

St Peter's



Church of England  
Primary School

February 26

# Winter Newsletter

from St Peter's  
Primary School



## Dear Parents and Carers

### A Term of Courage, Creativity and Community at St Peter's

As we reach the midpoint of the school year, it has been a real pleasure to reflect on another busy and inspiring term at St Peter's. The school has been full of energy and purpose, with classrooms alive with curiosity, creativity and a strong sense of belonging. It is wonderful to see how confidently the children are approaching their learning and how much pride they take in being part of our school community. We were pleased to welcome our school improvement advisor into school last week and were delighted with the positive things that he noticed about our school community, including the quality of the provision and the engaged, enthusiastic and focused learners! It has been a great term of learning all round and we know you will be very proud of your child's progress when you see their books in parents' evenings at the start of next term.

I would like to take a moment to extend a huge thank you to our PSA, whose efforts mean so much to our school community. As you will know, our long-serving Chair and Treasurer are stepping away from their leadership roles on the PSA. Following a very positive and well-attended PSA AGM, a new leadership team has now been elected. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Katy, Nic, and the wider team who have supported them, for everything they have done for our school community over many years. Their dedication, time, and commitment have made a real and lasting difference. We are delighted to share that a new leadership team has been elected, with co-chairs Claire and Emma, and Treasurer Dorique. We look forward to working with them as they take the PSA forward. After half term, we will be sending out some PSA news highlighting achievements from the past few years and outlining plans for the future. As always, we are hugely grateful to the parents and carers who give their time so generously for the benefit of our whole school community.

This term, our focus value has been **courage**, and it has been inspiring to see how thoughtfully the children have embraced this. In Key Stage 2, pupils have been exploring what it means to be courageous advocates, taking inspiration from individuals such as Malala Yousafzai, Mahatma Gandhi, Desmond Tutu and Rosa Parks. Together, they have reflected on how courage is often found in everyday moments – in choosing to speak out when we notice injustice, in standing up for others, and in doing what is right even when it feels difficult. Our St Peter's citizens have certainly shown great courage in many different ways this term, and we are very proud of them.

A particular highlight of the term has been Year 5's Bikeability training, where the children have been exceptional ambassadors for our school. They demonstrated not only excellent understanding of road safety and environmental awareness, but also incredibly respectful, mature and positive attitudes throughout (even in the rain!) One of the instructors took the time to seek me out specifically to share his feedback, describing this cohort as one of the most impressive he has taught and commenting that "there

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*is something very special going on here.*" Well done to everyone in Year 5 – we hope you continue to enjoy cycling safely over the half term break.

This week has also seen the exciting launch of this year's St Peter's carnival theme which links beautifully with the 2026 National Year of Reading. Children are being taken on a journey into a *World of Pure Imagination*, and plans are already underway for a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory–inspired float that promises to be a real showstopper. Our designers and artists at St Peter's have spent a family day creating the most wonderful designs. Please do take a look at the separate carnival section later in the newsletter for all the details – and hopefully some inspiration too. We would love this to be our biggest St Peter's walking party ever, and the best part is that **everyone** can be involved. Details will follow at the start of next term.

And finally, as we reach the half-term break, I wonder what you will be reading during the holidays. Thanks to an inspirational visit to Maple Class this week, I have been persuaded to read *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Listening to the children talk with such enthusiasm about their class reading time and hearing them confidently explain why they enjoyed this book so much (without any spoilers!) was a great reminder of the power of shared reading and the excitement that a good book can inspire. I hope you all enjoy some time to relax with a great read over the break.

We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and, by then then, hopefully we might see some sunshine!

Best regards,

*Catrin Battista*



## Reception

The learning in Reception has been out of this world this term! One of our highlights was our Space WOW day. The morning started with an exciting hunt to find aliens and rescue Buzz, who had been lost in space.



The children loved learning about Neil Armstrong and his incredible journey to the moon and then getting busy designing and creating rockets. We also discovered how astronauts brush their teeth and sleep in space!



We have now completed Phase 3 of our Unlocking Letters and Sounds Phonics scheme and have started to master all the new sounds and Common Exception Words. All of these can be found in your child's reading record. If you need help with any of the sounds, there is very useful video which can be accessed through a QR code towards the back of the record!



