# St Peter's Press

## School Year 2025/26 – Autumn Term

**Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter,** signalling a new academic year. We know we say this every September, but it genuinely is so lovely to welcome our families back and to see the children return in as smiley and enthusiastic a way as ever; it means that our school is an extremely positive place to be, and we don't ever take that for granted!

**It is also pleasure at this stage of the year to extend the warm welcome to our new Early Years' families at St Peter's (Nursery and Reception classes)** – we look forward to many happy and successful years ahead, working together to nurture your child's social and academic development.

**Our daily and weekly communication comes via two apps: School Gateway** – for whole-school messages from our office and leadership team, and **Class Dojo** – for specific information from teachers, giving individual class messages and celebrating achievements in photographs.

Alongside those app methods, **we present this newsletter each term**, to give an overview of the school's current plans and the many activities taking place in the weeks to come. If you would like to know more, please ask us (all staff are available each home-time) or visit www.stpetersswinton.co.uk .



**Happy new-school-year from the children!**



**Big step for Nursery children – settling into their new room.**



**Happy breaktimes with friends – Friday Free-For-All Dance Club!**



**Y6: our senior pupils of 25/26 – setting the example to others.**

## An inspection of ethos and values – what they said about our children…

We pledge to our families that at St Peter's, every child will live, love and learn in an environment founded upon Christian and moral values; they will leave the school with the knowledge and skills to be rounded citizens, able to make a difference and a positive contribution to their future society.

Just before the end of the summer term we were inspected on the way the Christian distinctiveness of the school shaped its vision, values and spirituality, and on how the children live these out. The following was said…

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| - The established and embedded Christian vision drives school policy and action; this is lived out daily, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.<br>- Pupils to support and uplift one another.<br>- The vision is prominent from the moment you enter the school.<br>- In national recognition, the school has achieved an environmental award and worked with the Premier League to tackle gender equality.<br>- Pupils and adults flourish. | - A well-planned curriculum, alongside rich and varied extra-curricular opportunities, are rooted in the Christian vision, enabling pupils to 'aspire, believe and achieve'.<br>- RE encourages deeper understanding of Christianity & a variety of world views.<br>- There is a strong sense of responsibility throughout; pupils reflect deeply on caring for themselves and others.<br>- Pupils use their voice to promote inclusion and celebrate difference.<br>- The inspector's '…heart is warmed by being this school.' |

| AUTUMN TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY | |
|---|---|
| **12/09/25 – MP Michael Wheeler visits school** | **06/11/25 – Parents' Evening, 1.30-7.30pm** |
| **15/09/25 – Class Welcome Meetings: 3.30 and 4.00pm** | **14/11/25 – Children In Need – non-uniform day** |
| **24/09/25 – Salford Schools' Sportshall Athletics** | **15/11/25 – Salford Schools' Cross-Country Starts - tbc** |
| **29/09/25 – Autumn Term Extra-Curric Clubs Start** | **24/11/25 – Autumn Assessment Week** |
| **01 to 04/10/25 – Y6 Lledr Hall Residential, Snowdonia** | **05/12/25 – Christmas Jumper Day (& each Fri in Dec)** |
| **13/10/25 – STEM Week (Sci, Tech, Engin'g, Maths)** | **10/12/25 – Salford Schools' Choirs & Carols, St Peter's** |
| **15/10/25 – School Photos – Individual & Siblings** | **11/12/25 – School Christmas Fair, 3.20-5.00pm (tbc)** |
| **15/10/25 – Harvest Festival Service (church) 2.15pm** | **12/12/25 – Wood Street Miss'n Toy Appeal Deadline (tbc)** |
| **23/20/25 – Flu Vaccines (nasal)** | **16/12/25 – School Carol Concert, Church, 10am** |
| **24/10/25 – Wear It Pink! non-uniform day (pink theme)** | **17/12/25 – Infant Nativity in church: 2pm & 4pm** |
| **27-31/10/25 – October half-term break** | **18/12/25 – Dazzling Darren's Magic Show & Class Parties** |
| **03/11/25 – Y5 Ordsall Hall Tudors trip** | **19/12/25 – Celebration Assembly & Christmas Dinner** |
| Plus, more trips, events and activities to be finalised. Details to follow. | |

# *Every Day Counts: The Importance of School Attendance*

Every child deserves the best possible start in life – and this begins with **being in school every day**. Regular attendance is not just the law; it is vital to a child's education and development.

