



St. Peter's

Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



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Dear St. Peter's families,

This week, we have been gearing up for the start of our assessment period in school. Over the next few weeks, children in Year 6 and Year 2 will be sitting formal SAT assessments and Year 1 and some Year 2 children will take part in the Phonics screening test.

There has been a lot of media attention about this year's SATs; they are the first SATs since 'Levels' were abolished and they do raise the bar of what we expect our children to know. However, we must remember that the children can't pass or fail; the tests are simply a measure of what they know and what we are yet to teach them.

I am so proud of all of our children and their individual, God given gifts. I won't say SATs don't matter, they do and our children have worked exceedingly hard to achieve great (and in some cases astounding!) results which I can't wait to celebrate with them. In saying they don't matter, I'd be disregarding years of hard work and dedication. But they must be considered proportionately to other things in our children's lives.

We are all gifted in so many ways and I know that with the values and knowledge that we give our children at St. Peter's, they will go on to achieve great things in life. SATs are important, but certainly should not be a cause for stress or worry for children or parents. They are a small part of a long and beautiful journey. They don't measure things like Erin's beautiful singing voice that I heard in mass this morning or Pascal's quick thinking when the iPod didn't play the hymn he was expecting; the skills that help us to make the most of the academic learning that the children are being assessed on.

Praise and encourage your children in the coming weeks, get them to school on time and make sure they are well fed and well rested. This is the best way to help your children to shine and to achieve what they have worked so hard to achieve. God will never give us a load that is too great to bear; He is by our side every step of the way and He has a plan for us all. Trusting in Him, even when it is a time of worry or stress, will keep us calm and fill us with strength.

Some parents have asked me about school uniform. Our new uniform is now expected to be fully implemented across the school. Having said this, we deliberately chose May to be the 'cut off' date so that we have time to offer help and support to any families who are struggling to acquire new uniform before September. Please contact school if you need help or advice and we will do our best to assist! In the meantime, we will continue to allow the old uniform in Year 6 and we will also allow the previous branded jumpers to be worn out between now and the summer, provided that other parts of the uniform conform to our school's policy.

Finally, Mrs Hancock has asked that if any parents have any 'preloved' dollies that are looking for a new home, her Reception children would love and care for them well! Have a great weekend!

Miss McNamara.



Health and Safety

Please can I remind parents that if your child is sick, please do not send them to school until 48 hours after their symptoms have cleared up. It is never pleasant for children or staff when someone is sick in school, but more importantly, this is how such tummy bugs are spread!

I would also ask that parents check their children's hair for head lice. Sadly, this is an unavoidable problem in Primary schools, but it is certainly one that can be better contained if we all check our children's hair regularly and treat if we find head lice.

Remember, eggs that are laid can survive treatments, so it is vital that you continue to check and treat hair for the next 7 days.

Many thanks for your help!

Prayer for the weekend

Loving God, be with me now, as I prepare for my exams.

Thank you for the many talents and gifts you have given me and for the opportunity of education.

Calm my nerves and anxiety, help me to remember all that I have studied, to express it clearly and to answer the questions the very best that I can.

Holy Spirit, sit with me in my exam - and always.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

This week, we have been learning...

Thank you to Reception parents for sharing your bank holiday pictures on Tapestry. The children have really enjoyed sharing their news and answering questions from the class. We are super proud of our Alter in Class One as this week the children all made a Paschal candle and a small group helped make a large one using the plaque from an old candle that Fr John kindly gave us. In English we have been reading Jack and the beanstalk and a few varieties of this story including a sunflower one. The children all brought home their own sunflowers to try and grow. I wonder if any will end up being ginormous like the one in the book. In maths we have shared quantity by halving and quartering.



In Class 2 we have really been working hard on our maths. All the children say they really love doing fractions and graphs! We have also been dressing up and acting out being characters who live in a castle – knights, princesses, messengers & cooks!

Class 3 have come back refreshed after the long weekend, and have produced some excellent writing. They were discussing two sides to the argument 'Was the Roman invasion good for Britain?' The children worked incredibly hard to make their writing show both points of view. They have also continued with their tennis lessons and their preparation for First Holy Communion.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ Stars of the Week!



Class 1
Noah – Consistently putting 100% effort into all that he does.



Class 2
Megan - for giving her best all the time and having a super attitude to her work.



Class 3
Oli, for consistently excellent homework.

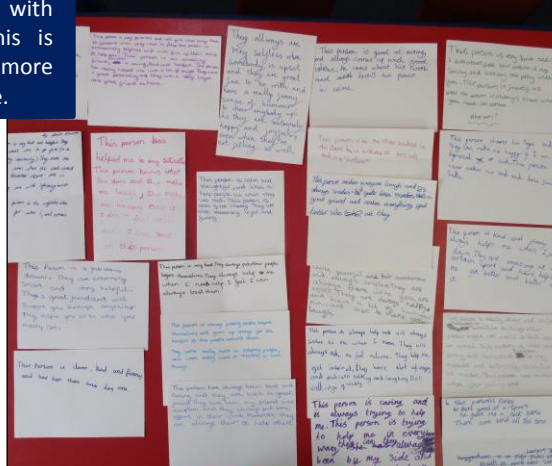


Class 4
Sebastian for amazing maths work. Always giving 100%!



Class 5
Matthew for work quickly and confidently with his maths; his is showing more independence.

This week in Class 5 we have been in revision mode - gearing up for the SATs - and reminding ourselves of how fantastically we have all done this year. We have been doing activities to remind each other of our great qualities and to remember how far we have each come this year!



Gold Card winners - Class 5 with 57% House point winners - St Bernadette's red house with 123

Dates for your diary

- 06/05 - Ascension Mass in church @9.30am
- PTFA Cake Sale @3.15pm
- 09/05 - SATs week (KS2)
- 13/05 - Pentecost Mass in church @9.30am
- 16/05 - Key Stage 1 Testing Window
- 18/05 - Resource committee mtg @7pm
- 20/05 -Class 3 Class [mass@9.30am](#)
- Class 1&2 trip to Wonderland
- PTFA Movie night
- 23/05 - Class 5 to Alton Castle
- 30/05 - Half Term Begins