



WELCOME TO NURSERY

September 2025



NATIONAL NURTURING SCHOOL



<https://www.stpeters.herts.sch.uk/national-nurturing-school/>

6 Key principles

- We learn at our own pace and that's ok!
- Our wellbeing is the most important thing.
- Our classroom is a safe place.
- We show how we feel by the way we behave.
- We use words to express ourselves.
- We all experience change and can support each other through it.





CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT/ ROUTINES

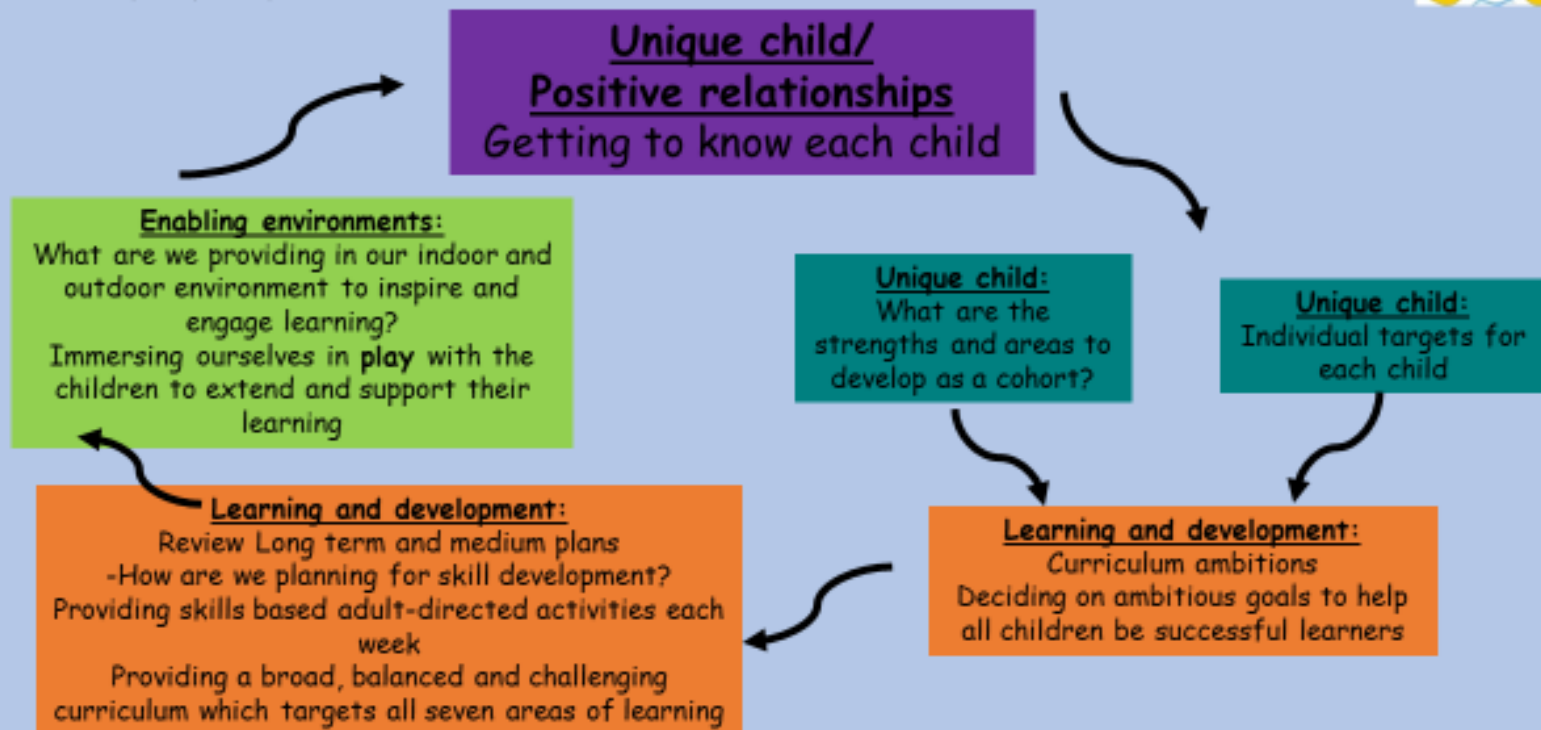
- Entry is from 8.40 – 8.50am – ‘Busy Fingers’ and self-registration.
- This is followed by circle time and ‘Physi Gym’.
- We end the day with a story. Home time is at 11:45 unless your child is staying for lunch club or Children’s 1st.
- Children are dropped off and collected from the Riverside Road entrance.





CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

How do we design our curriculum at St Peter's?



CURRICULUM TOPICS



- Autumn Term 1: Marvellous Me
- Autumn Term 2: Let's Celebrate!
- Spring Term 1: Adventures Around The World
- Spring term 2: Once Upon a Time
- Summer Term 1: Come Outside!
- Summer term 2: Commotion In The Ocean



More information can be found on the 'Knowledge Organisers' on the Squirrels Class Page and in our Termly Class Letters.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER AUTUMN 1



Nursery Knowledge Organiser: Autumn 1: Marvellous Me!

Key Books this term:

Enquiry question: What makes me special?



Things I Like by Anthony Browne

Key Questions: What do you like to do at home? What do you like to play with at Nursery? Who do you like to play with? What is your favourite colour/toy/food?

Key Vocab: like, dislike, favourite.



First Day At Bug School by Sam Lloyd

Key Questions: What happens at Nursery? What do we do when we arrive at school? Where do we keep our coats? When do we wash our hands?

Key Vocab: school, nursery, classroom, toilet, peg, playground, drawer.



What I Like About Me by Allia Zobel Nolan Blow A Kiss, Catch A Kiss by Joseph Coelho

Key Questions: What do you look like? What is your favourite thing about yourself? What is the same/different about you and your friends?

Key Vocab: face, skin, eye, ear, nose, mouth, hair, colour, texture, long, short.



Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson Love Makes A Family by Sophie Beer

Key Questions: Can you name the members of your family? What do you enjoy doing with your family? What special events do you celebrate with your family?

Key Vocab: brother, sister, mum, dad, grandma, grandad, auntie, uncle, cousin.



Possible Experiences:

- Discussing and drawing some of the things we like both at home and at Nursery.
- Practising talking in front of others and expressing our opinions.

Possible Experiences:

- Introduction to the different areas of our classroom.
- Getting used to our school routines.
- Learning how to use our classroom resources.

Possible Experiences:

- Using mirrors to help talk about what we look like.
- Identifying the similarities and differences between ourselves and our friends.

Possible Experiences:

- Using family photos to help us talk about ourselves and our families.
- Counting how many people are in our family.
- Learning about family traditions and experiences.

How to Help at Home



Encourage independence -

- Teach your child how to get dressed independently, including putting on their own coat and shoes.

Me and My Family -

- Please send in a photo of your family to the class email address. This will help your child to talk about their family. Q: Can you name the members of your family? Can you talk about the things you like to do with your family?
- Please send in any photos of a special family celebration e.g. a religious festival or a birthday. Q: What special events have you shared with your family?

Singing/Rhymes

- Practise singing nursery rhymes at home with your child. Please see Google Classroom or the school website for our Rhyme of the Week.

Our Daily Songs

Hello Song, What is the weather today? Days of the week song, Tidy up song, Goodbye song.

Starting School



Rosh Hashanah



Harvest Festival



Bonfire Night



Remembrance Day



Diwali



Spring

Summer

Autumn

Winter

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

AUTUMN 1



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be learning to:

- Separate from our grown-ups and come into school independently.
- Look after our belongings, making sure our water bottles, coats, hats and gloves are put away and return home with us each day.
- Become familiar with our classroom and school layout.
- Become familiar with our class routines – following our visual timetable.
- Build relationships with our peers and adults in school.
- Begin to build an awareness of our own identity and abilities.
- Learn to share equipment with friends and take turns.
- Learn to line up.



Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills – (We will be learning to:

- Join in with our daily Physi Gym.
- Use the toilet and wash hands independently.
- Put on our own coat and hang it on our peg.
- Put on our own apron.
- Ride the bikes and scooters.
- Climb on the A-frame and swing on the rope swings.



Fine Motor Skills – (We will be learning to:

- Take part in a variety of activities designed to develop the muscles in our hands, fingers and thumbs, including,
 - Playing freely with playdough.
 - Cutting activities to help us learn to hold scissors correctly and use them to snip.
 - Busy fingers activities such as threading, tracing and using tweezers to pick up large objects.



Communication and Language

We will be learning to:

- Say the names of my teachers, my new friends and my class name.
- Join in activities that promote listening to others and taking turns in conversations.
- Talk about themselves and their families.
- Develop listening and language skills through our topic related stories.
- Learn a range of songs through our 'Rhyme of the Week' and during Song Bag.



Mathematics:

We will be learning to:

- Join in with number stories and rhymes e.g. 5 Little Ducks Went Swimming One Day and 10 Little Fingers.
- Recognise different colours.
- Recognise 2D shapes and talk about them using informal and mathematical language.
- Match, compare and sort objects relating to size, shape and colour.



Please help your child at home by encouraging them to put their coat on independently.



Literacy – Writing

We will be learning to:

- Enjoy mark making freely.
- Explore using a variety of mark making equipment e.g. pens, chalks, crayons, paints, salt, glitter, brushes and water.
- Make up and down movements, side to side movements and circles with a writing implement in preparation for starting to write our names.



Literacy – Reading

We will be learning to:

- Take care of books, holding them up the correct way, handling them carefully and turning the pages in the right direction.
- Enjoy sharing books with an adult and take part in story time at the end of the day.
- Recognise our names (initial letter, then all of their name).
- Phonics: Aspects 1, 2 & 3: Environmental Sounds, Instrumental Sounds and Body Percussion.



Understanding the World

We will be learning to:

- Talk about our families; who is special and why.
- Talk about the differences between themselves and their friends.
- Use their senses to explore a range of sensory activities.
- Celebrate Harvest Festival.
- Explore our classroom and the outdoor environment.



Expressive Arts and Design

We will be learning to:

- Draw a picture of ourselves.
- Experience using different media.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs joining in with the actions.
- Join in pretend play through a variety of small world play and role play in our home corner.



Let your child have plenty of opportunities to get creative at home with chalks, paints, pens and collage. Not only will it give them the opportunity to express themselves, it will also help develop their fine motor skills.



Please share books together at home and if possible, visit the library in town to borrow books.

Go on a listening walk on your way home from school and ask your child to describe what they can hear.

Sing action songs with your child, e.g. 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' or 'If You're Happy and You Know It' to encourage them to learn the names of different body parts and describe the sounds they make.



My Teachers



Mrs Hawton



Mrs Milton



Mrs Clements

AUTUMN TIMETABLE



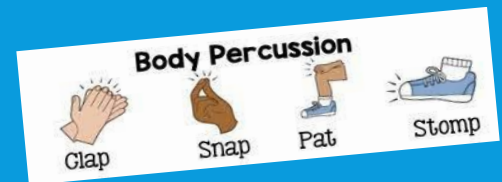
	8.45-9.00	9.00-9.05	9.05-9.15	9.15-9.20	9.20 - 9.40	10am	10.10-11.15	11.15 - 11.25	11.25 - 11.40am	11.40- 11.45
M	Self registration	Tidy Up Time	Circle time / Morning meeting- Hello Song, Weather Song, Days of the Week song Count how many children are in Nursery today	Physi Cym	Topic introduction	Snack Time	Play and Learn Outside Katie then Donna	Tidy Up Time	Rhyme Time Story	Sing Goodbye Song then Get Ready for home and Lunch Club
	Busy Fingers				Group time See separate timetable		Play and Learn Outside Lauren then Katie		Rhyme Time Story	
					Group time See separate timetable		Play and Learn Outside Donna then Lauren		Rhyme Time Story	
					Group time See separate timetable		Play and Learn Outside Katie then Donna		Rhyme Time Story	
					PE or Music		Play and Learn Outside Lauren then Katie		Rhyme Time Story	

