



Spring 2026 - Newsletter 3

Messages From Mr Hitchcock...



Hi everyone,

This newsletter contains several important messages where we need to tighten expectations around mobile phones and smart watches, punctuality, parking, and medicine in school. Please read it carefully. I hope these messages are received in the spirit they are intended. Our goal is to work together with you to help our pupils achieve outstanding progress and to be health in mind, body and spirit.

I want to begin on a positive note. I was immensely proud of **Poppy M, Aria and Freya H**, who recently attended a public meeting about saving our town library. With the support of their Year 6 friends, they created powerful placards and spoke up with confidence, respect and clarity. Their messages genuinely moved those in attendance. This is exactly the kind of respectful advocacy we strive to instil in our pupils – the belief that their voice matters and that they can make positive change happen.

There are some firmer messages below. Please understand that it is our responsibility to apply policies and routines consistently for the benefit and safety of all children in the school. Staff are simply doing their job when they enforce these expectations. **Disrespectful behaviour towards staff is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.** At times, we may need to communicate decisions you do not agree with or do not want to hear. When this happens, we expect concerns to be raised calmly and respectfully. We are always willing to listen and explain our reasoning, but anger directed at staff is unfair, unnecessary, and ultimately unhelpful.

Mobile phones and smart watches

Our policy is very clear: we do not expect to see mobile phones or smart watches in school at all. Please read the full guidance below.

One of my favourite phrases at the moment is ‘hard choices now, easy life later’. The evidence around the impact of smart phones on children’s wellbeing continues to grow, and it is becoming increasingly clear that a smartphone-free childhood is in children’s best interests. We are likely to see further national guidance and legislation in this area in the near future.

As parents, you can actively support the school **by removing the peer pressure around phones and making this decision early and confidently.** Speaking both personally and professionally, I see first-hand the harm phones can cause: unkindness online, social pressure, and emotional distress, often despite pupils behaving respectfully face to face. Children are simply not old or mature enough to protect themselves in these online spaces. That is why we must protect them.

Join the smartphone free childhood movement at St Peter's here: <https://st-peters-school.org.uk/parents/smartphone-free-childhood/>

Punctuality

We are seeing an increasing number of pupils arriving late. A settled start to the day is vital for learning and wellbeing. The expectation is that pupils arrive for 8:45am, not 8:55am. As soon as pupils enter class, they begin a learning task. Regularly arriving after 8:45am means your child is missing valuable learning time – over a week, this can amount to nearly an hour of lost learning. Please prioritise punctuality.

Medicine in school

We have also seen a rise in pupils expecting staff to provide Calpol during the school day. Pain relief should only be given in school for a specific, identified reason. In these cases, it is the parent's responsibility to supply the medication and complete the required consent form. The school keeps a very small supply for emergency situations only, for example when a child is injured and awaiting collection by a parent.

If your child is unwell

If your child has a high temperature, is clearly unwell, or has symptoms that require exclusion, please do not send them to school. If your child has a rash or other concerning symptoms, check NHS guidance before deciding. If your child is slightly under the weather, tired, but generally well, it is best to send them to school. Avoid making promises about going home early; instead, reassure your child that you will let the teacher know how they are feeling. Staff will monitor them closely and, if needed, reduce expectations or contact you if they become worse.

Swimming pool contributions

Please do revisit the message below regarding contributions towards the swimming pool. This support is essential for the long-term sustainability of this provision, and we are very grateful to those who have already contributed.

Parking and pupil safety

Parking continues to be a daily and serious concern. I do not have the power or resources to solve this alone. No one has the right, for any reason, to put pupils' lives at risk by parking illegally, stopping in the middle of the road, or driving carelessly around the school.

This week, a parent shared with Mrs Broad how deeply upsetting it is for them to witness dangerous parking, describing childhood trauma after seeing two friends killed outside their own school. We do not want a tragedy to force change. The only solution is collective responsibility. If you see someone parking dangerously or illegally, please either remind them politely that children's lives are at stake, or take a photo and report the incident to the police. This is about safety, not confrontation.

Disco next Thursday!

A reminder to end on a lighter note: don't forget to get your tickets for the disco next Thursday night. These are available via the PTA website:

<https://www.stpetersfundraising.co.uk/product-page/february-disco>

Nursery plea

Does anyone have a long baby gate or a large playpen that they no longer need and would be willing to donate to Nursery?

