St Peter's Press

School Year 2024/25 – Spring Term

Happy New Year from all at St Peter's! Thank you for sending your children back to school with enthusiasm (photos, below left) that has never been more evident than on our annual Freddy Fit Day (photos, below right), kick-starting 2025 with boundless energy!

This is our first chance to say we hope you had a happy and peaceful festive season and to **thank you for your incredible support** for our Christmas events and services in December. St Peter's Church seats 500 people, with more standing, and we had five such full-church events in the last fortnight of term.

Through our own Carol Service and two Nativities, the Salford Schools' Carols and the honour of being invited to take part in City of Salford Carol Service alongside such prestigious performers as the BBC Philharmonic, GMP Brass Band, and Salford Adult Choirs, we were really **proud to share such precious times**. Plus, it was very special to involve local groups such as Chatsworth Futures and Aunty Steph's Playgroup, and then to trial our first ever School Christmas Fair, with estimates of more than 500 attendees there as well. All that means **over 3,000 family, friends and community members at school services and advent-time events**, for which support we are extremely grateful.







The spring term is shorter than autumn and summer, but we still aim to **fit in as many great learning opportunities for your children as at any other time,** and also continue to involve families in school life as much as possible, with **class assemblies,** the launch of our **Eco-Refill Shop** (see over) and our **World of Work-Aspiration Week**, as follows.

For this term's school focus, we are looking at **Aspiration** (a key element of our mission statement) **and Values** – leading to our Kindness, Community, Spirituality and World of Work Week (must get a snappier title!), where **we invite parents and carers to come in and speak** to a class of children about their job. There is no pressure for this, but anyone who can help out will make a very positive impression on the children. Please speak to us if interested.

SPRING TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
08/01/25 – Y5 MUFC Dragons' Den Enterprise Day	11/02/25 – Y1 Science Trip to Eureka & Y6 WW2 Day
09/01/25 – Freddy Fit's Fitness Fun Day (whole sch)	12/02/25 – SATs Mtg for Y6 Parents, 5.30pm
18/01/25 – Final Cross-Country Race of Season	27/02/25 – Y5 Lark Hill Place Trip (Victorians)
19/01/25 – WSL Manchester Derby at Etihad (Y5/6)	28/02/25 – Y2 Class Ass'ly (Fire of London), 2.30pm
20/01/25 – Premier League Trophy in school	03/03/25 – School Book Week
20/01/25 – Spring Term After-School Clubs start	06/03/25 – World Book Day (dress as favourite word!)
22/01/25 – Swinton Y3/4 Handball Festival	21/03/25 – Red Nose Day 2025
30/01/25 – Eco-Refill Shop Launch (see over)	24/03/25 – Spring Term Assessment Week
06/02/25 – Young Voices 2025 at Co-op Live	25/03/25 – Y4 Parent Times-Table Quiz Info Session
07/02/25 – Y4 Class Assembly, school hall, 2.30pm	28/03/25 – Y6 Class Ass'ly (Geog – Australia), 2.30pm
10/02/25 – Kindness, Community, Spiritualty and World of Work-Aspiration Week (see above)	31/03/25 – Travelling Book Fair in school
	03/04/25 – Spring Term Parents' Evening, 1.30-7.30pm
10/02/25 – Val/Kindness Disco; Safer Internet Day	04/04/25 – Easter Service & Eggstravaganza (time tbc)
Plus, more trips, events and activities to be finalised. Details to follow.	

The All-New St Peter's Primary School Eco-Refill Shop



In December, our Pupil Council represented Salford at the GM Green Summit, where **they worked with Andy Burnham** (photo, left) and Dame Sarah Storey (Paralympian and GM Green Travel Ambassador), who encouraged the group to continue their great environmental work which led to the Green Flag Award and is helping our Carbon Neutral by 2030 aim. **Inspired by this, we are excited to announce the children's latest eco-venture…**

What is an Eco-Refill Shop? It is a way of selling detergents without the plastic bottles, where customers bring their own containers to be refilled with quality wash products.

Where do we come in? On January 30th, we will be launching our own school Eco-Refill Shop, led by the Pupil Council/Eco-Group, to help our community to be even more sustainable. The one **main aim of the refill shop is to reduce the amount of single-use plastics** by encouraging the refilling of household bottles, but at the same time **provide our families and friends with high quality cleaning products for body and home**.

