



Autumn 2025 - Newsletter 7

Messages From Mr Hitchcock...



Dear families,

Oh, what a lovely time of year it is in school. The nativities have now all been performed to rapturous applause, and the children shone with confidence, humour and heart. We've also taken our music out into the community, singing in local care homes and sharing some beautiful Christmas artwork with those who may be feeling lonely at this time of year — a big thank you to Samantha, Martha's mum, for organising the distribution of the art.

We've still got our big KS1/2 performance to come: *Lights, Camel, Action!* — the Strictly-themed nativity from our brilliant drama club and supported by every class. It promises to be a real highlight of the Christmas season.

We also know that this is not an easy time of year for everyone. Ash Class reminded us of the true heart of Christmas this week with fantastic presentations explaining to a group of imaginary aliens what Christmas is really about. They began with the Christmas story, but also explored the traditions we share, the joy of being together, and the importance of kindness and looking out for one another. Their message reflects our Good Samaritan ethos perfectly: noticing others, offering help, and finding ways to bring light into someone else's day.

Art Exhibition

Our art exhibition this week has been a real celebration of creativity. Art and D&T are such strengths of St Peter's, and it was wonderful to see children taking such pride in their work. While reading, writing and maths remain essential foundations, the creative arts play a vital role in helping children express themselves, think critically and develop confidence.

A huge thank you to Mrs Evans and Mrs Walshaw for their leadership, and to Mrs Billingham, Mrs Richards and Mrs Morrish for their fantastic teaching and commitment to the arts.

Year 6 Clubs and Leadership

Our Year 6 pupils continue to live out the Good Samaritan culture of kindness, giving their time to run clubs and support younger pupils. Do take a look at the picture of Eva and Ivor running a wonderful puppet club for some of the Reception children — a perfect example of how small acts of kindness make a big difference.

They also received their Year 6 hoodies this week, a symbol of their role as leaders and role models around school. We're very proud of them.

Short Notices

Thank you, Budleigh Literary Festival

We are very grateful for a generous donation of lovely new books — they've already created a real buzz around the classrooms.

Please help us bring books back!

We're running a reading-book amnesty. Please have a check at home, under beds and in bags. To support this, our Year 6 librarians will now visit classes weekly to help gather in any stray books.

We are also looking to boost our stock. If you have any of the following in good condition, we would love them:

- Harry Potter
- Graphic novels
- *Bunny vs Monkey*
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*
- David Walliams
- Non-fiction (dinosaurs, animals, history, poetry)

Nits

We've had a small outbreak of nits this week. Please check your child's hair. The most effective method is wet-combing with conditioner every few days over a two-week period. A quick search for **"NHS head lice and nits"** will take you to the clearest guidance.

Library Christmas Crafting

Tom and Angie will be running their lovely Christmas craft session at the library this Saturday, **13 December, 10.00–12.00**. Children can decorate handmade festive figures — reindeer, angels, robins, trees and teddies — using all the materials provided. It's ideal for younger children, free of charge, and donations to the library are warmly welcomed.

Wishing all our families warmth, connection and moments of calm in this busy season. Whether you celebrate Christmas or simply enjoy the chance to pause with loved ones, we hope the coming weeks bring peace and kindness to your homes.

