and hosted by Smallwood Manor on **Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March**. They will play rugby and netball and have a go at orienteering. The event will end with hotdogs and drink! A separate letter has been sent home so please return your consent form.

## Uniform

We have stock of jumpers, cardigans, items with the school logo available from the office. Please complete an order form available from the office if you need any items for the summer term.

## Fundraising

A number of fundraising activities have taken place or are planned as follows:

**YESS** - non uniform day on Friday, 7 February. £64 was donated to YESS, a charity based in Uttoxeter supporting young people with emotional issues.

**Koala Bears in Australia** - the School Council organised a red themed non uniform day on Friday, 14 February. £100 was donated to help koala bears that have been injured in the bush fires..

**Easter eggs** - donations of Easter eggs gratefully received as are supporting the Lichfield Diocese 'Share a miracle' initiative. The Easter Eggs will be given to the over 60's who join us for afternoon tea on **Friday, 27 March**. Any surplus eggs will be donated to Cheadle and District Foodbank. Please hand Easter eggs in to the office by **Wednesday, 25 March** please.

**Sponsored read** - this will take place from **Thursday, 5 March** for 7 days. Funds raised will be used to boost the reading resources in school. More information has already been sent home

**Bingo Night** - the School Association is organising a Mexican themed Bingo Night to be held at The Blacksmiths Arms on **Saturday, 7 March**. All welcome!

**Mother's Day Gift Stall** - in school on **Friday, 20 March**. All items £1. Donations of gifts gratefully received.

**Promise Auction** - this will take place in Alton Village Hall on **Friday, 27 March**. Promises and your support at the event greatly appreciated! A separate letter has been sent home and is available on the web site. A catalogue of promises will be available shortly.

## Nursery Induction

The children due to start Nursery in the Summer term will join us for the morning of **Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March**. Please let us know of anyone you know who has a pre school/Nursery child so that we can make contact with them and introduce them to all we have to offer!

## Parent Consultations

Parent consultations take place on **Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March and Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March**. Letters have been sent home to arrange your appointment time. Please return your slip by **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March** and your time will be advised to you by **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March**.

## Mothering Sunday

The School Association is holding a Mother's Day gift stall in school on **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March**. All items will cost £1. Donations of gifts gratefully received!  
A group of children will perform in St Peter's Church at 10.45am on **Sunday, 22 March**. School uniform need not be worn.

## Easter Service

The children will be taking part in their Easter Service in St Peter's Church on **Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April** at 9.15am. Following the service in church, you are invited back to school for refreshments, Easter Egg Raffle and Easter Bonnet Parade. Please bring your Easter bonnets in to school in the morning ready to wear on the return from church.



## Gymnastics Competition

The children in Years 1 to 4 will demonstrate their Gymnastics skills in a competition with our Saints Academies schools at Big Top in Uttoxeter on **Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April**. A separate letter will follow with consent to be given on Parent Pay.

## Soccer Stars

Soccer Stars are organising a day of enrichment activities for the whole school on **Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**. Please wear PE kit to school and make sure you have a waterproof coat!

## Shared Reading

To culminate our sponsored reading week, we invite all parents, grandparents and friends to join us for a shared reading session on **Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March** at 2.30pm. Children can bring a favourite book from home to share or select one in school. The intention is that children will sit in small groups with an adult and share a book.

## Curriculum Day

This will take place in school on **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April** between 2.15pm and 5.00pm. It will give parents the opportunity to find out more about what the children learn and methods used to teach. The event will include information about the changes to the curriculum including the new PHSE requirements and Year 4 Times Tables check. Ways in which you can support your child outside school will also be shared.

## Advance notice....

Class 3 (Years 3 and 4) - there will be a violin/ukulele concert organised by Staffordshire Performing Arts on the afternoon of Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June. The concert will take place at Uttoxeter Racecourse. Confirmation of this and further details will follow.

## Reminders

- If your child is to be absent through illness, please contact the office by 9.30am on the first morning.
- Please ensure all children bring a coat to school each day.
- Please remember to bring a school bag each day containing any reading and exercise books, equipment and homework.
- Please respect our neighbours and **DO NOT PARK ON OR OPPOSITE** the yellow lines outside the school gates. Please also mention this to anyone else who may be dropping off or collecting your child.
- Bikes and scooters should be parked carefully in the rack provided and **not ridden in the playground.**
- If you walk your dog to school with you, please can you be mindful that not all children like dogs so please can you stand away from the gates.

## Coronavirus

We would like to update and reassure you about the precautions we are taking against the Novel Coronavirus outbreak. In response to UK medical officers raising the risk level from low to moderate we continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis guided by the latest advice from Public Health England (PHE). We are mindful that you will be concerned about the health of your children and would like to reassure you that we are assessing any potential risks on an ongoing basis. The advice we are following is regularly updated and I would encourage you to follow these updates on the PHE website. Based on the current evidence from World Health Organisation (WHO) and PHE there is no immediate cause for concern, however we are taking the following precautions this week:

- Restricted entry to the school from pupils and visitors from an affected region until the outbreak is contained.
- All staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of the Novel Coronavirus COVID19
- Pupils are being reminded about the importance of good hygiene including regular washing of hands.

The latest update from the NHS can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We ask that any family who has travelled to, or had direct contact with anyone from, a Novel Coronavirus affected area, informs us immediately. Please note: any pupil, parent or visitor who has travelled to or been in direct contact with anyone from a Novel Coronavirus affected area will be asked to remain at home (in accordance with PHE guidance) to prevent the potential spread of the virus. The wellbeing of our community is of the utmost importance at this time. We will continue to keep you informed as official advice changes through our web site - Academy Information, then Useful Links. Should you wish to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff. Further information specifically for educational settings can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

A new helpline has been launched to answer questions about COVID19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

## Dates for the calendar

Date	Applies to	Event/Activity
<b>March</b>		
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup>	Class 3	Chartwells workshop 'Inside Out' - Healthy Eating in connection with Science topic
Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup>	All	Sponsored 'Read Week'
Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup>	All	World Book Day - poems and rhymes. Fancy dress theme is favourite book character!
Friday, 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pre school	Application deadline for Nursery - summer term
Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup>	All	Mexican themed Bingo Night for the grown ups at The Blacksmiths Arms
Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4	Activities afternoon at Smallwood Manor 1.00pm to 4.30pm
Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup>	All	Parents/grandparents shared reading event 2.30pm to 3.15pm
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup>	All	Scholastic Books order deadline
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pre school	'Taster' session for Nursery summer term starters
Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup>	All	School Association Mother's Day gift stall in school
Sunday, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	All	Mothering Sunday Service in St Peter's Church at 10.45am
Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup>	All	Parent consultations 3.15pm to 6.00pm
Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup>	Class 2 and 3	Parent consultations 3.15pm to 5.00pm
Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup>	Over 60's	Afternoon Tea for the Over 60's 1.30pm to 3.00pm
Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup>	All	Promise Auction in Alton Village Hall
Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup>	All	Soccer Stars Enrichment Day
<b>April</b>		
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup>	All	Curriculum event in school at 2.15pm to 5.00pm
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	All	Easter Service in St Peter's Church at 9.15am
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	All	Easter Bonnet Parade, Easter Egg Raffle and refreshments in school following the Easter Service
Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	All	Last day of Spring term
Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup>	Class 3	Opportunity for the children who have taken part in the Communion Before Confirmation course to receive communion from the Bishop in St Peter's Church at 10.45am
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> to Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup>	All	Easter holiday
Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup>	All	School closed - INSET day for staff
Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup>	All	School reopens for the Summer term
Wednesday, 29 <sup>th</sup>	Years 1 to 4	Gymnastics Competition
<b>May</b>		
Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup>	All	School closed - Bank Holiday
Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup>	All	Sports Day - weather permitting!
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup>	All	Sports Day (reserve - weather permitting!)
Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> to Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup>	All	Half term holiday

Holiday/term dates for 2020/21 are available from the office or the web site