What's wrong with recycling plastic? Unfortunately, despite best efforts, plastic recycling is not very effective; a great number of plastic bottles, even those sent for recycling, end up as land-fill, litter or are burnt, because recycling facilities can't keep up with the demand. Each of these options is very damaging to the environment, and so is making new plastic bottles, which uses large amounts of carbon, warming the earth and contributing to the increasingly strange – often devastating – weather patterns and high rainfall that we now see.

The idea, then, is simple: let's re-use the plastic bottles that already exist!



The products we'll be selling are: hand wash, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, washing-up liquid and laundry liquids. All the products are UK made, ethically sourced, cruelty free, vegan, paraben and SLS free and sustainable. They are of a high quality – the same as on the high street from companies such as Lush, Body Shop & Ecover – and come direct from the manufacturer, keeping costs low. It is not for profit (bar a small amount to cover costs) and is all run by the children – marketing, stock and serving you in our monthly pop-up shop.

Can't you buy these things more cheaply elsewhere? Honestly, yes, poorer quality versions of these products can be bought a little more cheaply from budget supermarkets, but **products of this quality cannot be bought anywhere more cheaply than the price we sell for, and of course, costs are kept down because you bring your own container. (e.g. costs for 250ml: shower gel = £2.00; hand wash = £1.50; wash'g-up liquid = £1.00)**

How will it work? The shop will be open on **the last Thursday afternoon of each month (unless stated otherwise) for the final hour of the school day.** Parents/Carers/ Family/Friends come into the school hall from 2.20pm and bring empty soap dispensers, shower-gel bottles, etc (basically any plastic bottle you like) and fill them from our range of different smelling products (there are testers to help you choose). You pay for exactly what you buy, we only charge you for whatever amount of product it has taken to fill it. It is that simple. **All are welcome** and we will provide free tea and coffee to make it a positive, social event.



Carbon Neutral by 2030



Our children attended an environment rally at Salford Civic Centre in 2021, at the same time as the COP21 UN Climate Summit was in the UK. Many countries at the time pledged to work towards being **carbon-neutral by 2030,** but sadly, global financial pressures have led a lot of these to back down on that pledge. We haven't!

Our staff and governors at the time made a 9-year plan to get the school to carbon neutral by 2030 and we are still striving towards this. The roof replacement, which included a major insulation upgrade, was a big part of the strategy, whilst the next phase is for us to have solar panels installed and then upgrade our ageing heating system, possibly to ground-source or similar.



Meanwhile, our Pupil Council has led various initiatives in recent years, working with Mrs Green and other adults, hence the reason for us receiving the prestigious Green Flag Award (photo above). Some of these are to support wider environmental issues, such as fundraising for local parks and wildlife trusts or setting up activities like the new eco-refill scheme explained on the previous page, whilst **other initiatives they have carried out are to help our carbon-neutral drive** in simple ways, even seemingly small ideas like setting up classroom light-switch monitors.

And at the same time, Mr Scanlan, our site manager, has been instrumental in carrying out building developments, making great efficiency savings on the school's energy bills and even single-handedly **replacing the lighting throughout school with LED fittings,** reducing electricity consumption by over 70%. Remarkably, he has done this at a cost of just £11,000, when the cheapest quote we had from commercial companies was over £70,000!



We have a duty to look after public money and public assets, and **the St Peter's school building is very much an asset for the people of Swinton**, so we will keep going! In the past three years consecutively, our school's energy rating has gone from an F grade to E to D to C, about which we are very proud. Public buildings are inspected on this type of thing each year and when it was our turn last month the local authority's energy consultant said it was ***'…pretty unheard of and remarkable for a building of this age…'***

Our 'School Green Week' each July has been instrumental in ensuring that the children remain aware of environmental issues and have this in their thoughts. Many of the activities within Green Week, such as the clothes-swap and no-electricity day, are ideas that were suggested to us by our families, and we are always happy to hear others. **If any families have ideas, experiences or suggestions as to how we can keep this lovely old-but-brilliantly-practical school at the forefront of modern developments and strive to be carbon neutral**, please tell us. **St Peter's belongs to our community, and we must protect the school and its environment for the children.**

World Book Day 2025 – Staff Update – Church News



World Book Day 2025 – Word Up!