Mr Steve Hitchcock

Headteacher





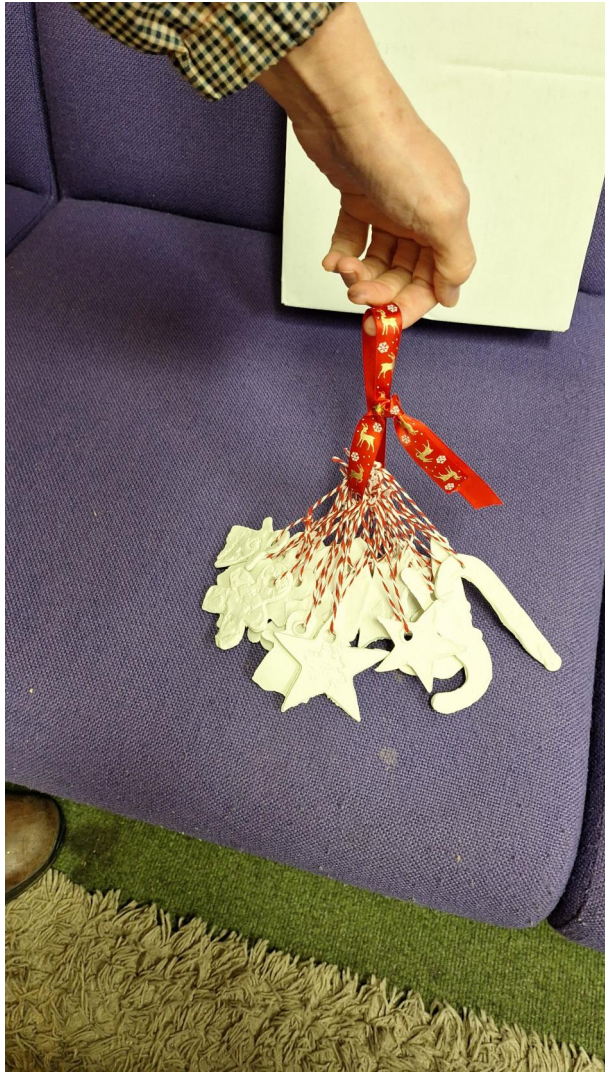
2 - Art and DT exhibition







3 - Well done to Jack for representing St Peter's at the South West Trampolining finals last weekend!



Supporting Budleigh Library – Can You Help...?



Many of you will already be aware of the proposed reduction in staffed hours at Budleigh Library and the impact this could have on children, families and the wider community. A parent has approached me with an idea to help raise awareness locally by sharing information outside the library on Saturdays in January, so that more residents understand what's at stake and know how to take part in the consultation.

If you'd like to join in, even for a short spell, please let Jess know - jesskdt@gmail.com. This is a chance for our community to stand up for a service that means so much to so many.

Smartphone Free Childhood...

From the parents of Smartphone Free Childhood at St Peter's:

I watched this 13 minute YouTube video so *you* don't have to..... and I can tell you that giving your child their first phone doesn't need to be "all or nothing" when it comes to tech.

The guide in the video covers a whole range of devices which allow varying and customisable degrees of independence and access to the internet, social media, and more.

If you're considering a phone for your child this Christmas (or anytime), we would recommend giving this video a watch as you might be surprised by the clever, child-friendly tech out there.

[8 Best Phones for Kids \(algorithms not included\) - YouTube](#)

And top tip: consider the Parent Shield SIM card for children's mobile devices (vouched for by a St. P's parents!) [ParentShield Child Safe SIM and Mobile Network for Children](#)

Sextortion is real and a huge concern. Research from the NSPCC finds that **around one in five parents and carers know and have supported a child who has been blackmailed online.** Unredacted lawsuits from Snapchat reveal that the company receives roughly **10,000 reports of sextortion every month**, a figure that their researchers say represents only a fraction of the abuse occurring on their platform. Other platforms face similar problems. None have been able to contain it.

Before giving your kids unrestricted access to the internet and social media (including WhatsApp), familiarise yourself with this issue.

Read the NSPCC research [here](#).

And read a first hand, heartbreaking account of sextortion [here](#) - we found it really easy to understand how tech can spin out of control for even the most level headed kids.

Splash...



4 - Join us this Sunday (14th Dec) for a fun-filled, family-friendly service exploring the good news about Christmas through songs, stories, puppets and craft.

The service starts at 10.30am at our chapel (Little Knowle, B. Salterton, EX9 6QS). Everybody is very welcome, and we'd love to see you. For more info about this and our other Christmas services, please visit www.budleighbaptist.org.uk/christmas.

No Sweets in School...



No Sweets in School

A quick reminder that pupils should not bring sweets into school with Christmas cards or for birthday treats. This is to keep children with allergies safe, ensure all pupils are treated fairly, and support our focus on healthy habits. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Who's Who? Mrs Jerusha Warren...



Mrs Warren has been at St Peter's since 2020. She currently spends her mornings in Willow class and her afternoons in Cedar. She loves splitting her day between 2 classes because it means she gets to spend time with lots of different children. Mrs Warren also shares

responsibility of running the school library which is wonderful because she loves reading! Mrs Warren's favourite teacher at school was Mrs Jones, she was strict and funny and she was really good at celebrating people for their different strengths and achievements. Mrs Warren's favourite subject at school was art, and it still is today! Mrs Warren's favourite thing to do with the children at St Peter's is going to forest school. She loves watching them build dens, problem solve, play, laugh and enjoy getting muddy! Mrs Warren loves reading! Her favourite picture books are 'The Tiger who came to tea' and the Mog books, both by Judith Kerr. Her favourite chapter book is 'The house on hummingbird island' by Sam Angus. In her spare time Mrs Warren likes reading, going for long walks, going to national trust places and baking cakes but her favourite thing to do is spending time with her Husband and 2 children, Lorelei and Miliani. If Mrs Warren had one wish for the school it would be for more funding so that there were enough staff to spend more time with the children in smaller groups and, of course, an enormous library!

