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16 October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027 – NEWSLETTER NO 04

STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to these children who received the Star of the Week Award from their class teachers over the first week of term. They have been working hard and displaying the right attitudes and values of the school, including being Ready, Respectful and Safe. You can also find their picture on the school's website.



Friday 9 October



Friday 16 October

HARVEST FESTIVAL



On Thursday we celebrated harvest with our whole-school assembly. This was led by the school synod, led by Chaplin Emily. The children shared songs, prayers and of course brought in many donations for the food bank. On Friday, we made our 'giraffes of generosity' in the hall to see who had collected the most, before the donations were collected by the food bank. It was a close contest, with most giraffes being around 8m long! But, the Year 2/3 class won with an impressive 11.2m!



GUINNESS WORLD RECORD READATHON

On Thursday 8th October, all children took part in a World Record attempt for the most reading online in 12 hours. We joined in with webinars, met authors, listened to stories and even drew some characters!

After we had read for 10 minutes, we submitted our numbers and wait with bated breath to see if we have a new world record!



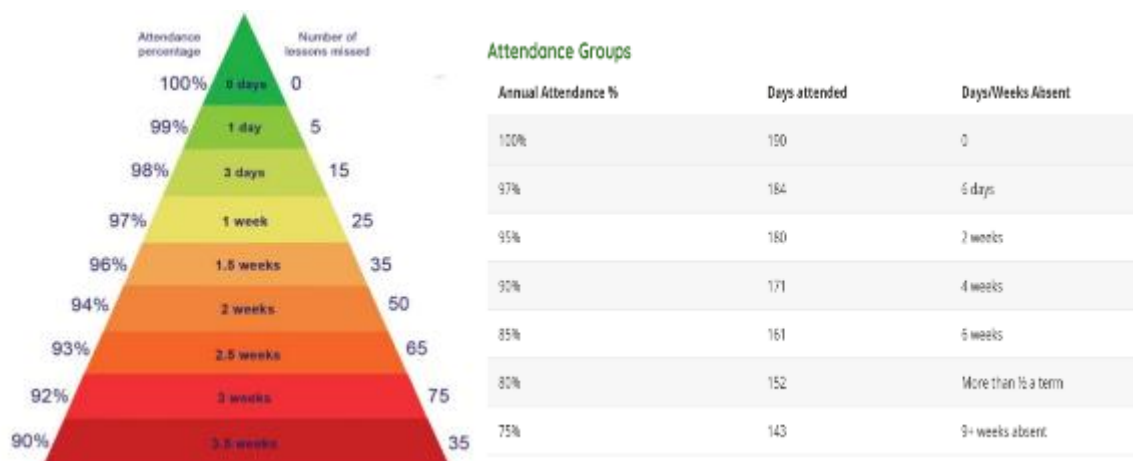


PARKING

Once again, we must address the issue of parking outside the school. It is illegal to park on the yellow zig-zag lines. Those who do are placing our children at serious risk. There will be regular inspections at the end of each day from now on and a photo taken and sent to South Gloucestershire Council Parking Service. This will then be passed on to Civil Enforcement Officers. We will no longer be directly challenging parents with reminders of safe parking as these requests are often met with dismissal, rude exchanges and completely ignoring us altogether. We do not deserve to be treated in such manners as we are only looking out for the safety of our children at St Peter's.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

As you know, your child's attendance has a direct impact on their academic achievements and outcomes. There has been a link made between the two for many years so this is not new. However, there continues to be a much more concerted effort from the Department for Education to ensure parents and schools work together to ensure attendance is the strongest and highest it can be. These images show the impact on percentage of days missed throughout the year and the number of lessons of learning missed.



Any attendance below 95% will be alerted and will be shared with parents. This includes lateness marks which are after the register has closed. These sessions are marked as unauthorised absence regardless of whether the children are in school or not. You will receive a phone call or a face to face chat with a member of the leadership team to discuss any barriers to attendance.

Of course, children will become ill and have to have time off school, however we do need to build up resilience to manage this. We will continue to expect parents to let us know when children are ill and the 48-hour rule regarding sickness and diarrhoea apply. We will ring parents if we have not heard from them if the children aren't in school on the first day and then every other subsequent day until they return unless parents ring school to update.

