

Spring 2025 - Newsletter 2

Messages From Mr Hitchcock...



I've had a fantastic start to the new term, seeing the enthusiasm and love of learning from our pupils. We've been focusing on **speaking in full sentences** (more on that below), and I've been so impressed with the progress so far—it ties in beautifully with our values of respect.

I've also been delighted by the **wonderful learning activities** happening around the school, so be sure to check out the photos below.

A huge thank you for the **incredible support for our fundraising campaign** already! Pupils, staff, and parents have come up with some fantastic ideas, including a car wash and a 12-hour adult sports event. Our official in-school launch is next Friday with 'Crazy Hair Day'—whether you're raising money or simply taking part, we'd love for everyone to get involved. For more details, visit: <https://www.stpetersfundraising.co.uk/fundraising-challenge>.

We've already raised nearly £1,000—just 100 more steps to reach the top of our fundraising mountain!



Manners Matter at St Peter's

This term, we are focusing on developing good manners by encouraging pupils to speak in full sentences. We are using the slogan "Think it, Say it, Improve it".

Using full sentences not only improves communication skills but also promotes respect and thoughtfulness in how we speak to others.

You can support this at home by encouraging your child to use full sentences during conversations.

Here are some examples of sentence stems to practise. "Please say that again, and improve it with some manners":

- "Please may I have..."
- "Thank you for..."
- "Excuse me, could you..."
- "I'm sorry for..."

By practising these small but meaningful habits, we can help our children build respectful and confident communication skills that will serve them throughout life. Thank you for your support in reinforcing this important focus at home!

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and Year 6 SATs: Building Skills and Confidence

At St Peter's, we believe that key assessments like the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and Year 6 SATs are important milestones in your child's educational journey. These assessments are carefully designed to measure their progress and ensure they are developing the key skills they need for future success.

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

The Phonics Screening Check, which will take place in June, is a short, simple assessment of your child's ability to decode words using phonics. It helps us identify how well your child is developing their reading skills and allows us to provide any extra support if needed. You can find more information about the check on the government's website [here](#).

We prepare for this step from the very beginning of your child's time at St Peter's by immersing them in phonics lessons and fostering a love of reading. While we take the check seriously, our approach is to ensure children feel supported and confident, without placing unnecessary pressure on them.

Year 6 SATs

For our Year 6 pupils, the SATs in May mark the culmination of their primary education. These tests assess their knowledge and skills in reading, writing, and maths, providing valuable insights into their progress. This year's detailed guidance for parents about the SATs is available [here](#).

Our staff work hard to ensure that SATs are approached as an opportunity for children to showcase their learning over the years, rather than a source of stress. With careful preparation and support, we aim to give every child the confidence to perform at their best, while maintaining a sense of balance and wellbeing.

Termly Allergy Reminders

Each term I will remind you of classes where we have severe allergies. Your understanding in carefully choosing what to send in for packed lunches and snacks is appreciated.

- Apple - Nuts
- Cherry - Nuts and Peanuts
- Chestnut - Kiwi & Peanut
- Rowan - Nut
- Ash - Peanut

Year 6 Journalist's First Article...

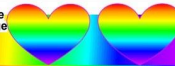
Wheelchair awareness day

Mrs Broad and Eva take on the complexities of living a day at school...in a wheelchair!!

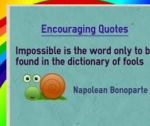


Wheelchair awareness day.

People should be able to do anything. Change the environment not the person



Wheelchair awareness day is a very important day to remember how important it is for everyone to get around, people who are in wheelchairs find it harder to get around because not everyone is aware of how important it is for **EVERYBODY!!** So that is why every single person needs to know about wheelchair awareness.



Wheelchair awareness day



Things that need to be changed

- ★ More ramps
- ★ More inclusive equipment

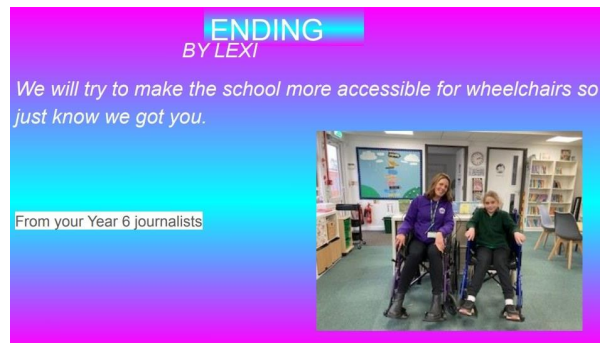
Before...

How did this idea come about?