What's Coming Up Next...

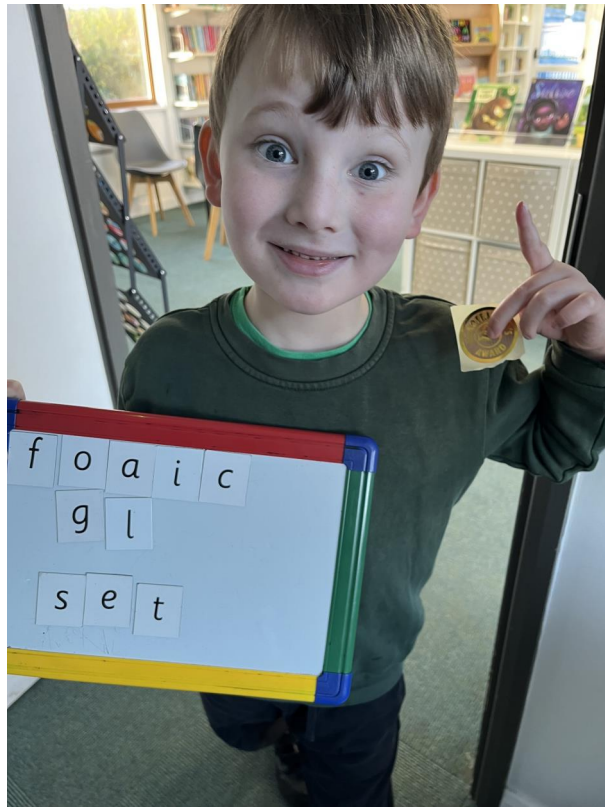
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Don't forget to check the **NEED TO KNOW** page every Sunday, to check for events coming up in school that week.

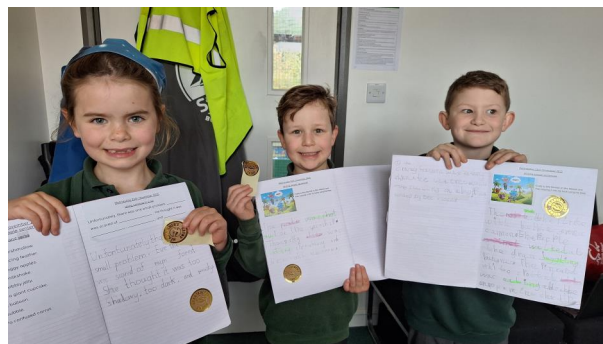
You can access it by clicking the following link <https://st-peters-school.org.uk/class-info/>

Headteacher Awards...

