



12th January 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year! We are delighted to welcome new and returning families for an exciting term of learning and fun.

Morning Routine

Our school day begins at 8:40am and the doors close at 8:50am. If you arrive after this time, please go to the school office. During this first part of our morning, the children engage in 'Busy Fingers' activities, which support the development of their fine motor skills and play an important role in enabling them to use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils. Thank you for your support in encouraging them to enter the class independently.

Home Consolidation Activities

Each term, we will upload a Knowledge Organiser to the school website, on our class page under the section called 'Curriculum Information'. As well as explaining the 7 different areas of learning and detailing the learning themes and skills we will be covering during the half term, the knowledge organisers offer ideas of how to support your child further at home.

Topic for Spring 1 – Adventures Around the World! – Spring 1's learning focuses on journeys, forms of transport and ways to travel to different places; both to other countries and places in our local community.

Topic for Spring 2 - Once upon a Time - After half term, our theme will be traditional tales. Stories play a key role in helping children to progress, not just as readers and writers, but in all aspects of their development.

Please also remember to look at the 'Top Tips' sections on our class pages with activity ideas to support progress in different areas.

Phonics

We will shortly be starting Phase 2 phonics sessions using the Essential Letters and Sounds scheme followed by St Peter's. As part of our phonics learning, the children will be introduced to a 'sound of the week' every Tuesday. Please help your child to find objects that begin with our 'sound of the week' at home and share a photo on Google Classroom. We will teach rhymes to help children recall each sound. We will introduce the single letter sounds in the following order: s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k. Please click on the following link for more information: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/essential-letters-and-sounds/>

PE and Music

Music and PE lessons alternate every Friday. Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing for being active on this day (top with shorts/trousers/leggings and trainers). This term we will be developing our gym skills and our ability to hold shapes with control (straight, star, tuck).

Curriculum Ambitions

Each of our Curriculum Ambitions has its own visual logo, which from this term, you will now see in our floor book, so that you can see how and when we are working on these different ambitions.

A Few Reminders

- Please make sure everything is labelled, from jumpers to shoes, to avoid them being misplaced. It is not possible for us to keep track of every child's clothing, particularly if it is not labelled.
- Snacks are provided by the school (milk and fruit) so children do not need to bring any food to school unless staying for lunch club or the afternoon session run by Children 1st Pre School. Packed lunches must follow

the schools healthy eating and nut free policy as we do have children in Nursery with allergies. Please note that only water is allowed in the children's water bottles.

- We ask for a voluntary donation of £1 per week. Many thanks to all parents/carers who have made donations this school year; this money enables us to enrich our curriculum by purchasing additional resources such as ingredients for playdough and cooking as well as new books and games. Any further donations would be gratefully received.

Dates For Your Diary

- **Tuesday 10th February: Learn and Share 8.40-9.30am** - This term our Learn and Share will be Maths focused. We hope to provide examples of some fun and easy games that you could try at home with your child, which are linked to the Early Learning Goals. We appreciate that parents and carers may have other commitments/work so please feel free to come along for as long as you can (you do not need to have to stay for the entire duration of time). Due to limited space we ask that only **one** adult attends for each child. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate younger siblings.
- **Week beginning 9th February** - We will be celebrating and exploring Chinese/Lunar New Year and hope to do some cooking. If you celebrate and would like to come in to discuss with the class please speak to the class teacher.
- **Week beginning 16th February** - Half term.

We recommend that you regularly check the school calendar on the school website for any other events that may occur throughout the term. We will also use Google Classroom to send updates.

Communication

We will be continuing to use Google Classroom to communicate with parents and pupils. You should have received an email with your child's log on details. Please speak to the class teacher if you have still not been able to access Google Classroom and would like some help in doing so.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the team at pick up. You can also send a message to the class email - squirrels@stpeters.herts.sch.uk. We will endeavour to reply to you as soon as possible, but please be aware that we will not be able to respond to emails during teaching hours. For any urgent communication, to report an absence and/or inform the school that a different person is collecting your child, please contact the office using the following email address - mychildtoday@stpeters.herts.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Woolmer-Green, Mrs Milton and Mrs Clements