As well as Red Nose Day, there is another dress-up day this term in the form of **World Book Day on Thursday 6th March**. As last year, we will ask the children to come **as a favourite word**, which sounds odd, but worked so well and meant that families got creative with what they had at home and didn't need to buy an outfit. Come the same as last year, or as a new word – your choice!

Staffing Update





We are pleased to tell you that **Mrs Sarah Jones**, our Head of Infants, will be returning at Easter after a year's maternity leave. We are also happy to inform Year 2 families that **Miss Rachel Waddington**, who has taught this age-group since April 2024, will be staying on until the summer holiday, so that she can continue the great work that she and the Y2 children have carried out (together with Mrs Rawling, class teaching assistant) and maintain continuity by seeing the children through to the end of the school year. Mrs Jones will resume Y2 class teaching in September 2025, but will lead one-to-one reading support across school until then.



This term, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Joane Chan onto the staff, as a new member of our Lunchtime Welfare Assistant team. This is a valuable role, which involves as much pastoral and play support as it does helping children in the dinner hall. Joane came across extremely well at interview, when her positivity and alignment to our school values was clear. She has a wealth of work experience from Hong Kong, where she lived until moving to the UK in 2023 with her young family.

St Peter's Church News

As we said on the front cover, it was lovely to share the happy services in church and **spread the values of Advent with so many members of our local and extended community** before Christmas. Our next whole-school event in church will be our Easter Service and Eggstravaganza! at the end of the spring term.



Meanwhile, Fr Jeremy is very ably helped by a number of our pupils as servers at church services each week, and we are always happy to pass on the interests of others who wish to be involved. On behalf of the church, Dave Berry (church steward and one of our school governors) gave a presentation to each class in December to explain the benefits of this; to follow-up, **if any families are interested, please let us know** and we will put you in touch with Fr Jeremy and/or church stewards.

SIAMS – Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools

In last term's issue of this newsletter, we explained that we were awaiting our SIAMS inspection, similar to OFSTED, but during which the focus will be on our upholding of the school's Christian vision and our teaching and living by the schol values.

We genuinely look forward to the experience, as a chance to show strengths such as:

- **The way the pupils here live out the school's Christian values in all they do.**
- **The children's superb relationship-building – with each other and with their staff.**
- **Our pupils' (& families') care and compassion, highlighted by huge charity support.**
- **Pupils' spiritual development, e.g. engaging with wider matters like the environment.**
- **The manner in which our ch'n are inclusive of all, regardless of background or ability.**
- **Our pupils 'exceptional personal development', noted by all visitors, including OFSTED.**

Fundraising – Equal Access Award – Oracy – Punctuality

Fantastic Fundraising!



The kindness of our families is always exceptional and never more so than it was in the lead up to Christmas, when many charity appeals took place. During this time, you raised:

- **Children in Need and Salford Parks Trust (shared) – £180**
- **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - £170**
- **Wear It Pink Cancer Charity - £185**
- **Save the Children Christmas Jumper Days – £225**
- **Wood Street Mission Christmas Toy Appeal – absolutely loads!! (photo above)**
- **School Christmas Fair (pays for playg'd equip, Dazzling Darren, etc) – £1,100!**

On behalf of each of these organisations and the school itself, thank you so much for your incredible generosity.

We have a couple of non-uniform days coming this term, but the only one of these planned for fundraising at the time of writing is for Red Nose Day on 21st March.



Premier League Equal Access Award

Our families will all know how school prides itself on being open and inclusive to all, so we were **delighted to have been given this prestigious award** in December. Our extra-curricular clubs are free of charge and open to whoever is interested, regardless of gender or ability, and it is great to be recognised for this.

Even more so, **the Premier League wanted to use two schools in England to make a video piece to highlight the importance of gender equality… and they chose ours!** We will send this out on Dojo at the same time as this newsletter comes home and must say we think it will make anyone involved with St Peter's extremely proud. The filming was unplanned and unscripted, so hearing the children's words genuinely reinforces one's faith in young people and gives great hope for the future.