## *Why It Matters*

The evidence shows that children who attend school regularly are:



- ✓ **Better prepared socially and emotionally** for the challenges of growing up.
- ✓ **More likely to achieve expected standards** in reading, writing, and maths.
- ✓ **Linked to higher rates of positive wellbeing and self-esteem.**
- ✓ **Less likely to fall behind**, which can affect confidence and motivation.

**When children miss school, they miss out on learning, friendships, routines, and opportunities to grow.** Even occasional absences add up and make it harder for children to keep up with their classmates. We understand that some absences are unavoidable due to illness or exceptional circumstances. However, we ask all families to make school attendance a priority. Attending every day on time helps children feel settled, confident, and ready to learn.

## *The Facts Speak for Themselves (national figures)*

- A child who misses just **one day a fortnight will miss over a year of education** by the time they leave school.
- In the 2024/25 academic year, the **national attendance rate** for primary schools was **94.8%**, meaning **5.2% of sessions were missed**: two whole weeks per child.
- **90%** attendance may sound OK, but actually means **missing 4 weeks** of a school year.
- In Greater Manchester, **19% of pupils were persistently absent**, meaning they missed at least 10% of school sessions: four weeks and over per child.

## *Congratulations to these St Peter's attendance successes*

A huge well done to the children (and, of course, their families) who received awards for their exceptional attendance last school year. Did you know that at St Peter's in school year 2024/25…




- 28 children (13% of our pupils) achieved 100% attendance
- 85 children (39% of our pupils) achieved attendance between 96-99% (missed 7 days or less)
- Our 100% attendance numbers have increased by 50% in two years
- Our 96-99% attendance numbers have increased by 24% in two years.

## *Punctuality Is Just As Important…*

**It is the law for every child to be in school for 6.5 hours per day** (unless for individual needs). At St Peter's, this means **from 8.50am to 3.20pm, so any child arriving at school after 8.50am is late.** We were supportive with gate closing times last year, the first year of these new timings, but it has become clear that **some families think school starts at 9.00am, so their children are missing out.** Please be aware that gates will close at around 8.50am from now on, when children should be in school, and any who aren't will enter via the main office.

The government is understandably concerned about school attendance across the country and **everyone has to do their bit – parents and schools – in the best interests of the child.**

**Let's keep working together to build strong habits now that will benefit our children for life.** If you're facing challenges with attendance, please speak to us – we're here to help. Miss Richardson is the school attendance officer, so please contact her in the first instance, or ask any member of our staff team. **Together, we can make every school day count.**

# School Development, Autumn Clubs, Environment Update

## *School Development 2025/26*

St Peter's remains an extremely positive and successful setting thanks to the shared ethos and teamwork between families, staff, governors, local community and church, **leading to excellent social and academic outcomes** for our children. Despite this, we are never complacent and every year set out a **new School Development Plan** to give an overview of our main aims for the next 12 months. This year, whilst always developing our curriculum and pastoral work, we will focus further on:

**-Wellbeing** - continuing to expand our rewards based on the school values, doubling the size of our most popular extra-curricular clubs and further utilising as many trips, visits and local facilities as we can for the children's benefit.

**-Oracy** – developing P4C – Philosophy for Children – throughout school, to help our pupils present their ideas, listen to others and explain their thinking on any range of topic.

**-Writing** – helping the children develop their writing skills in terms of flair, imagination and vocabulary, but also not forgetting the importance of handwriting, grammar and punctuation.

**-Building development** – major re-development of the Nursery classroom and Early Years' outdoor play area, improved IT hardware in classrooms from Y1-6 and a continuation of our drive to be carbon neutral by 2030 (see 'Going Even Greener' section below).

## *Expanding Our Extra-Curricular Clubs*

There are a number of reasons why we believe in the power of extra-curricular clubs and provide more free activities than most schools, meaning 70%+ of our pupils join:



- Children are engaged by activities they take part in for fun
- Children build relationships with others
- Children get a chance to shine in areas outside the normal curriculum
- Children have choice and see the school even more positively.