We have explored light and dark and how shadows are created. The children have loved using different objects with torches to make shadows and discover how different shapes and sizes were made.

We have also had some lovely visitors from Year 5 performing on their guitars! It was lovely to see our Reception classes so inspired by their hard work and skill! We had many eager questions and compliments afterwards.



Next term, we are very excited to be launching our 'Mystery Reader'! Every Friday each class will be treated to a special visitor whose identity is kept as a surprise, who will read one of their child's favourite books. We are eager to be able to welcome parents and carers into the classroom and cannot wait to see the children's excitement a Parentmail will come out with details on this!

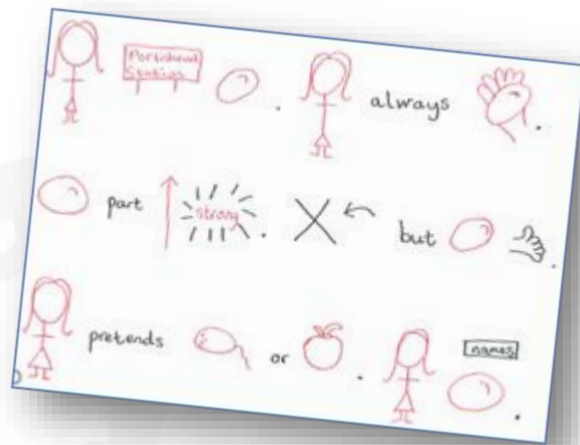
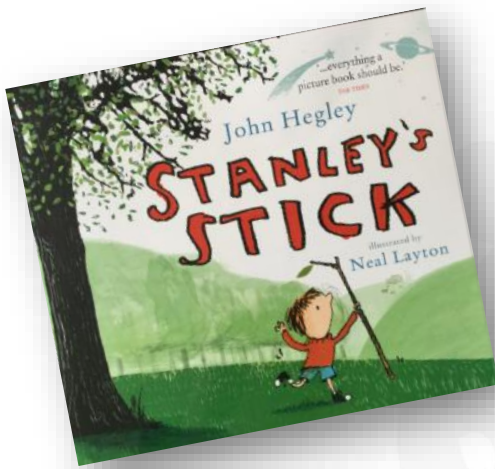
We hope you all have a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing you next term!



## Year 1

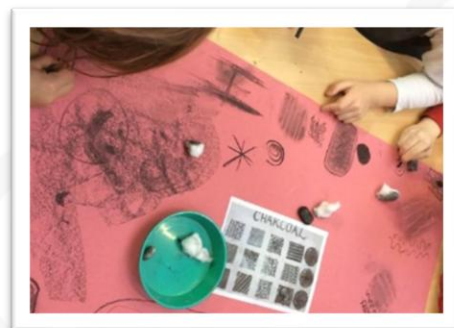
### English – Stanley's Stick

In our English lessons, we have been reading the book 'Stanley's Stick' by John Hegley. First, we learnt to retell the main events of the narrative using a story map. After that, we innovated the story to 'Sue's Stone'. Following the same sequence as Stanley's Stick, we then re-wrote the story with our new ideas. This is our first piece of story writing in Year 1 and we are all very proud of what we have achieved - please do ask us about it!



### Art – Drawing Stories

In Art this term, we have been developing our observational drawing skills. Inspired by the artist Joseph Wright, we started by making marks using charcoal. We discovered that charcoal was very different to mark making with pencils, as we could smudge and rub its residue to create different effects. We also noticed that it was a useful tool to use when creating light and dark tones on a page. After creating our own story scene full of light and dark tones, we then used our observational drawing skills to sketch it onto paper. We even wrote a sentence to explain our story idea.





## Year 2

This term in English, we have been focussing on how to be expert writers through extending our sentences by using different conjunctions. Can you spot where we have used them? We have enjoyed exploring this through our three focus texts for the term: 'Rosie Revere Engineer' by Andrea Beaty, 'Katie in London' by James Mayhew and 'Last Stop in Market Street' by Matt De La Pena. We have enjoyed delving into each of the texts, exploring the characters, settings and story lines. We particularly enjoyed reading 'Katie in London' as it also linked with our geography learning on the capital cities of the UK. We had fun finding out about and describing the impressive landmarks that are found around London.



Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Flying Machine**  
Description

Description - Flying Machine	
Number	Yes
Capital letters and full stops	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phrases for spelling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Common exception words	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Letter Formation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Expanded noun phrases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Common sentence structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Combining conjunctions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

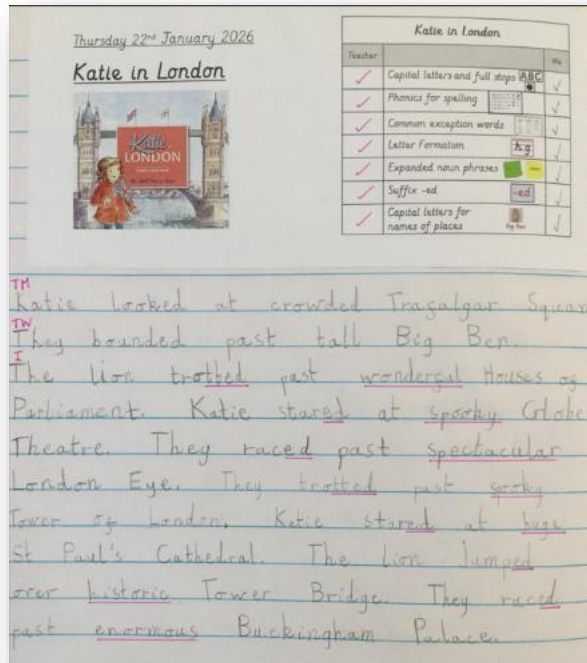
My plane has a large, spacious cabin so there is somewhere to sit.  
It has wide, sleek wings so it can glide through the air.  
It has big, black wheels so it can land on the run way.  
It has small, clear windows so you can look outside.  
It has bright, round lights so you can see.  
large, Strait cockpit so the pilot can fly the airplane.  
It has cpeadly, strong proppells so it can make the airplane drive.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026

LO: to write a recount in the first person

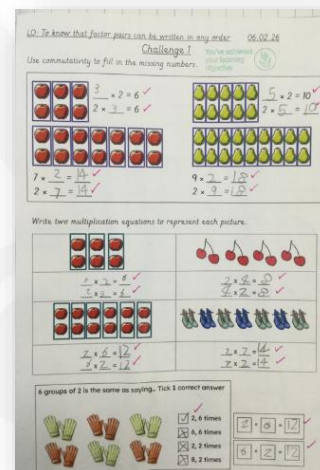
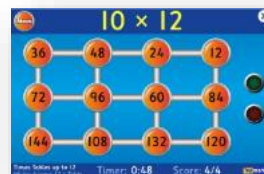
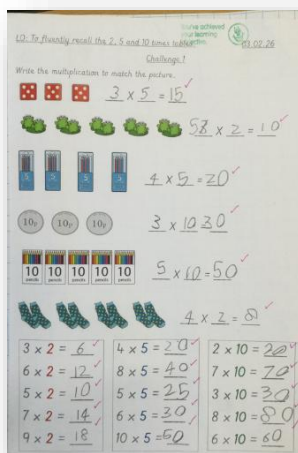
Recount in the first person	
Number	Yes
Phrases for spelling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chronological order	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Full time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
First person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Combining conjunctions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Repeating conjunctions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I was excited to leave church so I pushed through the heavy wooden doors. I headed to the bus stop and it started raining so nana started up her orange prut. It started raining so I ducked under nana's umbrella. I got in the bus and nana's umbrella was a magic w Deni's did a magic trick. When the bus creaked to a stop he and nana got on. It was busy.

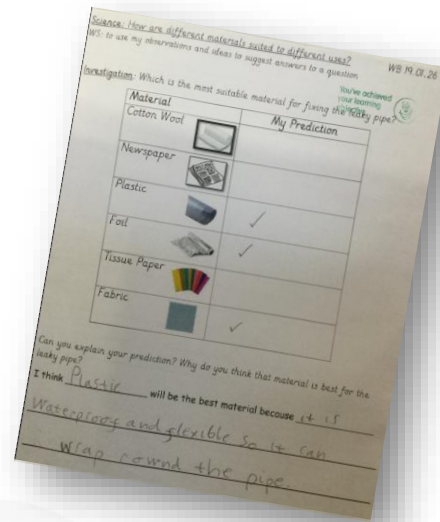


What great mathematicians we are! In maths, we have been learning about multiplication through understanding equal groups, repeated addition and using the multiplication symbol. We have also explored how multiplication can be commutative. We are beginning to become experts at our quick recall of the 2x, 5x and 10x tables. You can find a great game online called 'hit the button' if you want to practice fluency of recall of these times tables at home.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>



In science, we have been learning about materials and their properties and we have conducted experiments and some investigations to develop our skills of working scientifically. We tested the waterproof properties of different materials to see which would be best to fix a leaky pipe and more recently, we explored the area of 'changing materials' investigating which materials will bend, twist, stretch and squash.