By way of thanks, the **Premier League Trophy (the actual one) is coming into school** on Monday 20th Jan, which is a very rare treat and, as well as creating great excitement, is an added boost to this term's whole-school theme of aspirations.

Outstanding Oracy – Speaking Well



In the last newsletter, we told you about our drive to **help children develop their oracy skills** – to increase vocabulary, speak positively and politely to others, listen respectfully to different points of view and give rounded views on a range of subjects. This is a crucial skill in the world of work and interviews in later in life, but also in **everyday communication** at school, simply just with friends or when acting as monitors, prefects and class reps.

We have spent the last year increasing our vocabulary through Word Aware strategies, and have included a Discussion of the Week for each class. We now hope to develop this further with a scheme called Philosophy for Children, which we are very excited to explore.



Attendance Matters: Perfect Punctuality

We wrote a section on attendance last term and are delighted to congratulate the 53 children achieving 100% attendance from Sept to Dec and the 135 exceeding the national target of 96%+. Super effort from families!

This term, we wondered whether people also appreciate how important it is to be on time, daily: at 8.50am. **Did you know that missing 'just' 10-15 minutes at the start of each day adds up to a child being absent for two weeks of the school year?!**

Parent Governor Vacancies

You may recall us announcing two vacancies for parent governors on our school governing board in last term's St Peter's Press. This is a voluntary role, which involves 6-9 meetings per year to **oversee the way the school gives the best possible provision for its pupils**, through teaching and learning, safeguarding, staffing, buildings, health, safety and finance, amongst other issues.

We are lucky to have an extremely committed governing board and, from last term's article, **two very strong candidates** have asked to join this. Their details will be circulated to families , but if others wish to step up, an election can be held, so please look out for a separate letter this term.



This Term's School Clubs *(wk beg 20th Jan to wk beg 17th March)*

Tuesday: Y1-6 Music, Y5-6 Netball, Y3-4 Computing, Y4-6 Art & Craft
Wednesday: Nursery & Reception Yoga, Y1-6 Choir, Y4-6 Dance
Thursday: Y1-3 Sports & Games Activity Club, Y4-6 Multi-Sport Club

The School Questionnaire, November 2024 – what you told us…

Thank you for taking the time to complete our bi-annual survey; over 50% of families did so, which we are told is statistically very high, and is appreciated. Many companies use the old '…your views are important to us…' line, but we genuinely mean it! And we act upon them. Here are **your responses:**

- **The school has a strong, positive ethos – 99% agree**
- **My child is happy and feels safe at the school – 99% agree**
- **My child is well looked after at the school – 100% agree**
- **School teaches children well and ensures good behaviour – 99% agree**
- **It offers a broad, varied curriculum and keeps children active – 100% agree**
- **The learning environment is stimulating – 99% agree****
- **School communicates well in many ways – website, apps, newsletter – 99% agree***
- **School responds well to any concerns I have – 98% agree**
- **I would recommend this school to others – 99% agree**

There are certain action points for us, with two that may particularly interest families being:
Communication is strong, but do we use too many apps? It's tricky; we use different methods so that we hopefully reach everybody, but we constantly talk to our providers to see if we can get the website, photo-comms, parent payments, etc, all on the same app. We'll keep trying!
****Internal environment is stimulating, but outside?*** Despite its age, our building is state of the art for teaching and learning - the layout, spacious classrooms, number of small-group spaces and bright, stimulating wall displays are **the envy of the new-build schools in the city**. However, we realise that from the outside it looks what it is – an old Victorian building. We work hard to create engaging play areas, increase greenery and to make the most of what we have (including the field, even though we can't fence it off), but we hear your views, so look out for new signage, external furniture and more…

Christmas Highlights **(left to right, top: Santa Dash, Dazzling Darren, Choir dancing with Age Concern members) (bottom: Infant Nativity, Christmas Parties, Carol Service with our families, Chatsworth Future's and Aunty Steph's P'gp)**








Term Dates 2024/25 *(please see website for term dates for the two school years after the current)*

Spring half-term 1: Tues 7th Jan to Fri 14th Feb Spring half-term 2: Monday 24th Feb to Friday 4th April
Summer half-term 1: Tues 22nd April to Fri 23rd May Summer half-term 2: Mon 9th June to Thurs 24th July