

# St Mary & St Peter Primary School Newsletter

## Set Sail for Success

Newsletter Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Priscilla Crane  
Head of School: Mrs. Jade Block



### Our Mission Statement

*Through nurturing trust and strong relationships, our learning adventure will see each and every one of us thrive in God's love.*

### Values

*Believe  
Respect  
Love  
Trust*

*If you have any questions about what your child is learning or how you can help your child at home, please arrange an appointment with the class teacher.*

## Headteacher's News

### Stars of the Week

Our Stars of the week enjoying chocolate cake on our Golden Table!

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec Stars:



### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov Stars:



### Attendance

#### Weekly attendance figures:

Week beginning Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Year 3 achieved the best attendance overall with 98%.

Week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> Nov Year 2 achieved the best attendance overall with 97%.

Well done year 2 & 3!

### Reward system - houses

Following the introduction of our new reward system your child has been allocated to a house:

Earhart

Armstrong

Nelson

Seacole

We look forward to the exciting opportunities to come.

### Contact Details

 @SMSPGorleston

[office@smspprimary.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@smspprimary.norfolk.sch.uk)

01493 445117



### Attendance

We have a strict Attendance Policy and use Penalty Notices as a sanction to deter absences. We work closely with the Local Authority Attendance Service. If your child's attendance becomes a concern then you will be notified by the school.

If your child is unwell, you **MUST** ring school before 8.45am and speak with the office team or leave a message on the answerphone.  
01493 445117

If your child is unwell, you must inform the school each day that your child is off. If you fail to do this and the school is unable to contact you, you will be issued with a letter and your child will be given an unauthorised absence mark.

If your child needs to visit the doctor or has a medical appointment during school time, you will need to provide proof of the appointment. This can be a letter or an appointment card.

Please make all medical appointments, where possible, **OUT OF SCHOOL TIME**.

If your child has an appointment during the school day, your child **MUST** attend school before **AND** after their appointment.

Attendance matters. If your child misses school, then they are missing out!

Thank you for your continued support.

### Online safety

#### **Tik Tok**

Unfortunately we are seeing an increasing number of children that have access to Tik Tok. This has a strict age restriction of 13. Please follow the link below for more information:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>

#### Uniform

Please can I remind parents that **ALL** children must be wearing black school shoes. **NOT** boots or trainers.

Please ensure hair accessories are sensible and are **RED** to match school colours. Ribbons and bobbles should be simple. No Jo-Jo bows please.

#### Uniform Shop – items needed!

We would like to start up a second hand uniform shop at school, which will be open on selected days – details to come. If anyone has any good quality clothing that they no longer need, please donate to the school.

#### School Closure Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019

We apologise for the school closure and understand the inconvenience this can cause for parents. We appreciate your understanding and support with this. If you did not receive a text wed morning to say that the school is closed, this means we do not have your current contact number. Please could you contact the school office to update.



**Tik Tok**

**Parking**

Please can I remind parents not to park in the carpark in the old doctors surgery next door. Thank you.

**Children in need**

We raised an amazing £302.72 for Children in Need from the sale of cakes, raffle tickets, Pudsey items and donations for non-uniform. Thank you for your support.

**Football club and matches**

We would like to clarify the acceptable footwear for football club and football matches.

For football matches all children must have plastic molded football boots, they will not be allowed to take part in a match otherwise.

For football club we prefer children to wear plastic molded football boots but will be allowed to take part in trainers.

Children must not have boots with metal studs or cleats as this may harm other children.

All children for matches and club must have shin pads.

**Reading Record Launch for parents Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Find out what we need you to do with your child and receive your free reading pack. It is essential that you attend this. Please book your space on Wisepay by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 23:59.

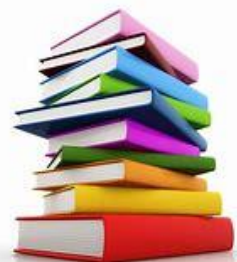
**Parent readers needed**

If anyone is able to give some of their time, to come into school and to support our pupils with some one-to-one reading, please let the school office know.

Thanks

**Book Swap Area**

We will be opening our School Library after school on a Friday 3 - 4pm in January 2020 - more details to come. We would like to have a book swap area available for children. If you have any books that you no longer need please can these be donated to the school.





## Early Years News

### **Nursery**

In nursery our current learning is based around our RE topic of 'My Family'. We will be focusing on the story 'Something Special' by Nicola Moon and will be discussing how our families are special to each of us. We will be drawing and labelling pictures of our families to develop our writing skills. This will lead onto learning about the Holy family where we will hear the Christmas story and discuss the true meaning of Christmas. We are also getting ready for the Christmas performance where we will be singing "Away in a Manger" dressed up as animals in the stable. The children will be making their own costumes to wear for the occasion.

Please support your child's learning at home by sharing the Christmas story from this website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/lets-celebrate-christmas-story> Help to teach your child to write their first names in preparation for writing in their Christmas cards, ensuring that your child uses a capital letter for the first letter of their name only with the following letters being written in lower case.

We look forward enjoying the upcoming festivities together - EYFS Christmas Stay and Play Thursday 12th December 9am-10am.