This year, it may appear that the number of clubs has reduced, but we have talked to the children and actually doubled the size of our most popular clubs by having two staff on each, rather than one, therefore enabling even more pupils to take part.

**This Term's Clubs** (8 sessions from wk beg 29th Sept to wk beg 24th Nov)
Y4/5/6 Netball Club: Miss Derbyshire & Mrs Gardner (Tuesday, 3.20-4.20pm)
Y1/2/3/4/5/6 Choir: Mrs J Jones & Miss Richardson (Wednesday, 3.20-4.20pm)
Y1/2/3 Multi-Activity Club: Mrs Oakes, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Harris (Wednesday, 3.20-4.20pm)
Y5/6 Boys & Girls Football Clubs: Mr Stevenson & Mr Wright (Wednesday, 3.20-4.20pm)

### *Going Even Greener…*

Ok, so the kids have done their bit, now over to the adults!

The children have achieved amazing feats in recent years, especially **our Eco-Group and Mrs Green, by 'greening Swinton Square', rewilding the school playground, designing the Daily Mile track and wild-flower zones and, especially, creating our St Refillables Eco-Refill Shop** (more below), so we thought it was about time the adults stepped up again!

We are delighted to say that **we have secured a six-figure sum to enable us to install solar panels on the school roof and, hopefully, an eco-boiler** (maybe air-source?), which between them will cover all the school's energy needs and help us achieve our aim of being carbon-neutral by 2030. If it comes off, this is an incredible effort by the whole school community and one we should all be very proud of.

## *St Refillables Eco-Refill Shop*



Our eco-refill pop-up shop is popular and will continue, but because of the new clubs we may move it indoors or to a different day; we will confirm that as soon as possible. **However, please don't wait until then…** To make the shop more convenient, did you know we are happy for families to refill their bottles any time. If you know what products you like, then **please drop your empty bottles in at the school office any morning and our Eco-Group pupils will fill it ready for you to collect and pay if you call back** just before the end of the school day.

*(NB: We were told that Northwest Tonight may be interested in doing a feature, we'll keep you posted if that is to happen.)*

# Staff News – School Governors – Visiting MP

## *You can't have enough Mr Wrights!*



We are pleased to welcome **Premier Sport PE teacher Mr James Wright** to our staff team this year. Mr Wright has a wealth of experience and actually worked at St Peter's a few years ago supporting Miss Miller (whom, sadly, has had to move into an office-based role with Premier due to ill-health), so we know he is very capable in the job. We have been highly impressed with Premier Sport's PE teachers and we saw Mr Wright demonstrate the company's skills and ethos in his very successful start to the post in the first week of term.



**Farah Renshaw** – it is so lovely to have another former pupil on our staff. Miss Renshaw absolutely has the job on merit – she's made a great start to her time here, backing up a very impressive interview before the summer – but the fact that she came to St Peter's as a pupil really highlights how she (like Miss Derbyshire and Miss Meacher) has inherited the school values and looks to give something back.

Finally, our congratulations go to **Mr Scanlan** (site officer) and **Miss Edwards** (Early Years' TA), each of whom has had a new addition to their families during the summer break – a baby girl in both cases.

## Great Governance





In the last St Peter's Press issue, we were very grateful that seven of our parents had put themselves forward for election to the school governing board. There was a large number of votes between the seven, so thank you to all those who took the time cast theirs and, if you missed the result towards the end of term, many congratulations to Mel Jolly and Mark Scoular, the two candidates elected and whom we have no doubt will represent our parents with dedication and a strong voice.

## *Michael Wheeler, MP, visiting school…*



We are flattered to be able to welcome Michael Wheeler, MP for Worsley and Eccles, into school at the start of term. Previously, Rebecca Long-Bailey, MP for Salford, visited St Peter's and listened to the children's views with great interest, so we are very proud, therefore, that our pupils will also get to talk with another member of parliament and have the chance to show him around their school.

It is the time of year when we are talking to the children about the importance of democracy – a core British Value – as we look to elect a new pupil council for the 2025/26 academic year, so the visit is perfectly timed and we are very grateful for it.

# Fundraising – Church News – Uniform

## *Fundraising – Thank You for Your Incredible Support!*



As we begin a new school year, we want to take a moment to say a **huge thank you** to all our parents and carers for your amazing fundraising efforts last year.

Thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm – whether through non-uniform days, raffles and more – we raised over **£1,100 for various charities** (Cancer Research, Children in Need, Wood Street Mission, Save the Children, etc) and **£1,300 for our school community** (from the new Christmas Fair). These funds have greatly supported the charities concerned and have helped us start a program of new smartboards in classrooms and toy replacement on the playground.

Your support makes a real difference to charities and to our children's learning and experiences, and it is so important in **helping us reinforce the school values of love, kindness, justice, inclusion and responsibility.** We're so grateful, as ever, to be part of such a committed and caring school community.




**This term we look to raise funds for:**

- **Food Parcels** – for local families in need at Harvest-time
- **Wear It Pink** – cancer research and support
- **Children in Need** – national charities, plus our pupils choose a local one to split the money with
- **Save the Children** – Christmas Jumper Appeal
- **Wood Street Mission** – Christmas Toy & Toiletries Appeal.

Thank you for your continued support – Together We Believe, Aspire And Achieve!

## *Church News*



We are very much looking forward to our first major service of the school year – **our Harvest Festival Service, provisionally set to take place in church on Weds, 9th October (2.15pm)** – when we will give thanks for all that we receive and think about sharing what we have with those in greater need.

Later in the term, as we build up to Christmas, we will take part in many of our own events at church – Carol Service (with Chatsworth Futures), Nativity Performances, etc – plus the City of Salford Carols and the annual Salford Schools' Choir Service, both of which we are delighted to say will be held at St Peter's again this year. All are warmly welcome!



## *Uniform – are you missing anything? Do you need more?*

We have a large number of items of misplaced uniform waiting to be collected, so please call in if you have lost any this term. We also have many pre-loved jumpers and cardigans, in good condition, that families have donated once their children have outgrown these; so, to save money or the environment, please ask at any time. (These will be available at Parents' Evening, also).

## Welcome Meetings – Summer Photos – Wrap-Around Care – Parking

# *Meet the Teacher/TA - Class Welcome Meetings*




These sessions are a really good, quick way to get to know your child's new staff, classroom, routines and topics for the year ahead. Even if you have seen these staff on the playground or around school, this is the time to find out about all the things your child will be learning this year and **how home and school can work in partnership for his/her benefit.**

We used to run these meetings over two nights, aiming to give easier access to all, but your feedback has led us to changing this. **We are now running the meetings twice on the same afternoon – at 3.30pm, repeated at 4.00pm** – so that parents can choose the time that suits them best, or can see the teachers of two of their children's classes in a one-hour slot.

**These will take place on Monday 15th September**. If anyone can't make it, or has children in three classes, please message the teacher on Dojo, who will be happy to catch up or send information home.

For parents of children in the **Nursery class**, you do not need to attend if you came to our welcome meeting in June, but we know a number of families couldn't make that, so Mrs Jones is running a shortened version of that session again for you. (Of course, all are welcome, even if seen before.)

## *Summer term highlights…*











## *Wrap-Around Care*

KENEX Out of School Club, has the highest inspection grading from OFSTED. It is not run by school, but is our recommended provider. If interested in places, call 0161 794 9159.

### *Parking – thanks, but we need to ask a little more, please…*

We have mentioned parking around school in a number of newsletters, and the impact it has on our children as well as the learners from Chatsworth Futures, across the road. Thank you, **the parking has improved slightly, but we need to ask drivers not to use the Chatsworth driveway entrance as a turning area**. There are increasing numbers of young learners – 14 to 25-year-olds with special educational needs – using the college each day and they need clear access for the specialist vehicles that transport the students. Please avoid this area.

| **Term Dates 2025/26** | **Open (8:50am) on:** | **Break up (3:20pm) on:** |
|---|---|---|
| Autumn Half-Term 1 | Tuesday 2nd September | Friday 24th October |
| Autumn Half-Term 2 | Monday 3rd November | Friday 19th December |
| Spring Half-Term 1 | Tuesday 6th January | Friday 13th February |
| Spring Half-Term 2 | Monday 23rd February | Thursday 2nd April |
| Summer Half-Term 1 | Monday 20th April | Friday 22nd May |
| Summer Half-Term 2 | Monday 8th June | Thursday 23rd July |