Wig plea

Does anyone have a child-sized straight wig (or wavy if needed)? Please pass any donations to Mrs Hume.

Thank you, as always, for your support and cooperation.



1 - Our library advocates!



2 - Well done to this gang of pupils who took it upon themselves to clean up the beach after the recent big storms that battered it!



3 - We have an outstanding number of runners attending the Junior Park Run in Phear Park Exmouth at the moment. Every child that manages to do 11 joins our Budleigh Blazer Squad with Mrs Broad! 9am on Sunday, we would love to see you there! Details below- <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/pearpark-juniors/>

Mobile Phone Policy...

In line with Department for Education guidance, St Peter's is a mobile phone-free environment. To ensure a focused and safe learning environment, pupils are prohibited from using mobile phones or smart technology at all times of the day.

Storage and Safety Exceptions If a pupil requires a phone for safety while traveling to and from school, parents must provide a written request explaining the necessity. Once approved, the device must be switched off and handed into the school office upon arrival for secure storage until the end of the day. Any phone found in a pupil's possession, including in their school bag, without prior written agreement, will be confiscated in accordance with our school sanctions.

Pupils who need smartphones and watches for medical needs are an exception (e.g. diabetes).

Standard journeys: Simply walking to or from school is not considered an exceptional circumstance and does not justify the presence of a phone on site.

URGENT: Swimming Pool Contributions & Sustainability...

We are writing to you regarding a critical shortfall in swimming contributions.

The school pool is a high-cost facility, and its continued operation is entirely dependent on the **£25 per term** parent contributions. Currently, a significant number of payments remain outstanding from the **Summer and Autumn terms**.

Quite simply, we cannot afford to keep the pool open if these costs are not covered. If you have an outstanding balance, we must ask that you settle it immediately via **School Gateway**. If you are unsure of your status, please check the app today to ensure your payments for the previous two terms are up to date.

Thank you to the majority of parents who have already paid; your contributions are what has kept the facility running to this point.

Who's Who? Mrs Laura Millman...



Mrs Millman joined St Peter's in 2015 as a mealtime assistant and is currently a teaching assistant in Cedar class, a role she loves. Mrs Millman herself attended St Peter's as a child and enjoys seeing the children experience the school she loved. All of her children have attended St Peter's, with her boys still currently pupils, and she takes great joy in seeing them enjoy it as much as she did. Mrs Millman's favourite teacher was Mr Lawton, her science teacher at ECC, who showed her that learning- her least favourite subject- could be fun. Her favourite children's book is *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* By Dr Seuss, which she loves reading to her children as it shares such a beautiful and encouraging message. In her free time, Mrs Millman enjoys spending time with her husband and four children, playing board and card games and being outdoors, whether up on the common or at the beach. Her one wish for the school is for increased funding, so every class has enough staff to support children whenever they need it.

What's Coming Up Next...

Week 3

January						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
-	-	-	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	-