It all started when Eva had slipped on the ice at the Eden Project. She was in a wheelchair for a bit, and it was HORRIBLE! She was then poorly at home, and there were lots of rumours of her being on holiday, so Mrs Broad phoned her mum. They were chatting about how she was in a wheelchair for a bit and Mrs Broad suggested that they tried being in a wheelchair at school for a day. It was completely untested beforehand, so Mrs Broad and Eva will have no idea what to suspect.

"I'm most scared about the gate," Mrs Broad admitted, "I don't like it when people look down on me."

Eva, meanwhile, was excited about seeing her friends faces.



*Support the school library - here is link to our wishlist -
<https://amzn.eu/8yCz80d>*



Disco!

Friday 7th February.

Neon Themed Winter Disco.

Reception & KS1 children: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

KS2 children: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Tickets £3.50 each, including refreshments and neon face paints.

Get ready to glow and groove at the ultimate Neon Disco!

- DJ playing the hottest tunes!
- Tuck shop full of tasty treats!
- Glow stall for all your neon needs!

Tickets on sale NOW

Buy your tickets using the following link : www.st.peters.fundraising.co.uk

Can you help? If you can help out on the night, please sign up here: <https://volunteer-signup.org/7YPFW>

Headteacher Awards...



1 - For raising awareness of disabilities



2 - For fantastic effort



3 - For fantastic effort



4 - For fantastic effort



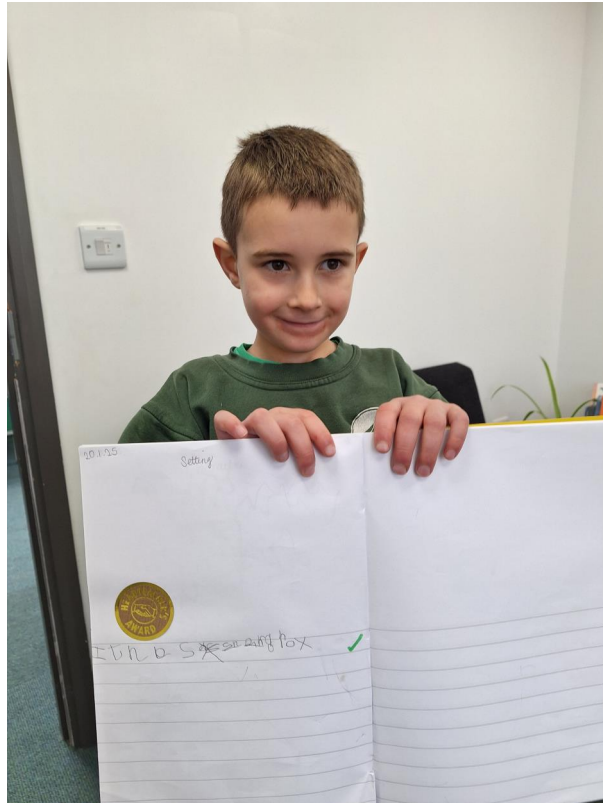
5 - For lovely story maps



6 - For great art effort



7 - For super effort



8 - For super effort



9 - For super effort with their letter formation



10 - For super effort



11 - For super effort with their letter formation



12 - For super effort with art



13 - For super effort with art



14 - For writing AND maths effort



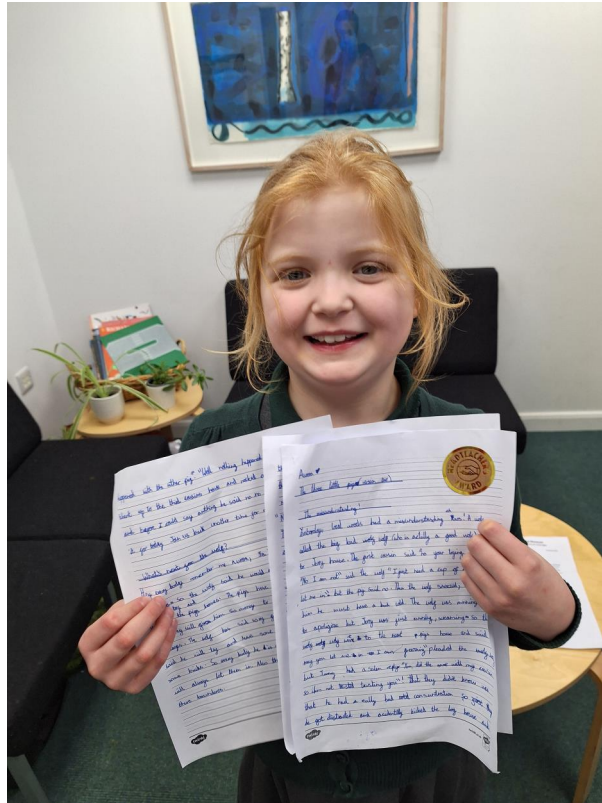
15 - For writing effort



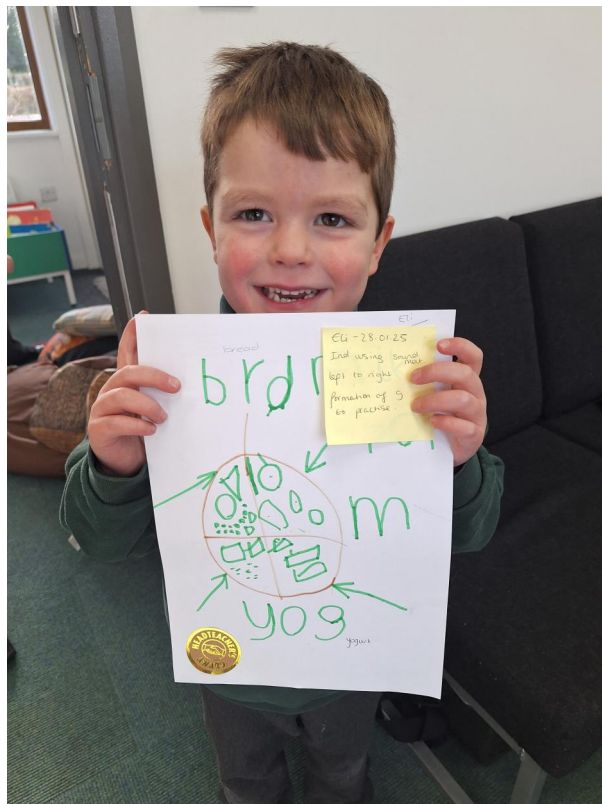
16 - For KS2 standard writing in year 1!



17 - For letter formation effort



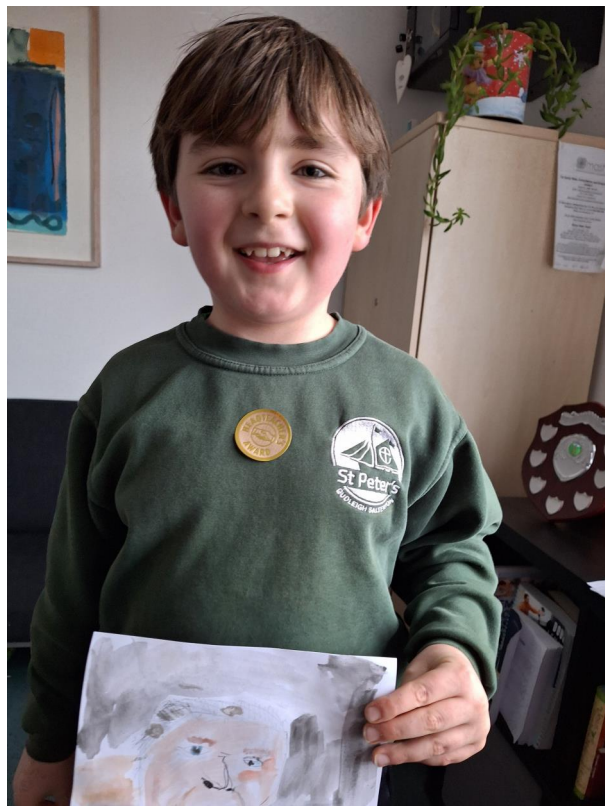
18 - For writing effort



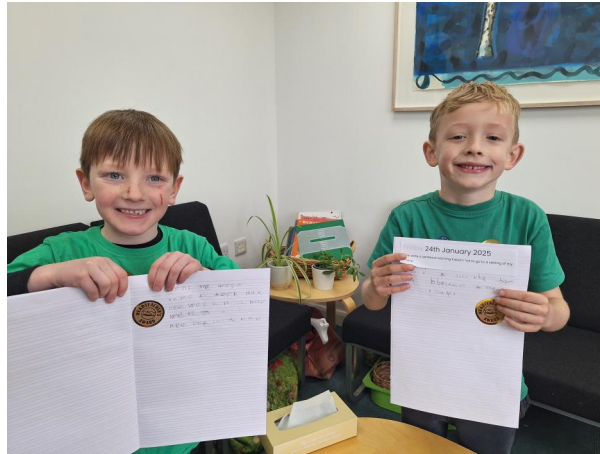
19 - For letter formation effort



20 - For work on racism



21 - For effort in art



22 - For writing effort

What's Been Happening In School...



23 - I got to watch a lovely performance by Apple class - half playing on the xylophones and the other half singing and dancing - what a treat!