Once children's attendance falls below 90% then this will trigger attendance meetings with Mr Smith, starting from the end of October. These will look at the effects of the absence on the children's learning and how the school may be able to support with any barriers and reasons for the absences. We hope that this does not occur. However, if absences persistent then the school will discuss the children's absence with the EWO (Education Welfare Officer) and arrange further meetings with parents and the EWO, Lucy Pass.

There are also guidelines and rules regarding extended time off from school and fines as a result, usually due to term time absence due to holidays.

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Who may be fined?

Penalty notices may be issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school. However, they should usually only be issued to the parent or parents who have allowed the absence (regardless of which parent has applied for a leave of absence).

Penalty Notices can be issued when there have been 10 unauthorised absences (1 school day = 2 sessions, 5 school days = 10 sessions). The threshold can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence within 10 school weeks. Penalty Notices are issued for any term-time or irregular absences that are unauthorised (for example, a 5-day term-time holiday) - whether these absences are taken consecutively or cumulatively over a period of 10 school weeks.

First Penalty notice

The first Penalty Notice is issued for term time absences or irregular absences, the amount will be:

- **£80** per parent, per child (if paid within 21 days of issue)
- **£160** per parent, per child (if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of issue)

No. of parents	No. of children	Fine amount up to 21 days	Fine amount after 21 days but within 28 days
1	1	£80	£160
1	2	£160	£320
2	3	£480	£960

Second Penalty notice

The second Penalty Notice is issued for term time absences or irregular absences, issued to the **same parent** for the **same child**, the amount will be:

- **£160** per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days). This is a flat rate. **There is no discount for early payment.**

No. of parents	No. of children	Fine amount up to 21 days	Fine amount up to 28 days
1	1	Not applicable	£160
1	2	Not applicable	£320
2	3	Not applicable	£960

Further offences

The third time an offence is committed for unauthorised term time or irregular absences **within 3 years** by the same parent for the same child (including those from other schools or Local Authorities) may result in an automatic request for Prosecution.

Education Act: 1996: It is your responsibility as the parent/carer to ensure your child's school attendance is on a regular basis and if you fail to do this without good cause, you are liable to prosecution. If found guilty of this offence you could be liable to, amongst other things, a fine of up to £2500 and/or a custodial sentence of up to 3 months.

For more information on this issue please read the South Gloucestershire parental guidance on Penalty Notices at the following link: www.southglos.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-education/behaviour-and-attendance/school-attendance/authorised-and-unauthorised-absence-from-school/.

Our annually updated Attendance Policy which has been ratified by the governing body and now on the website. [St Peter's Primary School - Policies](#)

If you have any questions about the new policy or guidelines please contact Mr Smith.

SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

Every year we must update our Safeguarding Policies in light of the updated guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026. Here is the link to the policies that we are required to publish to parents and all stakeholders. [St Peter's Primary School - Policies](#) If you have any comments on these please direct them to myself Paul.Smith8@stpetersprimary.co.uk Thank you in advance.

NURSERY

We have enjoyed reading 'Goldilocks and the three Bears', role playing in 'Bear Cottage', furthering our mathematical knowledge of size and retelling the story using puppets in the story suitcase. We made porridge and discussed the importance of having a healthy breakfast.

We enjoyed taking part in Harvest, joining the rest of the school for assembly and had lots of fun creating our giraffe of generosity. Our focus book was 'The Little Red Hen' perfectly linking our theme to harvest. We made bread and worked together, talking about the importance of teamwork and loved tasting the fresh baked bread with some butter. More photos can be found on the school website:

<https://stpetersprimary.ovw1.devwebsite.co.uk/page/?title=03%2E+16th+October+2026&pid=408>



SCHOOL TOURS FOR NEW PARENTS 2027 INTAKE

We have the dates now confirmed for the school tours for new prospective parents for the intake in September 2027. It will be lovely to show new parents around and share all that is great about our school.

Monday 19 October 1.00pm	Monday 19 October 2.00pm
Friday 6 November 1.00pm	Friday 6 November 2.00pm
Wednesday 11 November 9.30am	Wednesday 11 November 11.15am

WATER BOTTLES

Can we please remind parents that every child should bring in a named water bottle each day and this must only contain water – no squash please.