In geography this term we have been learning about the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom, including the names of the surrounding oceans and seas. We have been enthusiastic geographers and we have loved learning some facts about the characteristics of the four countries in the United Kingdom and what makes them unique!

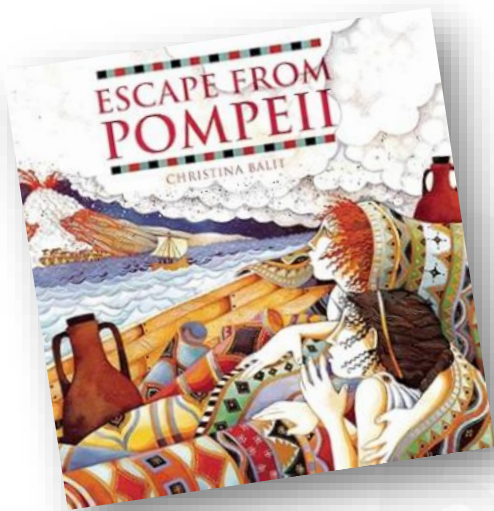


Well done, year 2, on an excellent start to 2025!

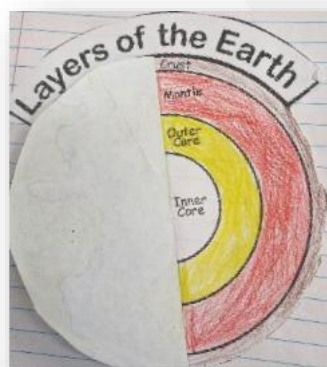


## Year 3

We have enjoyed looking at two new books within our writing lessons this term. First, we read *The Wilderness* and learned a new skill of using inverted commas for direct speech. The children loved creating their own adventure story using the characters from the book. Next, we enjoyed *Escape from Pompeii* which also linked to our learning on volcanoes in geography. We have loved discovering what it was like when Mount Vesuvius erupted in Pompeii!



Mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes have been our focus in geography this term. We discovered how fold mountains are created and what happens when the tectonic plates rub together. Our favourite part was learning about the gasses and pressure build up in volcanoes with our experiment using coke and mentos!



In science, we have become geologists studying rocks! We worked as scientists to test what type of rock would be best suited for kitchen worktops. We tested durability by rubbing sand paper and permeability by using pipettes to drop water on to the rocks.



We loved investigating fossils! They were all so different and interesting.



Finally, Year 3 loved our art topic studying French artist, Henri Matisse. We created collages based on the Greek myth, The Odyssey. We used stencilling and drawing with scissors techniques to create our collages.





## Year 4

### Science

In Science this term, Year 4 have been learning about states of matter. We carried out an exciting experiment to investigate how temperature affects different solids. Using chocolate, wax and butter, we carefully heated each material in hot water and observed the temperature at which they changed from a solid to a liquid. The children enjoyed making predictions, recording their results and discovering that different substances melt at different temperatures.



### Maths

All year, Year 4 have been working hard to improve their times table knowledge through daily practice. This term, we have been focusing particularly on mastering the 7 times table, and the children have shown great determination and progress. We also launched our very first Times Table Rock Stars Battle of the Bands, which created lots of excitement across the year group. Congratulations to Snapdragon Class for becoming the top rockers this term — a fantastic achievement!

### English

We have read some very exciting and engaging books this term and produced some lovely pieces of writing to go alongside them. We created excellent narratives about the fascinating story, 'The Crown'. The children really applied their knowledge of punctuation to produce some engaging dialogue between the characters.

We also had fun creating an information text on Earth's history and where 'we' came from. The book, 'Ever-Changing Earth', gave us some interesting facts to base our writing upon and the illustrations were truly amazing!