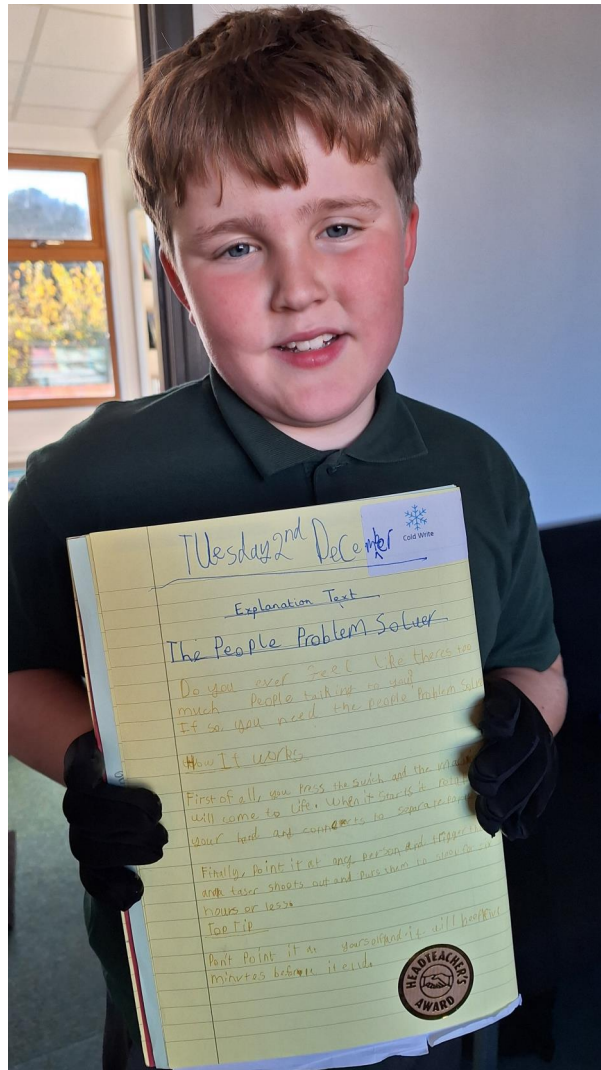


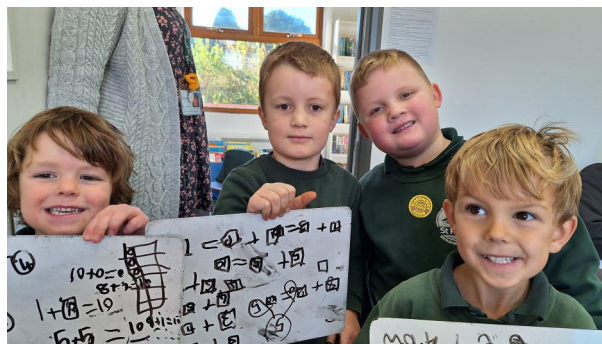


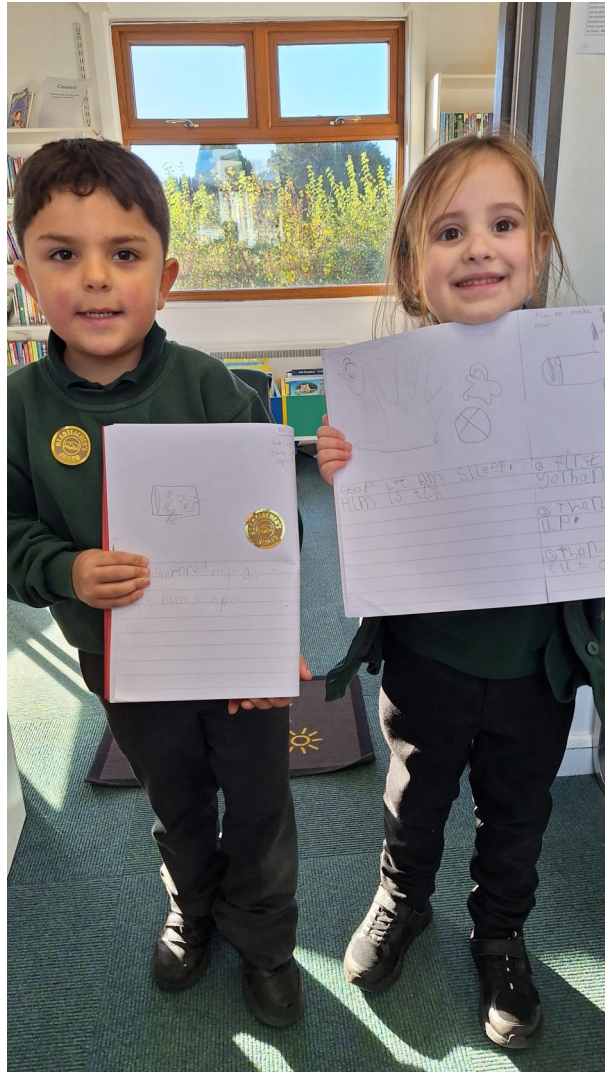




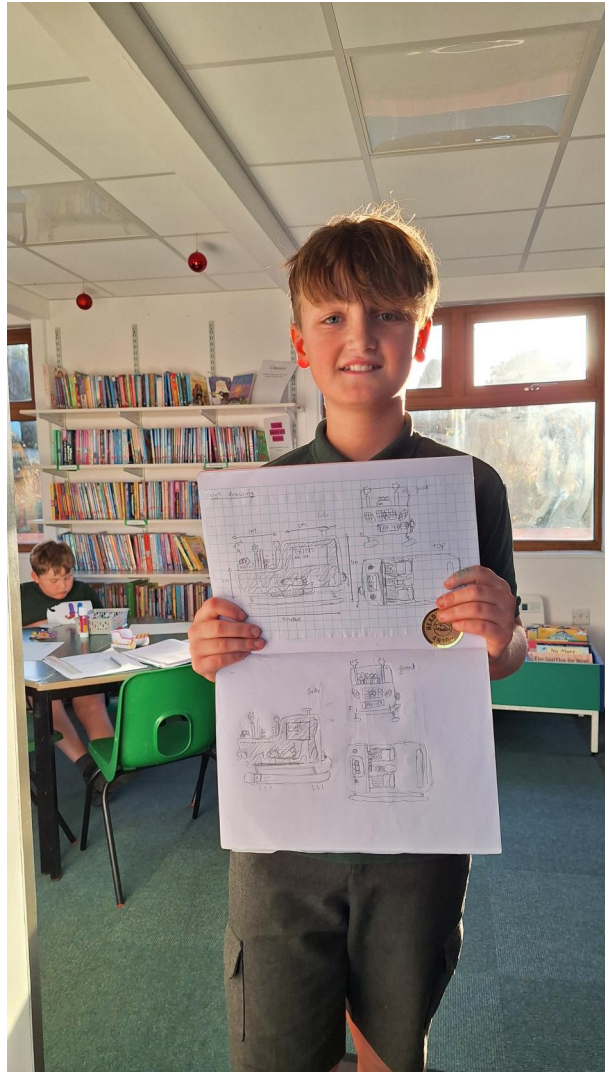












What's Been Happening In School...



What an incredible author visit we had on Thursday with Rachel Bright! She was so much fun — the children were instantly captivated by her brilliant storytelling and amazing drawing skills. Our Year 5 buddies joined Reception Class alongside Year 1 and Year 2 and they were such fantastic role models, whether they were roaring like lions or quiet as mice! Everyone left wanting to draw turtles, read Rachel's wonderful new book 'The Turtle Who Turned the Tide', and even visit Costa Rica! We feel so lucky to welcome so many inspiring visiting authors who really do ignite our children's creativity. A huge thank you also to the Budleigh Literacy Festival Team for continuing to invest in these magical experiences and making events like this happen.





Last week we welcomed our Cedar and Sycamore parents into school to have a play and see how we teach maths in the Early Years and beyond. They explored the importance of subitising and reasoning, and how these skills help build a strong mathematical foundation. But by far our favourite part was watching the children's faces light up as their favourite grown-ups came around the corner and into class to play! We love our parent partnerships just as much as the children do!



A huge **thank you to Budleigh in Bloom** for their wonderful donations towards our Nursery garden area! The children had a fantastic time sprucing up the space around our mud

kitchen and outdoor area — their smiles said it all! We are truly grateful for your generosity and support.





