



St Peter's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Week 5 – 4.10.24

Theme of the week:

Jealous or generous?

This week we have been considering how the disciples once challenged Jesus to try and stop a man from healing others because he wasn't part of their group. Jesus' powerful reply was that "anyone who isn't against us is for us" – i.e. the more people who do good deeds for the benefit of others can only be a greater benefit for all, even if those doing the acts aren't one of 'our friends'. Good deeds breed good deeds, whoever it is that's carrying them out!



Stop Press

Children learn to fly!

Fantastic gymnastics! St Bernadette are enjoying their PE lessons this term. They are learning how to balance and make different shapes with their bodies. It is a joy to see how confident they are, at showing off their skills.

This week – once again the pupils at school have shown themselves to be engaged, humorous and hard working whilst demonstrating their normal positivity and sense of fun!



Our wonderful Reception class – St Peter's - have been getting to grips with their phonics. Several people's day was brightened to see them emerging from their class wearing some delightful glasses which they had made to reinforce their 'g' sound – a genuine delight to see as the smiles in the photo suggest – especially Mrs Boyle's.

St Cecilia's have been getting stuck into some exciting and dramatic sentence types – yes, sentence types can be exciting and dramatic! - and Mr Carroll has been delighted with their achievements and the progress of the whole class with this over the last few days. They are about to adventure into their next, new whole class story 'The Journey Home' over the course of the next week.

St Bernadette's have produced some delightful art work since the last newsletter on the theme of animals – with a wide range of deer, elephants, owls and all sorts of other assorted creatures being



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recreated with great care and accuracy. We will seek to publish some of these pictures over the coming weeks.

Another really impressive set of work has also been achieved by St Christopher's class with their writing. With some secondary English teaching experience under my belt, I can honestly say that the quality of much of what I have been reading over the shoulders of the pupils working on their drafts and re-drafts this week exceeds the quality of some of what I have experienced in year groups two, or even three, school years above. We are really keen to share this writing with parents once the process is complete and our great young writers are happy with their finished work.

Despite all this great work and engagement, when I ask the pupils at lunch or in class, "What are you learning today?" I occasionally get the response which, as a parent, I remember my own children sometimes saying, which might simply be "Errrrm..." I am sure you have these conversations with your children, and do keep these up. Asking what they have been learning in specific subjects or even asking them to teach you something that they have learned will help reinforce and deepen their understanding. It is helpful to ask specific questions e.g. "Can you tell me about the story you've read", "What did you learn in Maths" or "Can you show me how to..." – especially when around the dinner table and you have a static audience.

Amazing Children! Awards this week go to:

Stars of the Week

St Christopher – Angela for her excellent inference skills during our English session. Thank you for sharing your ideas!

St Bernadette – Lilianna for working hard in all areas of learning and spreading positivity around the school.

St Cecilia – Christopher for having an excellent attitude to learning, especially in English!

St Peter – Mariyah for positive attitude towards learning in phonics and maths!

Disciples of the Week

Micael (St Christopher) for living and learning as a friend of Jesus. His bubbly personality is always welcome too!

Anthony (St Peter) for always being so polite with everyone in the classroom and on the playground.



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Updates:

Phonics and Guided Reading Workshop- Wednesday 9th October, 3:30pm: Mrs Boyle will be leading a parent workshop to help develop parent's understanding of phonics and Guided Reading in school. If you have not attended one of these meetings before then please do try to attend as there will be lots of helpful information for supporting your child, whatever stage in their reading journey. Any questions, please contact Mrs Boyle via the office email.

Book request: We have a request from our wonderful librarian and Book Club co-ordinator, Mrs. Hughes, regarding "The Explorer" by Katherine Rundell for our Book Club collection. If anyone has a copy or comes across a copy in a charity shop which they would like to donate, then we would be most grateful!

Friends of St Peter's (FOSP) Annual Report: Today you will find the Annual Report from last academic year which details all the wonderful work that the Friends committee has yet again completed for our school and all the children within it. We strongly encourage you to read this report so that you can be reminded of the brilliant events that took place, and read about what the fundraising has all been for, in terms of resources for the children's enriched experiences at school. Thank you to Donna Jordan for reflecting so brilliantly on the successes of the year, amidst the challenges of fundraising in a small school.

Recap from last week:

Pupils arriving late or leaving early: Please remember we are now using the screen in Reception to sign in pupils who arrive late or need to be collected early for any reason. By selecting 'Pupils', 'Year Group' and 'Class' you will be able to find your child by selecting the first letter of their first name and select a reason such as 'medical appointment', 'transport issues' etc. This information then feeds back into our registers electronically. Thank you for your cooperation whilst we embed this new way of recording attendance.

Breaktime snacks: thank you for such a positive response to last week's request for fruit and/or vegetable based breaktime snacks – it's greatly appreciated.



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Catering - Ordering Meals - Deadline Reminder and Gluten Free and Halal Options:

Please remember that the cut off for ordering meals for each following week is 11.30pm on a Saturday evening. If your child requires a Gluten Free or Halal option, please indicate this when ordering online.

Data Sheets and Online Annual Consent:

Thank you to those of you who have completed these but a final plea to those of you who haven't got around to it yet. Duplicate paper copies will be coming home today.

Change to Y6 Mass date: Please be aware that the originally published date of Wednesday 2nd October for the Year 6 mass at Church has now moved to Wednesday 16th October. This is to allow the newly combined Y5 and 6 class (St Christopher's) to celebrate together. It remains at 10am and parents are most welcome to attend.

Forthcoming Parents Evenings: We are running Parents Evening in a similar format to last year. You will soon receive a letter inviting you to choose between attending on Monday 14th or Tuesday 15th October, along with the choice of whether you can attend either before or after 5pm. This can simply be returned to your child's class teacher, after which the appointment time will be confirmed.

St Peter's Toddler Group: this operates each Tuesday morning between 9.30 and 11.30 in the Pugin Rooms at St Peter's Church and you are warmly invited to attend.

Upcoming dates

Children's Mass this Sunday – this is the first Sunday of the month and children will be invited to read during Mass and join Mrs Boyle and the choir at the 11am Mass. We would love to see lots of you there.

Celebrating Mass this term:

*Please note the change in red below – Y5 and 6 Mass will now be celebrated together.

Wednesday 16th October – St Christopher's Mass in Church 10am



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Wednesday 6th November St Bernadette's Mass in **Church** 10am

Thursday 12th December Reconciliation in **Church** 1.30pm

Friday 20th December End of term Mass in **School** 9.30am

Friends of St Peter's Halloween Disco - Weds 23rd October – please watch out for promotional materials from FOSP.

Open Afternoon – Thurs 24th October – 4.30 – 6.30 pm - we will be holding an Open Afternoon for prospective and current parents later this half term.

INSET DAY: Friday 25th October – children will not be attending school on this day.

School contact:

Please either:

- email office@stpetersrc.bucks.sch.uk
- or call 01628 472116 (please leave a message if need be)
- or contact your child's class teacher directly via TEAMS
- or speak to a member of the leadership team on the front gate.

Wishing everyone a great weekend.

Best wishes

Al Nicol

Headteacher