PHONICS



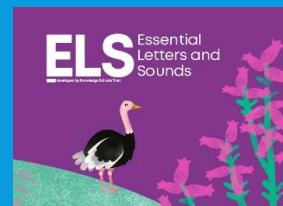
During the Autumn term, Nursery will be focusing on Phase 1 phonics using the Essential Letters and Sounds scheme. Phase 1 supports children to develop speaking and listening skills and link sounds and letters. Activities are divided into seven groups:

- **Environmental sounds.**
- **Instrumental sounds.**
- **Body percussion.**
- **Rhythm and rhyme.**
- **Alliteration.**
- **Voice sounds.**
- **Oral blending and segmenting.**



Children should be encouraged to enjoy books, however, the focus of this phase is on listening to and repeating sounds, rather than on directly reading words.

From the Spring Term onwards, Nursery will move onto Phase 2 of the scheme, which is carried on into Reception.



COMMUNICATION



- An adult will greet your child at the door.
- squirrels@stpeters.herts.sch.uk – class email address.
- mychildtoday@stpeters.herts.sch.uk – cc for emails regarding pick arrangements during the day.
- Talk to us after school.
- Call or visit our main office if urgent!
- School Newsletters – sent out fortnightly.
- Website updates – class pages are updated weekly.
- Google Classroom – reminders, requests and home learning suggestions.

LEARNING AT HOME



- **Knowledge organisers:** Please see these for tips of how you can support at home if you wish.
- **Google classroom:** We will use this to post any reminders, requests or suggestions for home learning. This can be something as simple as going on an Autumn walk.
- **Moments from Home:** We would love to hear about any WOW moments for your child at home. Please upload photos with a small description/video to us on Google Classroom and we will share as a class.
- **Reading:** If possible please read to your child 3-4 times a week. Most importantly read books that are fun and enjoyable alongside the books your child is exposed to at school.

WHO TO CONTACT?



Ms Godfrey
School Business
Manager

- Concerns or questions about the school premises.
- Support for financial difficulties.

Mrs Hawker
Assistant Head &
INCO

- Concerns about children on the SEND register.
- Advice and support after consultation with the class teacher.
- Safeguarding concerns.

Miss Laffy
EYFS Phase Leader

- Concerns about behaviour or curriculum content in Reception and Nursery after discussion with the class teacher.
- Questions about the teaching in Nursery and Reception.

Mrs Zawadzka
Deputy Head

- Safeguarding concerns, including Online Safety and Radicalisation
- Concerns not resolved by the phase leader.
- Questions around Pupil Premium Allocation.
- Concerns about school policies or procedures.

Ms Masterton
Headteacher

- Safeguarding concerns.
- Concerns about staff conduct.
- Concerns not resolved by the Deputy Head.
- Formal complaints about school policies and procedures.

WHOLE CLASS LEARNING JOURNAL



- What are they?: A weekly record of learning in EYFS. This will be filled with a mixture of quotes, photos and examples of work for each week of school. These will be available for parents and carers to look through every Monday morning outside the classroom.
- Photos of each weeks learning will also be placed onto our class pages on the school website.
- Please speak to your child's teacher if you do not wish for your child's photos to be placed on either of these.
- These have replaced individual learning journals, as we are moving away from formal written observations for each child. This is so we can ensure that we can immerse ourselves in play, be present, and provide support and challenge to all our pupils through high quality interactions and an engaging and rich environment. Please only photograph images of your own child in the class learning journal.



EYFS £££



- We have set up a link on school gateway if anyone would like to make a donation to EYFS. There is a minimum payment of £2.50 which can be added at your discretion. This is completely voluntary.
- This money goes towards making fresh playdough every week and additional learning resources.
- We also use these donations to provide any food for key events such as parties or cooking.