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January 2026

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Mon

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Sun

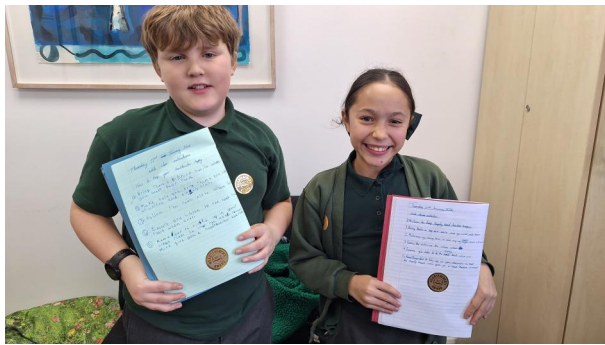
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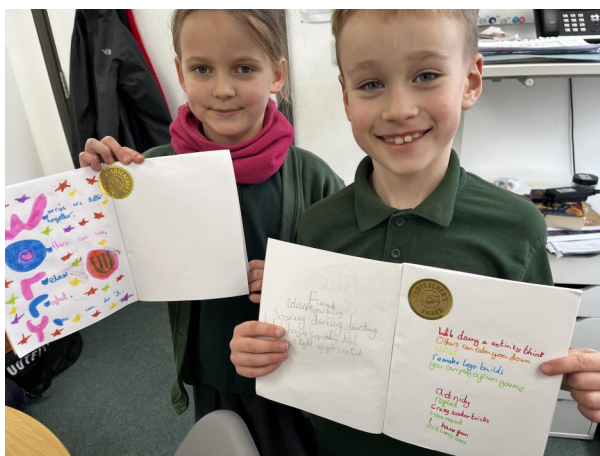
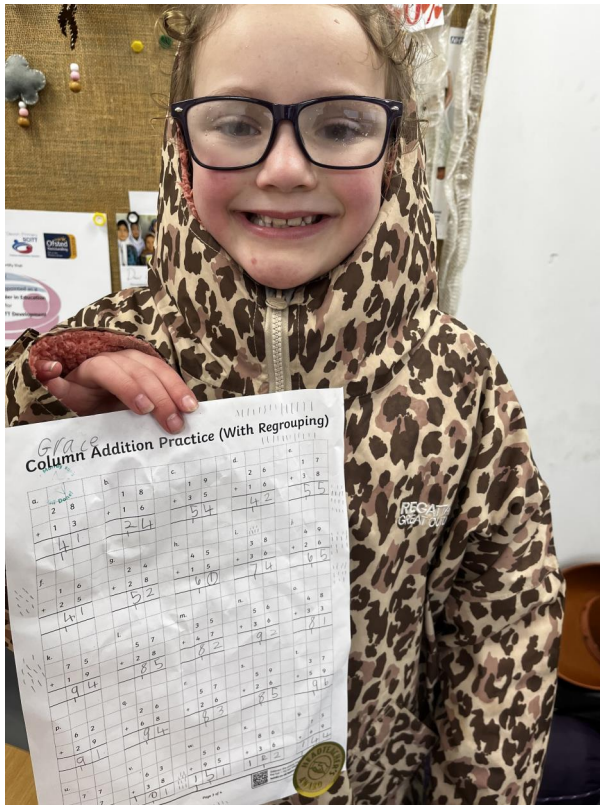
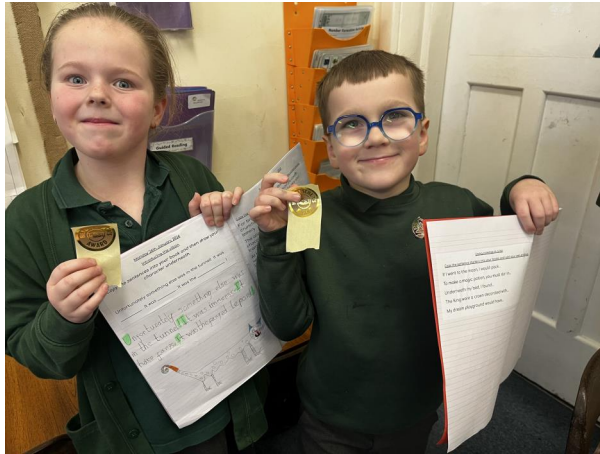
Don't forget to check the **NEED TO KNOW** page every Sunday, to check for events coming up in school that week.

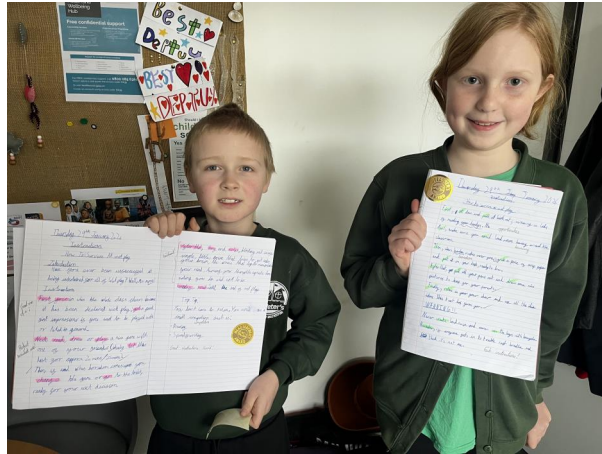
You can access it by clicking the following link <https://st-peters-school.org.uk/class-info/>