What an amazing day for our fun run and Christmas Fayre! Our first ever Christmas Fun Run was an absolute triumph — full of smiles, festive spirit, and some very speedy little legs! A huge thank you to Budleigh Runners for marshalling the course so brilliantly and keeping our little people safe while still giving them the freedom to run independently. We couldn't have

done it without you! Another big shout-out to Alex Reader from Alex Reader Fitness for leading each run with our very own lead reindeer — the children absolutely loved it! We are incredibly lucky to have such a committed, creative, and generous PTA. Special thanks to Gen and Kate for the months of planning, organisation, and behind-the-scenes hard work that made everything run so smoothly (excuse the pun!). Thank you to everyone who took part, cheered, volunteered, or supported — you made our Christmas Fayre truly magical.





Our children had the most wonderful time watching Exmouth Community College's production of Mary Poppins on Monday! For many of them, it was their very first experience of live theatre — and they were absolutely wowed. One child told us it was "the best day of his life so far". A huge thank you to all the staff involved for organising the admin behind the scenes, and a special thank you to Mrs Kelly and Mrs Broad for the transport that made the trip possible. The children came away inspired by the acting, dancing, music, lighting and staging — and even more excited to join Exmouth College next year. Thank you for such a magical experience!





St Peter's choir brought the true spirit of the season to the community this week, delivering beautiful performances for the residents at both Bay Court and The Firs care homes. Their harmonious singing filled the rooms with festive warmth, delighting residents and staff alike. It was a heartwarming visit that spread Christmas cheer and left everyone with a smile!