SCHOOL CALENDAR



The school website is packed with information and should be the first place you should visit if you are looking for dates or times. The School calendar is updated regularly with times and dates of important events for your children – please check this regularly for updates.

<https://www.stpetersprimary.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1&pid=3&viewid=1>

ARBOR PAYMENTS



All bookings for meals, clubs, trips and wraparound care need to be made and paid for using the Arbor App or Parent Portal. Please read our step by step instructions and watch the helpful videos on our website for our new parents. Thank you

<https://www.stpetersprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Arbor+Parent+Portal%2FApp+%26amp%3B+Payments&pid=151>

FUNDRAISING FOR THE SCHOOL

Want to help raise money for the school? Here are ways you can help:

EASYFUNDRAISING – Sign up to Easyfundraising on their website <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and nominate our school, every time you shop with participating retailers online they will donate a percentage to the school, this varies for each company but it doesn't cost you a penny. You can also add a donation reminder so it reminds you that the retailer website you are browsing is part of the scheme.

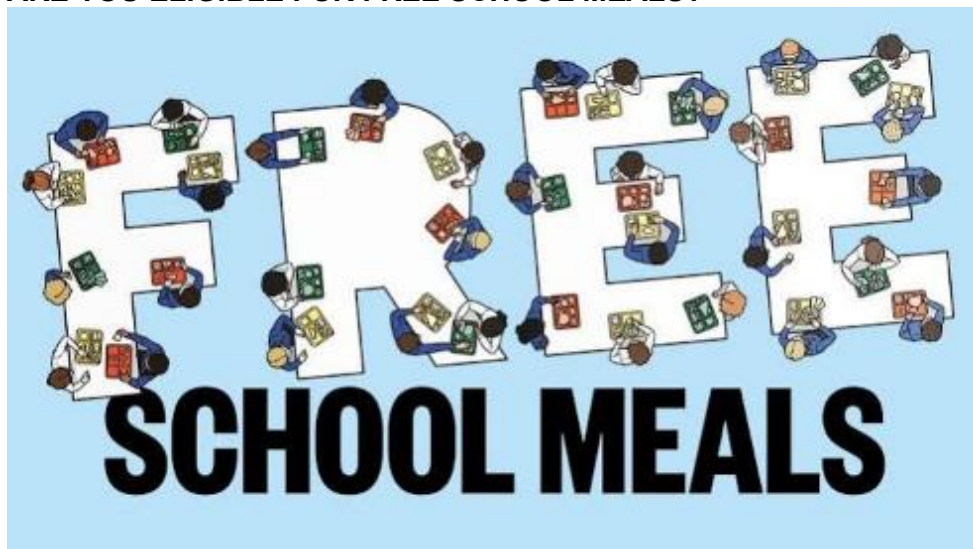


CLOTHING BANK – We have a clothing bank on site, you donate your unwanted clothes and the company pays the Friends of St Peter's money per kg collected.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF ST PETERS – Become a member of the FOSP to help with fundraising ideas and events – email friendsofstpetersprimary@outlook.com and they can let you know all the details.



ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?



From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit attending these schools will be entitled to receive a free meal.

We have made this a legal requirement through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 and intend to lay additional regulations extending this duty to maintained nursery schools.