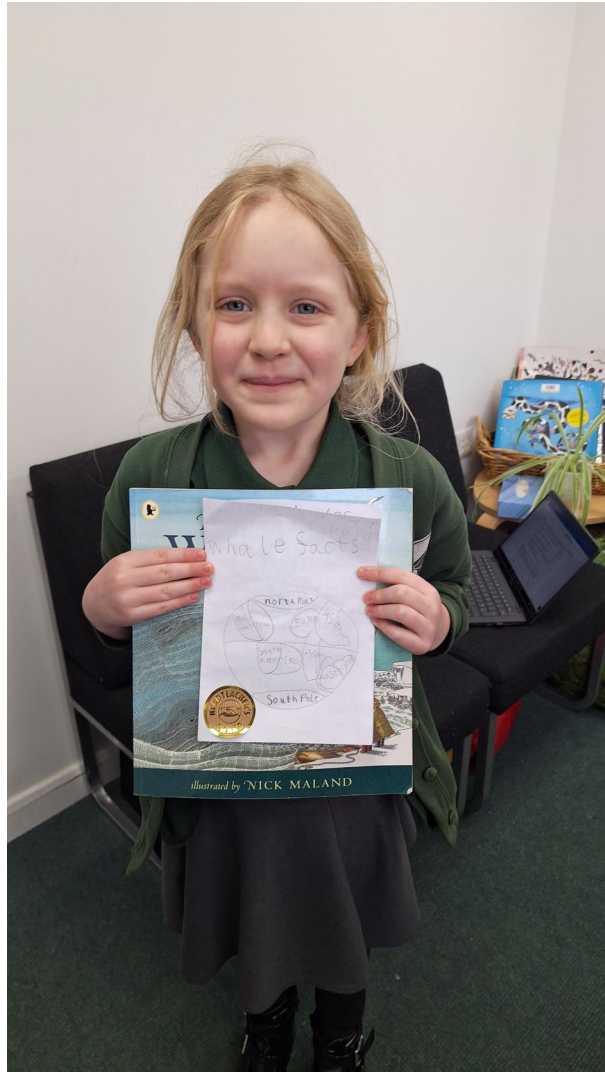
Headteacher Awards...









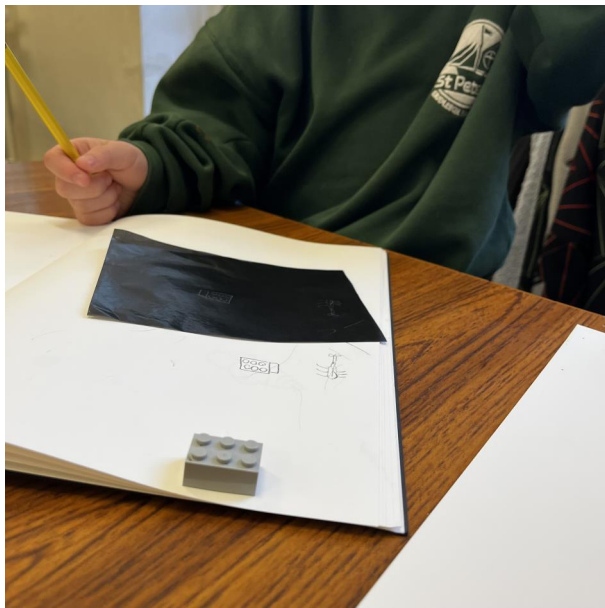




What's Been Happening In School...



Cherry Class have been learning all about printmaking, with a focus on **mono printing**. We've explored the artwork of **Xgaoc' o X'are** and **Leonardo da Vinci**, and taken inspiration from the natural planet through stunning Sir David Attenborough films. From drawing film stills to closely observing small natural objects, the children showed **amazing creativity, concentration and expression** throughout the process. **Well done, Team Cherry — we're so proud of you!**





Pupil Celebrations...



Well done to...Nieve, Khloe, Martha



4 - Well done to Nieve who competed at the Devon Pool Surf lifesaving champs in Barnstaple, coming away with Silver in the tube rescue, Bronze in the medley relay and did well in the individual races too!



5 - Well done to Khloe who played in a DL Tennis tournament and received a "Well Played" Certificate!



6 - Well done to Martha who was awarded player of the week with her rugby club recently!

Coming Up In The School & Community...







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

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