Miss Cooper

### **Reception**

In Reception we have finished our work on "The Train Ride" story and have been looking at the book "Peepo" We were looking at what was the same in the pictures of the home as our home and what was different. We have also been thinking about our families and how we are all special to God. We have been learning about how baptism is a special welcome into the Church family. To support at home you might like to show your child some pictures of when they were a baby or even when they were baptised. This week we are starting to think about the Holy family and have been hearing the story of "The Annunciation" when Mary was visited by the Angel Gabriel. We have been learning the beginning of the special prayer we say to Mary:

**Hail Mary**, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus

You might like to pray this at home with your child

In maths we have been estimating amounts and checking by counting each object. We have learnt that an estimate is a good guess. At home you could play with your child estimating and checking small sets of up to 20 objects, pieces of lego, buttons or even socks are good to estimate the number of.

We are getting ready for the Christmas performance and will be singing "Away in a Manger" we would be grateful for any practice you can do at home learning the words. We are dressing most of the children as animals in the stable and have some costumes already however if you have any white pillow cases we could have we would be very grateful.

Many Thanks for all your support, Mrs Ricketts

## Key Stage One News

### **Year 1**

In Year One we have been learning about money in Maths. The children have been busy identifying and ordering coins and notes, talking about what they look like and their value. We will be using our knowledge of addition and subtraction to solve problems involving money before moving onto multiplication before Christmas.

Year One really enjoyed being practical and making jam sandwiches and were able to give their partners verbal instructions to follow. The children have also had a go at writing their own set of instructions for the big, bad wolf. Before the end of term we will be moving on to diary writing and will write a diary entry from the wolf's perspective.

The children have really been getting into the spirit of Advent in RE. We will be continuing to learn about how Mary prepared for Jesus's birth and how we prepare for Christmas.

Things you can do at home to support your child:

- Read as often as possible and record it in your child's school diary each time they read. .
- Complete weekly homework.
- Practise the weekly spellings.
- Talk about money at home or when at the shops - identify the names of the coins and notes, order money according to their value, what coins could you swap for a £1 coin etc.
- Use time conjunctions at home - first, then, next, after that, finally.

### **Year 2**

In year 2 we are currently writing instructions on how to catch a beast that is loose in the city. We are focusing on using commas in a list, interesting adjectives and time connectives such as First, next, after that and finally.

You can help at home by asking your child to describe their trap to you using these time connectives and by listing adjectives to describe a beast.

In reading we are breaking down the inference skill. We are focusing on what a character says or does tells the reader about their personality or how they are feeling. You can help at home by reading daily with your child and asking them questions about what a character is feeling at different points in the story.

In Maths we are finishing our unit on addition and subtraction, and are practicing using number lines and equipment to answer tricky word problems.

You can help at home by asking your child to explain how to use a number line for addition and subtraction, as well as practice using them with simple additions and subtractions.

In Topic we are investigating the great fire of London, and will be writing a diary entry from the perspective of someone who was there.

You can help at home by encouraging your child to research facts about the great fire of London. Mr Rebecca

### Key Stage Two News

#### **Year 3**

This week in Year 3 we have been spotting patterns within the three times table. We have managed to prove that if you multiply an odd number by three the product will be odd too. In English we have been finishing our newspaper reports about the Firebird. In RE we have just started our unit on Mary. We will be learning about why Mary is so special to Christians and why she was chosen by God.

You can help your child at home by helping them become fluent in the four and eight times tables and exploring Bible stories involving Mary.

Miss Nobes

#### **Year 4**

**Maths** - Year 4 have been working really hard on our multiplication unit. Next week we will be moving onto factor pairs and division. Please practice times tables at home including inverse division facts as this will help them massively next week.

**Writing** - We will be continuing with our story writing unit, please try and read lots of different types of story with your child to show them what a good story looks like.

**Reading** - I am so incredibly proud of the progress that Year 4 have made with their reading this half term, they have worked so hard and it shows.

**Topic** - Year 4 have loved learning about the Roman Empire this term. For the last few weeks of this term we will be focusing on modern day Italy, particularly Rome.

### Reading Competition Update

As you know, in November Year 4 had a competition to see who could read the most at home. Congratulations to this month's winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jessica - 21 times (this equals at least two hours of reading)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Olivia - 19 times

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Tia - 13 times.

This month's competition will be running up until Christmas so please read with your child at home. I cannot stress the impact that reading at home can have on your child so please try and spare 5 minutes every day. Make sure that you log their reading in their school diary so they can show me.

Thank you so much for your continued support. Miss Ellcome

**Year 5**

Maths - we've completed our first addition, subtraction, multiplication and division units. We're now going to be moving onto area and perimeter.

English - Year 5 have produced some brilliant story writing based on folk tales.

We're now moving on to biography writing based on Inspirational People.

RE - We're now focusing on Hope and Advent coming up to Christmas.

Ways you can help your child:

- Read with them regularly;
- Read through some Biographies and talk about the language and features used;
- Ask your children to complete some basic arithmetic practice. You can give them some numbers to put into calculations.

