



St .Peter's Church of England Primary School, Heswall

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firm foundations, shining bright



What's been happening in school?

The Summer term is always the busiest term in school! As well as the SATS exams for Year 6 (more on that overleaf) we have also had our Year 4 children attend Colomendy and Year 2 attend Barnstondale residential! I was fortunate enough to visit the children at Barnstondale (I managed to get to Colomendy last year) and it was great to see the children outside of their classroom environment and having such fun! A special thanks to all the staff involved in supporting those amazing experiences. We've had lots of sporting events too, from football at Tranmere Rovers to Scooting Stars, Fire Engines in F2 and trips to Heswall library and a whole lot more! We've also had the after-school BBQ, organised by Friends of St Peter's, and more planned events and themed days in preparation for our summer fair!

Active Travel Week

The first week back after half term will also be Active Travel Week—this is an initiative run by Wirral Council and is to promote alternative ways of coming to school that don't rely upon vehicles. We are mostly sorted with the logistics, and will send out full information early next week. There will be Merseyside police coming to mark bikes for our older children, as well as a raffle to win a scooter and a special 'Bling your bike' competition on Friday for our younger children. It should be a lot of fun!

School Uniform

Please find below a link to the website for Wirral Fuss. Wirral Fuss is a wonderful charity that provides valuable support for families that may find their finances tightening, and can provide free, laundered and high-quality pre-loved uniform for anyone and everyone who may need it. If you would like to access this service, or indeed help support the charity, please follow the link to the website.

<https://wirralfuss.co.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/FUSS.WirralPrimary>

Uniform can be collected from their uniform hub in Heswall (upstairs at the Beacon cafe) or from school. For orders with in-school collection, it is following the same process of collecting uniform purchased via the school website.

In addition, Mrs Anna White works closely with Wirral Fuss and can support accessing free, pre-loved school uniform directly. Anna can be contacted at 07855426103 and via annasmethurst@hotmail.com. Deposits to Wirral Fuss can also be made at Cains in Heswall. Thank you!



Online Safety

Attached is a newsletter from the National College—this edition focuses on school avoidance. There has been an increase in school avoidance post-covid, and hopefully provides some useful ideas for families.

Mobile phones on the playground before school

Quick reminder to the Year 5/6 children—mobile phones should not be visible on the playground before school! Keep them in your bags please! As tempting as it may be to share the latest video or meme, this should not be happening on school premises. If parents could reinforce this at home it would be greatly appreciated.

Friends of St Peter's—Latest News and Updates

If you would be available to run a stall for an hour or so during the Summer Fair, please get in touch with one of the Friends of St Peter's team—these events rely on community support, so any help is much appreciated. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4BA4AD23A6FB6-49636342-summer>

Next Thursday is Own Clothes Day—please bring a bottle for the tombola at the Summer Fair. Raffle tickets will be sent home with the children before the end of term—there are a few big ticket items already confirmed as prizes, including:

- ⇒ **40" HD Smart TV**
- ⇒ **Bosch Tassimo Coffee machine**
- ⇒ Magnum Prosecco
- ⇒ Giant Teddy Bear
- ⇒ Nando's spice set
- ⇒ Odeon cinema tickets
- ⇒ 1L Gordon's Gin

And a quick note of congratulations to Sophie and Pea in Y3/4, whose combined effort won the highly coveted prize of Summer Fair front cover design! Well done girls! The winning entry can be seen on the forthcoming brochure!

Safety Earrings

We have had this product brought to our attention, available from amazon. It may be a useful alternative to earrings, which are expected to be covered up/taped over at school.

Search for "Plastic Earring Posts Clear Rubber Safety Eardrop Backs" on amazon if you think they may be of use for your child in school.



Parent parking on School Hill

Please can we ask that parents avoid parking on School Hill for drop-off/ collection. School has received a number of complaints from residents on West Grove about the volume of traffic during busy times. Thank you.

Well Done Mrs Pryer and team!

Our kitchen staff have maintained their **5** rating for food hygiene in the kitchen—no catching our wonderful kitchen team out and well done for having the high standards set once again.

Year 6 SATS

Well done to all our Y6 pupils who have completed their SATS exams this week. They've worked diligently throughout, and we are really proud of their effort and teamwork in getting through the week together. As we shared before SATS week began, and as we shared with the children during SATS week, we'd just like to share our message again to the Y6 pupils.

Effort and attitude are much more important in life than the scores you achieve. SATS only tell us a tiny fraction of who you are as a person. They tell us absolutely nothing about your personality - how kind, honest, helpful or funny you are. They tell us nothing about the unique, creative, special individuals that we have in our Y6 classes.

There are many ways of being smart, and many different types of intelligence. The SATS measure one type and one type only. SATS tell us nothing about your wider skills, nothing about you as a musician, swimmer, artist, sportsperson, actor, scientist or friend. They measure a small part of what you can do and who you are. We are proud of you no matter what scores you get on your SATS. We are proud of the way you show our PETERS values and we are proud to say you are the children of St Peter's Primary School.

Diary Dates:

Please see below for a brief overview of key dates for the next two weeks.

Monday 20th May—Y6 production auditions

Tuesday 21st May—Yr 5/6 Library visit

Wednesday 22nd May—KS2 Sports Day (am)

Wednesday 22nd May—Y1/2 FH Work Celebration Collective Worship (2.45 arrival for 2.55pm start)

Thursday 23rd May—Own Clothes Day (Friends of St Peter's Event—Bring a Bottle for Tombola)

Friday 24th May—INSET—School Closed to pupils

Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May—HALF TERM

Monday 3rd June— INSET—School Closed to pupils

Tuesday 4th June—Wirral Anglican Schools Big Sing (Ethos Group)

Week beginning Tuesday 4th June—Wirral's Active Travel Week begins

Wednesday 5th June—Edsential Y5/6 girls football—after school

Kind regards,



Michael Parry

Website: <http://www.stpeters-heswall.wirral.sch.uk>

Twitter: @heswallstpeters

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/heswallstpeters>

Instagram: @heswallstpeters

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

Emotionally Based School Avoidance is a term used to refer to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. It's often rooted in emotional, mental health or wellbeing issues. The rate of children who miss school more than 10% of the time in England has more than doubled since before the pandemic: rising from 10.9% in 2018-19, to 22.3% in 2022-23.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include complaining of a tummy ache, headache, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity which is making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and limited time on screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

MANAGING OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

While there may be times you feel frustrated or angry, try to stay calm; acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss a range of coping strategies together to help them face the discomfort and overwhelming feelings. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk and practice the strategies in less overwhelming situations first.

REDUCE STIMULATING ACTIVITIES AT HOME

If a child is avoiding school, reduce their access to more stimulating activities (such as watching television, playing games and spending time with friends) during school hours, where possible. This reduces the potential for the child having rewarding experiences at home, which could be interpreted as a positive aspect of avoiding school.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance

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**FRIENDS OF ST. PETER'S
WELCOME THE**



**NATIONAL FESTIVAL
CIRCUS**
• **TRADITIONAL FAMILY FUN** •

**coming to town on
Sunday 21st July 2024
Three shows at 1pm, 2.30pm and 4pm**

**MAGICAL
MIX OF
LAUGHTER
AND
EXCITEMENT**

**FOOD
&
DRINKS**

**200
TICKETS
PER SHOW
ALL £10PP &
UNDER 3S ON
YOUR KNEE
GO FREE!**



CIRCUS



FRIENDS OF ST PETERS 2023/24: THE STORY SO FAR!



Friends of St Peter's is a registered charity, set up to raise much-needed funds for school – which is more important than ever in the current financial climate. The money raised is used to enrich our children's school experience, which is why your support at our events means so much. We're so excited for our summer events programme – and if you want to get more involved, please give us a shout, as more hands means less work, more money raised and more fun for the kids!



TOTAL RAISED SO FAR: £24,076.11

THANK YOU
SO, SO
MUCH FOR
YOUR
SUPPORT!





FRIENDS OF ST PETERS: HOW WE'VE SUPPORTED SCHOOL THIS YEAR SO FAR

NOTE: THIS IS THE END OF A LONGER TERM FUNDRAISING PROJECT WITH THE TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED OVER SEVERAL YEARS



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FINAL PAYMENT

£12,680



MBNA IT GRANT:
25 LAPTOPS & 25 IPADS

£16,472



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

£314



LITTLE WANDLE BOOKS

£1,200



GEOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT

£500



SCHOOL TRIP SUPPORT

£320



YEAR 6 LEAVERS PARTY

£300



ENRICHMENT FUND

£250

TO NOTE, FUNDS SPENT SO FAR THIS YEAR ALSO INCLUDE MONEY RAISED IN THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR DUE TO PAYMENT TIMELINES

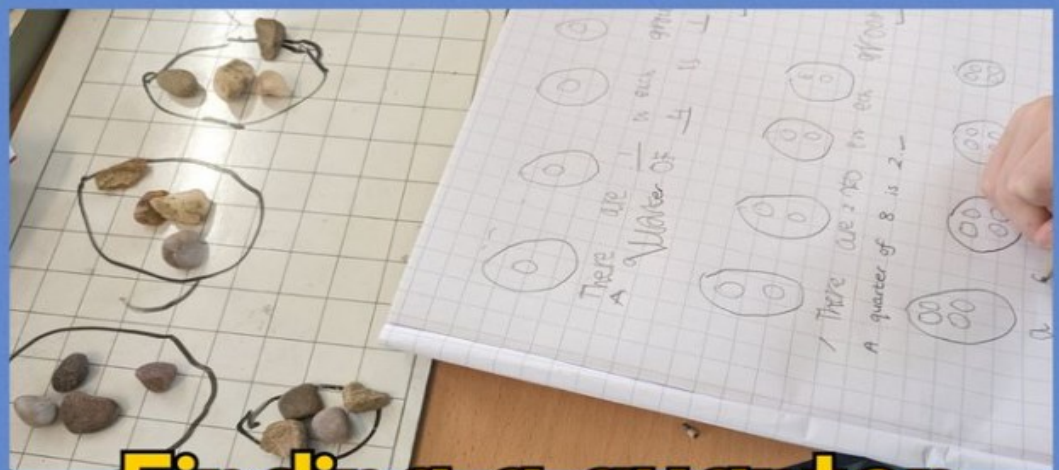
ALL THE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS WE MAKE TOGETHER AS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY TRULY MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE TO OUR CHILDREN. HERE'S TO ANOTHER TERM OF GREAT EVENTS TO SUPPORT GREAT SCHOOL EXPERIENCES!





Year 5/6 are practising the skills of sewing to make their blood bags this week!
[#effort](#) [#year5/6](#)

Year 1 are learning about fractions. They shared stones equally between 4 groups to work out what a quarter of an amount



Finding a quarter of an amount.





On Tuesday 7th May a group of Year 3 footballers accompanied Miss James & Mr Moulton to Tranmere Rovers Football Ground for the amazing opportunity to play a tournament on the pitch. The atmosphere was incredible and the team showed great respect and teamwork!

Children from F2 enjoyed visiting Heswall library yesterday. The children listened to some exciting stories read by the librarian, they chose a book to take back to school and checked it out using the machine. Well done F2!





...in the cooling shade.



On a sunny day the classroom was warm, so 1/2FH went to sit in the shade of a large tree on the field to share some stories, poems and comics with each other. Try it yourself sometime!
[#readingforpleasure](#)
[#mindfulness](#) [#teamwork](#)
[#slowingdownforaminute](#)

3/4R have been thoroughly enjoying our weekly cricket sessions with Full of Beans in PE. This week, we focused on our accuracy with batting. What great [#Teamwork!](#)



Cricket in 3/4R



Teamwork