Brushing Teeth Reminder

Following the dentist's visit last week, we want to encourage all our pupils to keep up good brushing habits. Regular brushing helps protect teeth and keep smiles healthy!

- ✓ Brush twice a day for two minutes
- ✓ Use fluoride toothpaste
- ✓ Spit, don't rinse, after brushing
- ✓ Cut down on sugary snacks and drinks
- ✓ Visit the dentist regularly

Let's keep those smiles shining! 😁🦷

Chestnut Class had a wonderful time at Forest School recently - they were even blessed with the sun!





Becky Mason and her fabulous team of yr8 and yr9 ECC sport leaders, led a series of physical activities at Exmouth Tennis Centre. Pupils from 8 primary schools in our learning community thoroughly enjoyed dance, yoga, gymnastics and team building skills.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to Becky for organising and leading this wonderful event, once more.







Last Friday, St. Peter's C of E Primary held a fantastic Wheelchair Awareness Day, inspired by Year 5 student Eva. A passionate advocate for kindness, inclusion, and positive change, Eva suggested experiencing a school day using wheelchairs to deepen understanding of accessibility.

Eva and Mrs. Broad both participated, raising awareness and sparking meaningful conversations. "Our children asked such thoughtful questions, which really impressed us," said Mrs. Broad. "It also highlighted areas for improvement, and we're committed to addressing them."

Overall, our school is highly accessible and inclusive. We're so proud of Eva and her dedication to making a difference! For resources on disability awareness, visit [Scope UK](#) or [Disability Rights UK](#).



A huge shoutout to our amazing girls who represented **St. Peter's** at the EALC Girls Football Tournament!

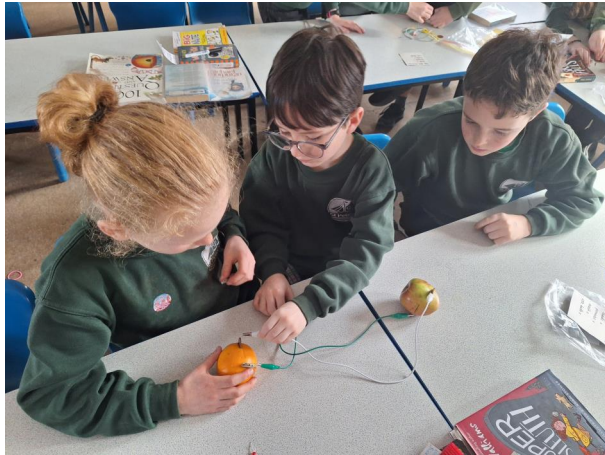
With so many talented and passionate players joining football training on Mondays after school, selecting the team was no easy task. A big thank you to our brilliant **Ms. Birch** for leading and inspiring these young athletes.

We're incredibly grateful to **Ms. Mason** and the team at ECC for organising such a fantastic event, our wonderful office staff for sorting all the logistics, and **Mr. Hitchcock** for his unwavering support and sideline cheers.

Together, we're not just playing football – we're empowering girls, building confidence, and fostering teamwork. 9 goals?! Wow.



We had another inspiring Eco workshop last week, this time into Beech class. The class learnt how batteries worked and how damaging they can be for the environment. To help with their understanding, they used fruit to create electricity! Lovely stuff.





Cedar Class teamed up with our Eco Champions to make bird feeders and take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. They loved spotting a variety of birds using our school grounds!





Pupil Celebrations...

Well done to...Elsie, Wolfe, Florence, Holly, Poppy



24 - Well done to Elsie who received her purple belt in martial arts recently!



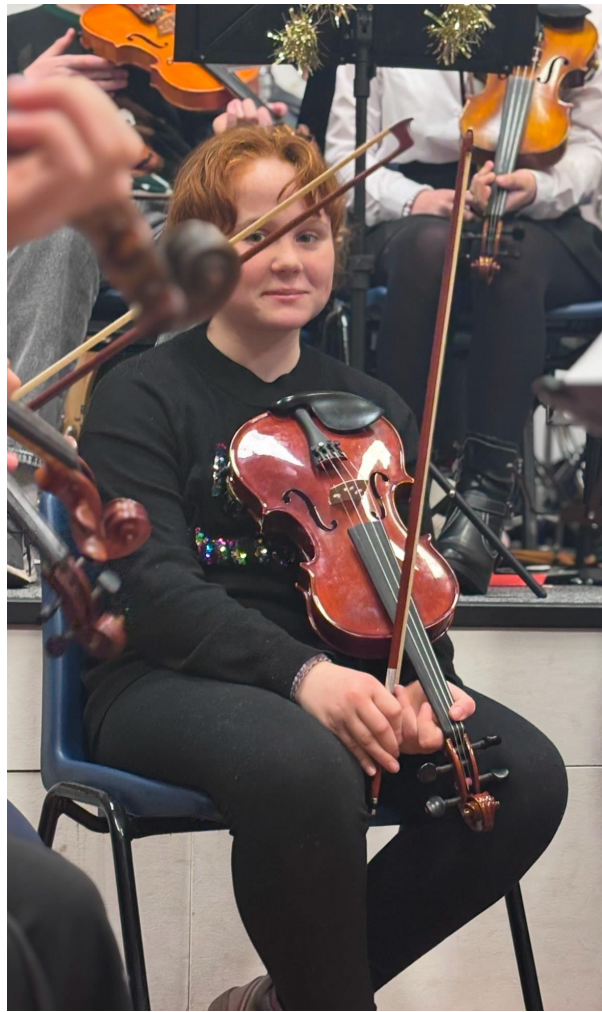
25 - Well done to Wolfe who was awarded passer of the week at rugby recently AND also TREADS player of the week!



26 - Well done to Florence who 3rd place in the Juniors category at the Exe Equestrian annual awards on Friday night!



27 - Well done to Holly who took part in a gymnastics competition recently and came 1st on Beam and 3rd on Bar!



28 - Well done to Poppy who took part in her first ever youth orchestra performance in Exeter recently!

Can You Help Fran?



Five weeks before Christmas, my nine-year-old son Woody was diagnosed with Type1 Diabetes. He already has coeliac disease, another auto-immune disease. The physical, practical and logistical impact is huge, with carb counting, several injections a day, and 24/7 blood sugar monitoring to ensure he doesn't go hypo or hyper, and lose consciousness. The emotional toll is as huge, as this is a life-long affliction which will affect every aspect of his life, forever.

So I'm running 50km across Dartmoor for Woody, for his friends who also have it - Kitt, Daisy and Willow, and all the other children and adults fronting up to this adversity and not letting it stand in their way of anything.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/fran-mcelhone-run-for-woody-and-friends?utm_term=kkBQW5nvm

Coming Up In The School & Community...



HOLIDAY CAMP

EXETER UNIVERSITY (ST LUKE'S CAMPUS)



WHAT TO EXPECT

- Glow Sports
- Arts & Crafts
- Bubble Football
- Inflatable Games
- Bouncy Castles
- Swimming
- Sports & Team Games

GOOD TO KNOW

- Monday 17th - Friday 21st February
- ✓ Ages 5-12
- £ £42.50 Day / £191.25 week (10% discount)
- ⌚ 8:15am - 5:15pm (Ages 5 - 12)

Join us this February Half Term for an exciting programme with at least 6 activities each day.

Accept tax free / childcare vouchers

More information
01392 984233

Visit our website
sportystars.co.uk



Become a Citizen Science volunteer and help clean up the River Otter



The Otter should epitomise England's ecologically rich and diverse river habitats. Unfortunately, the Middle and Lower sections of the River Otter are both classified by the Environment Agency (EA) as '**Poor Ecological Status**'. This puts the River Otter in the worst 20% of the UK's rivers, with **significant impacts on plant life, wildlife and fish populations**.

The EA identify the main pollutant types & key sources:

- **Sewage discharges** coming from South West Water's (SWW) sewage systems. In 2023, SWW dumped **3x more untreated sewage hours into the River Otter, than into Exmouth bay**. This drives high Phosphate levels
- Pollution from '**Agriculture and Land Management**', specifically livestock, soil and nutrient management

The Otter Valley Association are committed to a program of restoring the Otter to its natural habitat

Become a Citizen Science volunteer and help clean our river.

- Join on your own – or make up your own team of 2-4 volunteers
- Commit to **½ to 1 day of testing, every two months, starting March 2025**
- All test and safety kit provided to teams
- Free, comprehensive training course – with our other CSI volunteers
- Access to the latest testing data and regular newsletters
- Share your experiences in your local Facebook or social media groups

A credible water-quality data set will enable us to:

- Focus South West Water on quickly addressing **five key polluting assets**
- Identify sections of river where the most agricultural pollution is occurring and work with partner organisations to help improve land management



Find out more & help clean up our river.

Come along to: Kings Arms, Otterton. 6th February @ 6.30pm

Or email: editor@ova.org.uk

Quick Links...

- [Need to know pages](#)
- [Term dates](#)

- [Menus](#)
- [Uniform](#)
- [Stationery](#)
- [Online safety](#)
- [St Peter's Fundraising](#)

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