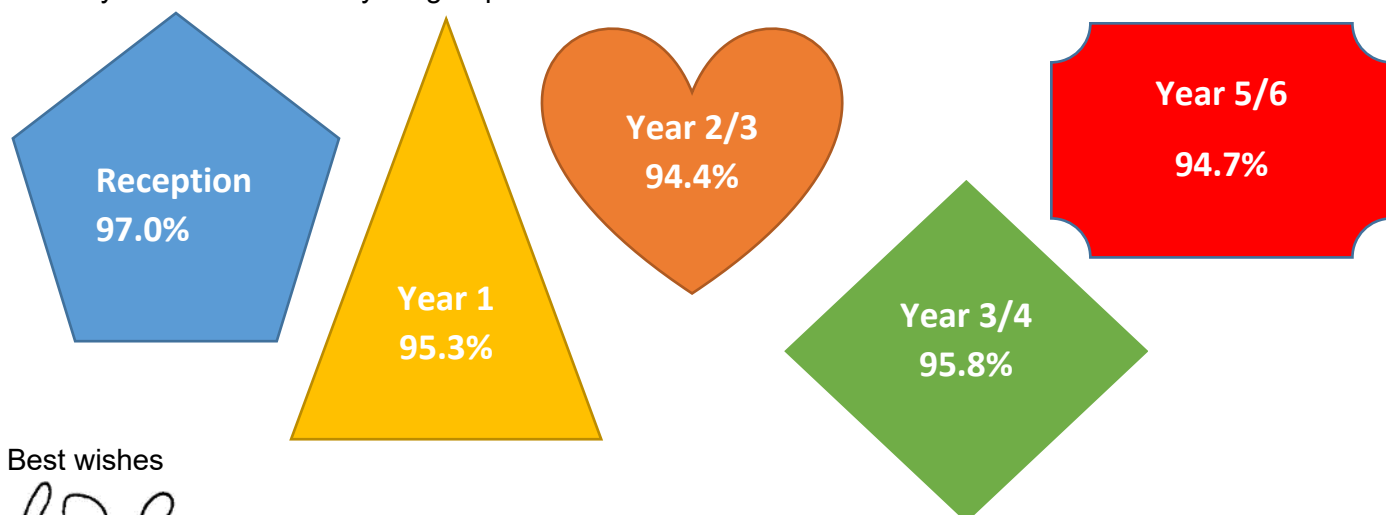
Going forward, there will be 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:

- **Targeted FSM**, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
- **Expanded FSM**, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit

If you think you might be eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSMs) and your child is aged 4 to 18 years visit the [Schools Meals webpage](#) or speak to one of the office staff.

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Each week we monitor the attendance of the whole school. These are the average attendance figures for the school year so far for each year group –



Best wishes

Mr Paul D Smith
Executive Head Teacher

COMMUNICATION SENT OUT LAST WEEK AND POSTED ON WEBSITE		
Bristol Sports clubs – term 2	Email	Everyone
Phonics club	Email	Selected year 1

Term dates for 2026/27

TERM 1

Monday 19 October
Thursday 22 October
Friday 23 October

New Reception intake 2027 tours 2.00pm
End of Term 1
INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

TERM 2

Monday 2 November
Wednesday 4 November
Friday 6 November
Wednesday 11 November

Friday 13 November
Monday 16 November
Tuesday 17 November
Wednesday 18 November
Tuesday 15 December
Wednesday 16 December
Friday 18 December

Start of Term 2
Year 6 visit to Lifeskills
New Reception intake 2027 tours 1.00pm
Remembrance Day
New Reception intake 2027 tours 9.30am and 11.15am
Children in Need day
Parents evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Nasal flu vaccinations for children
Parent evening 3.30pm- 6.00pm
Key Stage Carols at St Peter's Church 6.30pm
Christmas lunch and jumper day
End of Term 2

Term dates for 2026/27

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 1	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
Term 2	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Term 3	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
Term 4	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027
Term 5	Monday 12 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027
Term 6	Monday 7 June 2027	Wednesday 21 July 2027
INSET DAYS	Tuesday 1 September 2026 Friday 23 October 2026 Monday 7 June 2027 Tuesday 8 June 2027 Plus one TBC	

Term 2 Clubs

CLUB	DAY	TIME	RUN BY	WHO FOR?	HOW TO SIGN UP	COST	STARTS	ENDS
Chess	Friday	Lunchtime 12.30pm-1pm	Mr BM	KS2	Arbor	free	06/11/2026	18/12/2026
Football	Tuesday	After school 3.20pm - 4.20pm	Bristol Sports	Yr1 - Yr6	Sign up directly with Bristol Sports - info on the flyers	see poster	03/11/2026	15/12/2026
Dance	Wednesday	After school 3.20pm - 4.20pm	Bristol Sports	R - Yr6	Sign up directly with Bristol Sports - info on the flyers	see poster	04/11/2026	16/12/2026