PARENTS AS PARTNERS



- Stay and Plays-
- November 27th 8.40-9.30am
- Sharing and celebrations e.g.
International Week/People Who Help Us
- Whole School Events e.g. Winter Fair



UNIFORM

Nursery children are not expected to wear school uniform, but can do if this is your preference.

Please could you ensure your child wears clothing appropriate for PE every **Friday** and that they are wearing shoes they can easily remove/put on themselves.

Jewellery should not be worn except small stud earrings and watches.

Please ensure that a drawstring bag/plastic bag of spare clothes is provided to remain at school, if this has not been already.

PLEASE LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS WITH THEIR NAME.



WEBSITE



- Class updates
- Information slides
- Safeguarding Policies
- Contact us
- Dates



@stpeterschoo1

@StPeters_Sport

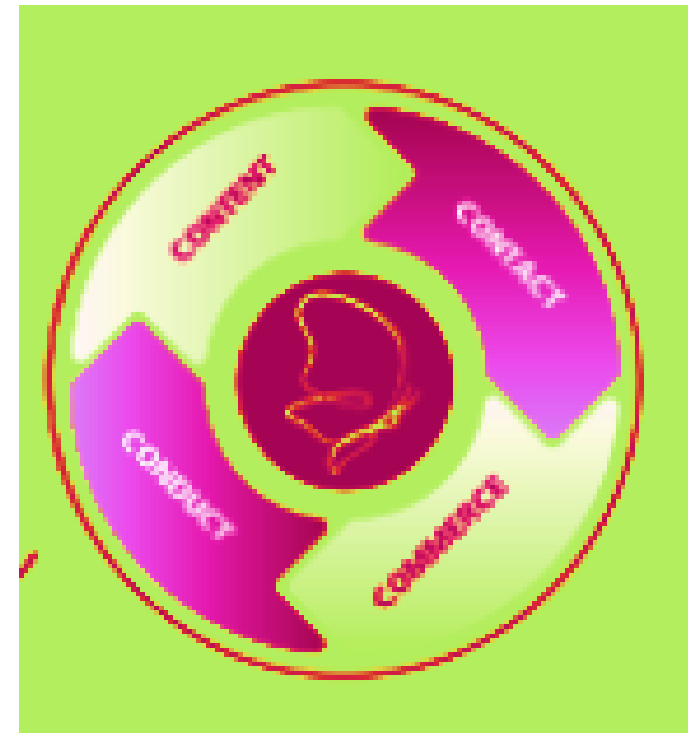
ONLINE SAFETY

internet
matters.org



NSPCC

- Taught throughout the school in all curriculum areas.
- Online Ambassadors.
- Wake up Wednesdays posts on X.
- Section on school website.
- Tips on fortnightly newsletter.



SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD



**We're united
for childhood**

Join the growing movement of families who
believe childhood's too short to scroll away



ATTENDANCE

Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing 2 weeks of school.



Being 5 minutes late every day is the same as 3 days off school.

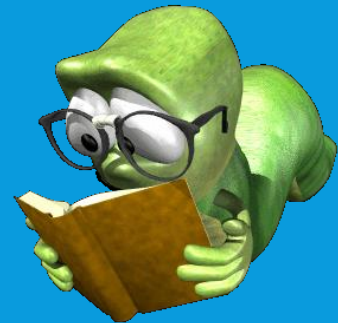




HELPING AT SCHOOL



- All are welcome to help in school with everything from reading, cooking, sewing, trips, talking to children about your culture, leading assemblies etc.
- References and DBS checks are required if volunteering more than 3 times a term.
- Ms Masterton will be holding a meeting for more information on:



Wednesday 24th September at
14:30

KEY EVENTS

- **International Week:** Week beginning 13th October (please note that the 'Learn and Share' mentioned on the whole school dates is not for EYFS- we will have Stay and Play later in the term)

Magical Tea Party- Thursday 23rd October children may come dressed up to school. We will have a range of magical activities and fun games to play.

Online Parent consultations- Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd October (more information will follow)

INSET DAY: Friday 24th October

- **Christmas Sing-a-Long:** Friday 12th December, 11.30am – 11:45am

ANY QUESTIONS?