## Year 5

### Art

During our art lessons this term, the children have been learning about Tudor portraits and how there were hidden meanings behind the choices of colour and composition. The children have been looking at proportion and colour mixing to produce their own portraits of Queen Elizabeth the first.



### Science

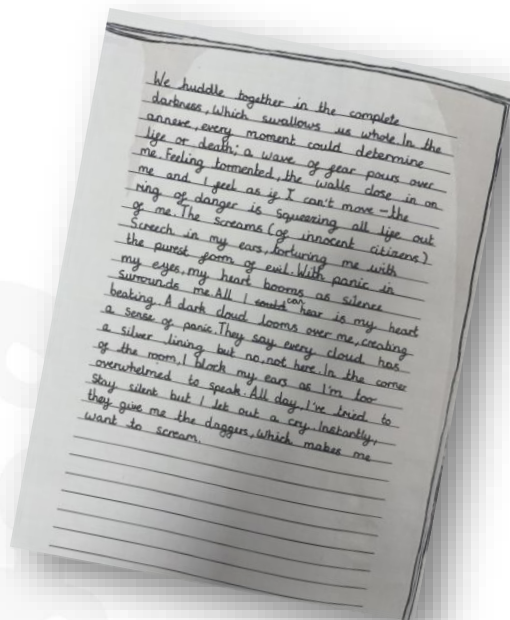
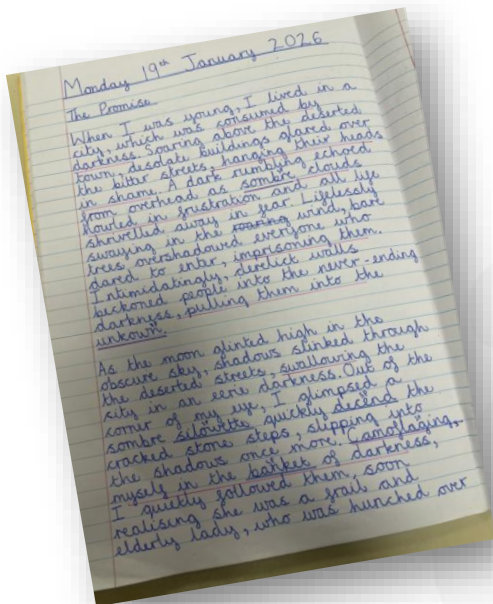
Linking to our learning about Hidden Figures, our science this term has been all about space. The children have learnt how beliefs on the solar system have changed over time and that we can't always rely on what our eyes tell us – the Sun doesn't actually move across the sky and the Moon doesn't change shape! We also made a fruit solar system to help us understand the relative size of the planets. Our learning culminated with a visit by the fantastic space dome. The children loved the amazing graphics, especially seeing inside the International Space Station and learning about the planned expeditions to Mars.



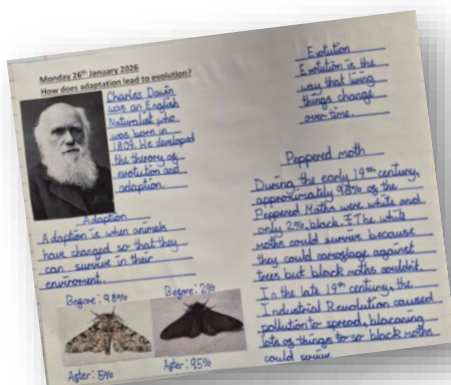


## Year 6

In English this term, we have enjoyed creative writing. We started with some work on *The Promise* by Nicola Davies, describing the positive and negative settings as well as retelling the story with some high-level dialogue. We have since moved on to learning about Anne Frank and produced some beautifully creative diary entries, mimicking her descriptive style of diary writing.



In our science lessons, we have been learning about evolution. To better understand it, we carried out an experiment, using a range of objects (like tweezers and chopsticks) to pick up seeds. This helped us to see how the beaks of different finches have changed over time to suit their different diets. We also created posters to show our learning about Charles Darwin and his studies of the Peppered Moth.



In geography, we have studied population pyramids, which tell us how a country's population is made up based on ages and genders. We've engaged in some deep conversations about different countries to compare what their population pyramids tell us.

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## Wellbeing newsletters

You will find this terms wellbeing Newsletters [HERE](#)

It is filled with SEND information and activities and parent advice on topics ranging from Sleep and help with SEND for school placements .