5 - This week, Willow class putting their cutting and sticking skills to good use by making mini Christmas trees during their DT lessons. They attached the different elements using folds and slot joins!

Pupil Celebrations...



Well done to...Willow, Zoya, Holly & Eva-Rose, Henry, Martha, Eva-Rose, Jack, Sophia



6 - Well done to Willow who was awarded her purple belt in martial arts recently!



7 - Well done to Zoya who completed her 21st parkrun and also got her PB recently!



8 - Well done to Holly and Eva-Rose who competed in a gymnastics grading competition - Holly was awarded Gold and Eva-Rose, Silver!



9 - Well done to Henry who was awarded a DISTINCTION on his Yellow Belt kickboxing grading!



10 - Well done to Martha who was awarded her bronze grading in gymnastics recently!



11 - Well done to Eva-Rose who passed her ballet grade 1 and silver jazz exam with a distinction!



12 - Well done to Jack who competed for the school at the SW Championships in Weston Super-Mare!



13 - Well done to Sophia who achieved her red belt in martial arts recently!

Coming Up In The School & Community...



BUDLEIGH SALTERTON MALE VOICE CHOIR

All proceeds will be donated to St Peter's School Refurbishment Fund

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

WITH CAROLS

7.00pm SATURDAY

20TH DECEMBER 2025

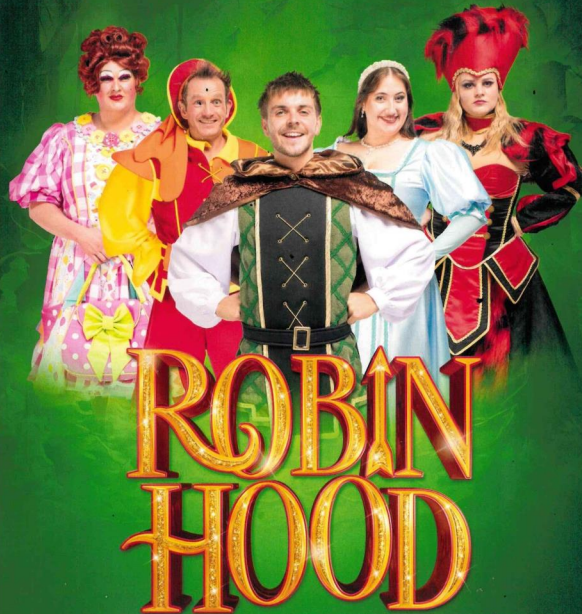
ST PETERS CHURCH
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON

TICKETS £12.00

FROM www.budleighmvc.co.uk,
REFLECTIONS, 25 HIGH STREET, BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
OR CASH ON THE DOOR ON THE NIGHT

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PRICES:
STANDARD DAY - £21 (PER CHILD)
EXTENDED DAY - £26 (PER CHILD)

TIMES:
STANDARD- 8:45AM - 3:30PM
EXTENDED - 8:00AM - 5:30PM

2025/26 Dates:
MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER
TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER
MONDAY 29TH DECEMBER
TUESDAY 30TH DECEMBER

THE BEACON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
1 BEACON PLACE
EXMOUTH
EX8 2SR

Ofsted
Registered

BOOKING LINK - <https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2025/12/22/the-beacon-primary-school-christmas-holiday-camps-2025>

More Information: marcus@primary-sports.co.uk / 07976979202

EXMOUTH FOODBANK

Christmas 2025 Collection

This Christmas we would appreciate donations of staple foods that will enable us to support those in need during the festive period and beyond. Items with a long shelf life are really helpful.

In particular we would welcome:

- Tins of soup
- Tins of tomatoes
- Tins of baked beans and spaghetti
- Meat meals (e.g. tinned stews, curry, meatballs)
- Tinned cold meats (e.g. corned beef, ham)
- Tins of tuna
- Packets of spaghetti and rice
- Tinned fruits
- Tins of custard and rice pudding.

Thank you for your help – we couldn't do this without you!

Quick Links...

- [Need to know pages](#)
- [Term dates](#)
- [Menus](#)
- [Uniform](#)
- [Stationery](#)
- [Online safety](#)
- [St Peter's Fundraising](#)

Support the school with your online shopping - it's free and easy! All it takes is the click of a button.

Choose us at www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Contact Us...



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