Miss Melton

**Marina Hub**

You will have noticed that I have been sending home homework which includes times tables work. Memorising tables makes it far quicker and easier for children to work out maths problems in their heads. It can also help to develop the ability to internally add, subtract and divide! Once children know their times tables this helps develop confidence which is often the key ingredient for a child to succeed in maths

You can support your child by helping them learn their tables, hearing them say them for 5 minutes each day.

Mrs Short

---

**Friends News**

With the end of term and Christmas fast approaching we have 2 final events for this year. This coming Wednesday, 11th December, we have our annual Carols By Candlelight 630-830, final day to get your tickets will be Sunday 8th December 11:59pm. We have a great night planned so come and join us to get into the festive season by singing along to your favourite carols.

Bring along a plate of food to share and some drinks (WINE, BEER OR SOMETHING SOFT) for yourself if you wish.

**Christmas disco**

Tuesday 17th December 2019, we have got a great entertainer booked for this event and we are sure all will have a fantastic time.

Final day to get tickets is Friday 13th December.

For more information email [friendsofsmisp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsmisp@gmail.com)

## Christmas Tips for Parents of Pupils with Social & Emotional Difficulties & Autism

For most families, Christmas is a joyful occasion, an opportunity to spend time together and enjoy a bit of overindulgence. But for families of children on the autistic spectrum or for those with social/emotional difficulties, it can be a challenging time.

The festive season can be bewildering for many children. The house is full of noise and people, usual routines change and going out means coping with crowds, lights, and unfamiliar sights and smells.

### **Prepare ahead**

*Start early, talking to your child about what to expect.*

### **Create a plan**

*Print off a week-to-view calendar page and add a picture or write in your planned activities during the Christmas holidays (divide into morning, lunch, afternoon, etc.) to help put your child at ease about the plans for the week.*

### **Make special time for your kids**

*It's easy to get overloaded with Christmas preparations at this time of year, so make some special time for your kids, giving them 5 to 10 mins of undivided attention every day. Let your child take the lead, tune into their world and see it through their eyes.*

### **Use the festive season as a teaching opportunity**

*Help and encourage your child to give gifts. This provides an excellent opportunity to work on social skills, like thinking of other people's needs and interests, and being kind and helpful.*

### **Decorate gradually**

*Don't put up the decorations when your child is sleeping - if possible, get them involved. Try to introduce changes into their environment gradually, starting with the Christmas lights for (supervised) sensory play.*

### **Create a Christmas-free zone**

*Leave one room in the house, perhaps your child's room, free from anything to do with Christmas, so they can come back to the room as a 'safe place' when necessary.*

### **Prep your extended family**

*Talk to family members ahead of time. Discuss your child's specific needs, and gently but firmly tell them what your plans are. Be sure to let them know that this will make the whole experience better for everyone. Ask for their support.*

### **Pack a comfort objects backpack**

*Fill a backpack with things your child finds comforting or enjoys playing with -*



*toy cars, a stuffed animal, or a few books. If they get overstimulated, find a quiet corner or a back room and pull out the backpack.*

**Don't hope for the best, make an action plan**

*Planning and preparation in advance hugely helps. Try to have a calm room or a space they can go to for when it all gets too much. Having some time alone, or just with you, can keep meltdowns to a minimum.*

**Give your child a job**

*Give them 'jobs' to do at Christmas - take coats, offer nibbles round and so on. Giving them something to do reduces their stress about having lots of people in the house.*

**Don't rise to criticism**

*Ignore well-meaning 'advice' from family members. Remember, it bothers you more than it does your child! You know best what your child needs, and providing it is your responsibility. Try to stay focused on your child's wellbeing and let everything else wash over you.*

**Don't stand on ceremony**

*Putting food onto large plates/ bowls and letting the family help themselves can save your sanity during Christmas dinner. This way, your child can choose what he wants to eat and will try one thing at a time.*

**Avoid marathon unwrapping sessions**

*Don't feel all the presents have to be opened on Christmas morning in the traditional way as they may become so overwhelmed they can't cope. It may be easier to give them a few gifts at a time over Christmas and Boxing Day.*

**And breathe...**

*If your child reacts badly to stress, staying relaxed and low-key over the Christmas period is one of the best things you can do to keep your child's behaviour in line.*

## This Week's Prayer



*St Mary and St  
Peter, Pray for  
us.*

We have started the period of Advent where we get ourselves ready for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Here is an advent Prayer for you to use

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

**A possible big  
question you  
could discuss at  
home is:**

How are we going to prepare for Jesus coming at Christmas?

What will we do different in our family?

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1/2 Togetherness Café 13:30-14:45
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols by Candlelight 18:30
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery and Reception Togetherness Café 9-10am
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School End of Term Mass 10 am - All welcome
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Dress Rehearsal afternoon
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school Panto Trip to Gorleston Pavillion
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Friends School Disco 3-5pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Performance 9:30am and 1:30am
	School Christmas Dinner
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of term - pupils and staff return
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Parent Reading Meeting 2:30pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Pupils and staff return
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	End of term
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of term - pupils and staff return
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	May Bank Holiday/VE Day

**Dates in bold are newly added dates**

Dates for  
the Diary: