



St Peter's Press

School Year 2023/24 – Summer Term

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter. We are excited to be able to tell you about a fantastic range of activities and events this term, just cross your fingers for the weather! We have the usual wide variety of engaging summer-term clubs, trips and visits, including some perennial favourites and adding some new activities alongside. For any that you are able attend/support, we look forward to seeing you... you may especially like the Sports' Day Pupil-Parent Gym Session!

If there is anything in here that you would like to know more about, please don't hesitate to speak to us in person – we're always happy to chat – or visit our website at www.stpetersswinton.co.uk.



Brilliant Behaviour, Riveting Rewards!

At this point in the last issue, we told you about our updated Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy, to give even greater recognition to children displaying brilliant attitudes towards school and showing **Kindness, Respect, Resilience, Community (teamwork), Positivity and Responsibility**. Well, we are thrilled to see how well the Dojo system has come on, and pupils really enjoy the outcomes: they love the pens, pencils, books and other assorted awards, but it is especially lovely to see how many are choosing to trade their points for the most simple rewards – with choices such as 'sit with a friend in class', 'be first in line', 'DJ for Daily Mile' and, even, 'clean the dinner tables' being the most popular so far!! Who said the best rewards cost a fortune?!

SUMMER TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 01/05/24 – Nursery Families' Reading Meeting | 21/06/24 – Y3 Class Assembly – Ancient Egypt |
| 07/05/24 – Nursery Chicks Arrive! (Life-Cycles) | 23/06/24 – Choir Perform at Bridgewater Hall |
| 13/05/24 – Y6 SATs Week | 25/06/24 – St Peter's 'Tri-Kidz' Triathlon Day |
| 21/05/24 – Swinton Schools' Y3/4 Tennis Festival | 27&28/06/24 – Y6 High-School Transition Days |
| 22&23/05/24 – Y4 Outdoor Education Staycation | 28/06/24 – St P's Transition Day: with next tchr |
| 20/05/24 – Y6 'I Sing Pop' Day | 29/06/24 – St Peter's Day |
| 24/05/24 – Swinton Schools' Swimming Gala, am | 01/07/24 – Assessment (Y2,3,4,5) & RSE Week |
| 24/05/24 – Reception Class Assembly, 2.30pm | 01/07/24 – Y4 Lowry Violin Concert, 7.30pm |
| 27/05/24 – Whit Half-Term Fortnight | 02/07/24 – Reception Smithills Farm Trip |
| 10/06/24 – Health & Wellbeing Month/Term | 03/07/24 – Y1 Knowsley Safari Park Trip |
| 10/06/24 – Y1 Phonic Screening Week | 05/07/24 – Nursery Class Assembly, 2.30pm |
| 10/06/24 – Y4 Multiplication Challenge Week | 06/07/24 – Church Summer Fair, Fletcher Hall |
| 11/06/24 – Swinton Schools' Cricket Festival | 08/07/24 – Green Week: 5 days of eco-activities |
| 11/06/24 – School Online-Safety Day (ch'n) | 11/07/24 – Swinton Schools' Football Festival |
| 13/06/24 – Welcome Mtg: Nurs & Rec'n Families | 15/07/24 – Pupil Council Meet the Governors |
| 14/06/24 – New EYFS Children Drop-In (9-10.30) | 17/07/24 – Y4 Greek Day / End-Yr Reports Home |
| 14/06/24 – Y4 Class Assembly – Urban v Rural | 18/07/24 – Y6 Leavers' Service, Church, 6pm (tbc) |
| 17/06/24 – Y6 Manchester Cathedral & Bee Tour | 22/07/24 – Nursery Picnic in the Park |
| 17/06/24 – National School-Sport Week | 23/07/24 – St Peter's Has Talent – The Final |
| 18/06/24 – Salford Schools' Athletics Festival | 24/07/24 – Y6 Leavers' Bowl & Dine, 1-5pm (tbc) |
| 19/06/24 – Sports' Day (Jr 9.20am, Inf 1.20pm) | 25/07/24 – Celebration Assembly, 9.30am |
| 20&21/06/24 – School Parkour Days – all classes | 25/07/24 – Break-up for Summer Holiday |

Plus, even more trips and events to be finalised. Details to follow.

The Power of Play: Purposeful Play!

All the research shows that **if children play well, they learn well**. If they have a space to expand energy, to be creative, to use imagination and to enjoy time with friends or on their own or, it sets up the foundations for schooling.



It also means that **'learning by stealth'** can take place (don't tell the children!), because all of the activities on a playground develop the characteristics of **teamwork, resilience, problem-solving, adventure-taking, meeting challenges and developing self-esteem**, to name but a few. Plus, anything that engage children in school and make it an even more appealing place to be can only be positive.

At St Peter's, we have always placed a high priority on ensuring that **children's wellbeing is developed by stimulating breaktimes** that enthuse them and give them a wide range of activities to choose from. For some it may be traditional team sports, like football or basketball, for others it may be smaller group activities like skipping or hopscotch, whilst some prefer reading, playing board games or chatting with friends. So, thanks to the efforts of staff, pupils and helpful volunteers, we can tell you...

To enhance our provision even further and to give our children ever-greater choice, we are very excited to unveil two new major playtime activities: **Sunshine Gym** and **Loose-Parts Play**, with the success of both shown in these photos and information...

The benefits of a **Sunshine Gym**...

Active Break Times

Often becoming the highlight of the playground, a Sunshine Gym will promote physical activity to every child.

Builds Sports Capacity

Sunshine Gym equipment and training lets you add to the physical activity your school offers – making sustainable improvements to benefit both current and future pupils.

Encourages Least Active Children

Nearly 1 in 3 UK children aged 2 to 15 are currently overweight or obese, storing up future health problems. Appropriate levels of physical activity help to maintain a healthy body weight.

Develops PE & Physical Activity

The PE curriculum requires 120 minutes of weekly exercise – easily achievable with a Sunshine Gym. Enhance other lessons too, like maths, by charting progress.

Enjoyable Participation

A Sunshine Gym is great fun for children to use, needing no encouragement to exercise freely with a smile on their face.

Improves Academic Performance

Recently published university studies indicate that even a slight amount of physical activity can boost a child's classroom performance and results by up to 20%.

Increases Vitamin D Absorption

Preventable vitamin D related diseases such as rickets are making a comeback. Time spent outdoors is essential for absorbing vitamin D – also known as the 'Sunshine Vitamin'.

Promotes Social Engagement

Sunshine Gym outdoor gyms encourage self-expression, self-confidence, social interaction and integration as pupils exercise together in lessons and breaks.

Inclusive For All Pupils

Our accessible equipment lets children of varying abilities and fitness levels take part in cardiovascular exercises, with some items suitable for children who are wheelchair users.

Sunshine Gym and Loose-Parts Play

Loose-Parts Play may be less obvious, but is equally valuable in its impact upon children. The theory behind this, according to creator Simon Nicholson, revolves around the activity of children manipulating and using open-ended materials as they play. Using the 'loose parts' in our environment helps us to form connections, and discovering connections fuels creativity.



Loose-parts play promotes cognitive development and strengthens critical skills in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). But, most importantly, it encourages children to explore the powers – and the joys – of their imagination, so we have called this area of our playground '**The Imagineering Zone**'. It's fascinating to watch it unfold each break-time, this part of the playground really does what it says on the shed!

Dazzling Daily Mile

And by the way, we have a new accreditation to our school name – congratulations to all, St Peter's is not only now an accredited Daily Mile School (see Granada Reports for details!), but **we have just been awarded the prestigious 'Daily Mile Fit-for-Life Award' – one of the first 100 schools in the country to receive this!!**



The fitness generated by the Daily Mile is amazing, as is the impact it has on pupils' wellbeing. But even more rewarding than this, it is such **a heartwarming example of our older and younger pupils buddying-up** and looking out for each other; nothing is forced, none of the children are told to do it, but the way they team up and build relationships across the school by walking, running and laughing together is just wonderful to see!

This Term's Extra-Curricular Clubs

And if there's not enough variety of activity during the school day's lessons and breaktimes, here's a reminder of our extra-curricular offer this term...

(8 sessions from wk beg 29th April to wk beg 1st July; running 3.20-4.20pm unless stated)

Y1-6 Boomwhackers (Tue) YN-R Multi-Activities (Weds, 12.20-1.20pm)

Y1-2 Multi-Sport (Weds) Y1-6 Choir (Weds, 3.20-4.20pm)

Y3-4 Computing (Thurs) Y5-6 Art/Craft/Badminton (Thurs)



And finally, some housekeeping matters of note...

Parking Near School

We have said this before, but it remains an issue: please be aware that cars parked around the entrance to Chatsworth Futures School, across Vicarage Road, cause great disruption to those accessing specialist vehicles at the start and end of the school day. If there is no space to park legitimately near school, please use the designated car-park on the corner with Partington Lane. Also, cameras have been installed on Vicarage Road, so as well as poor parking being dangerous for our young people, it could land drivers in financial trouble.



Music Lessons

Our individual guitar, violin and keyboard lessons (paid for by parents, but subsidised by school and Salford LA) remain very popular. We keep waiting lists for when places arise and, with that in mind, we can tell you that there will be at least six spaces for guitar lessons from September, as there is a group of Y6 pupils who play and will be moving on. If your child is interested in guitar, keyboard or violin lessons, contact the school office for details.

Online Safety

You will not be surprised to hear that school staff receive regular, thorough safeguarding-update training from the local authority. In our latest whole-staff session in April, the training focused heavily on **one of the fastest growing areas of child protection – online safety**.

Did you know?

-the vast majority of **internet exploitation of children** – and sexploitation – occurs when they are online (phones, consoles, ipads) in their bedrooms, out of sight of their parents or carers.
-one of the **most-used sites for online grooming is Roblox**. True, there are many engaging games for young people to play on Roblox, which is why it is so popular with children, but this is also why it is, sadly, such a focus for those with ill-intent.



Our children receive half-termly online safety training as standard; in June this will be delivered by Salford's 'e-safety safeguarding specialist' and, if there is enough interest from parents/carers, we aim to run an adults' version in July.

Church News

A committed group of our pupils has been helping out in church and were especially valuable in performing these voluntary roles when they served at the many busy services during Holy week and Easter. If any other families are interested in similar, we can happily put you in touch with Mr Dave Berry or Fr Jeremy. Also, classes are currently running for confirmation – for adults and children; please contact the Parish Office for details.



Uniform Quickie

There has been much less lost uniform this year than in recent times, which is great, but as the weather improves and children leave jumpers and cardigans around school it is especially important to write names in items of clothing, please. This saves families a lot of frustration.

Pupil Council/Eco-Group

This term, the Pupil Council will be working towards Green Week, where a range of simple environmental activities will be planned – meat-free day, no electricity day, etc. If anyone has any suggestions, please pass these onto your child to tell his/her Pupil Council class rep.

Term Dates 2023/24

Summer Half-Term 1
Summer Half-Term 2

Open (at 8:50am) on:

Monday 15th April
Monday 10th June

Break up (at 3:20pm) on:

Friday 24th May
Thursday 25th July

NB: Please see our website for term dates for the next three years, or call at the school office for a paper copy.