



Petersgate Post—15th December 2023

Mrs Mitchell's 'Message of the Week'

Wow, what a term it has been! I can't believe we are nearing the end of my first term here at Petersgate as Headteacher. It has been a really busy term, but an enjoyable one!!

I have seen some amazing learning, which I am sure you have too. We share your child's learning through Seesaw, which is more practical learning and if you had an appointment during the parent consultations, their books/folders.

We look forward to inviting you in during the next term, to come and join in with the learning alongside your child. Keep an eye on the dates section and future communication for more details.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for the new year.



Parent Forum 2024 Dates

Tuesday 23rd January 2-3pm (policies)

Wednesday 28th February 1.30-2.30pm

Tuesday 26th March 2-3pm

We will notify you of the theme for each forum nearer the time.

Farewell News!

A sad farewell to **Mrs Dee Jenkins**, Starfish class Learning Support Assistant, who leaves the Petersgate Team at the end of term.

Mrs Jenkins has worked with us for 8 years and has been a valued member of our team. She has seen a great deal of development and change during that time and has been an instrumental part of that journey.

I know Mrs Jenkins will be missed by all at Petersgate but I hope you will join me in wishing her the very best of luck on her next venture.



Health & Wellbeing Tip

Crafting and creating something new is really good for your well-being. As the Christmas holiday can come with boxes/cardboard, see if you can build/make something new out of the endless amount of boxes. You might try creating a snowman (see picture), or a space rocket, a den/shelter to play with inside. Whatever you create, share your creations on



Extra Health and Wellbeing Tip for this holiday!

If you can, get out and about this holiday. See if you can make some nature art out of the leaves and sticks you find. Share your creations on Seesaw!

Parking

I am sorry to have to include this in our newsletter again, but we have had two further complaints about inconsiderate parking. On both of these occasions driveways have been blocked whilst dropping children into school. This has now happened off Green Lane and by the rear gate, the bottom of Walburton Way.

So please can I ask politely, no matter how late you may be running, not to park inconsiderately and block our residents driveways.

We want to keep a good relationship with our neighbours and we have informed them that it is not the schools' responsibility, they are to contact the local council and/or the police. We will continue to work with our PCSO about the situation.

Thank you for your understanding.

Attendance and Punctuality from 27th November-15th December

Whole School Attendance: **93.8%**

(National Average: 94.5)

Best Attendance: **Seahorse—97.6%**

Best Timekeepers: **Turtle class**

Forthcoming Events

January 2024

Tuesday 2nd

Inset Day—school closed

Wednesday 3rd

School reopens at 8:40am

Monday 15th

New Yr R & Yr 3 school admissions closes

Tuesday 23rd

Parent Forum 2-3pm*

February 2024

Friday 2nd

NSPCC Number Day—non uniform parents invited 2-3pm*

Monday 12th–Friday 16th

Half term

Monday 19th

School reopens at 8:40am

Tuesday 27th

Parents Consultations*

Thursday 29th

Parents Consultations*

*details to follow



Parent feedback from the recent consultation evenings

Thank you to all who shared their feedback. We have had some really positive feedback. Any areas of development I have responded to below.

~Amazing support by all!~

~Happy with how our daughters progress was fed back to us at parents evening. Also very happy with how they are progressing in school. They love coming to school!~

~Thank you so much for everything you do for my son. The school is wonderful and I feel my son has a fantastic support. I am very grateful.~

~Everything about the school is outstanding, very happy.~

~Wonderful school - thank you very much to everyone but especially Seahorse teachers for looking after my child so well. He loves school and we are so lucky to have Petersgate - thank you.~

Area of development:
Response:

"Please bring back gardening and cooking"

As previously stated, the gardening and cooking remains a focus for the school as this is an area which is really important to me and I feel it is a really important life skill. Appointing someone to cover this role is being completed internally. This is not something we can do quickly as we are combining this with the role they already have in school. But please be assured, the staff are continuing to build cooking into their teaching as it forms part of the Design and Technology curriculum.

Area of development:
Response:

"It would have been nice to have a longer appointment, especially as my child is on the SEN register"

As stated in my letter which went out prior to the consultation evenings, if you require a longer slot then you could book a double slot or a request a longer appointment, if needed.

Area of development:
Response:

"It was a little noisy, at times, being in the hall"

The appointments are in the hall, as this allows time for you to peruse the books whilst you wait, then you are not trying to make it from one side of school to the other, if you have more than one child. Some areas of the school have smaller spaces to wait too.

Area of development:
Response:

"Communication has improved but a little too much, at times"

Since I have started, I have wanted to ensure that parents/families are fully informed of the events/goings on at Petersgate, but there is a fine line between the balance of too much/too little communication. We are developing a communication overview to try and strike that balance.



Ofsted Updates!

Following on from our recent Ofsted visit, I wanted to give you termly updates regarding our progress. What I did want to clarify, which was a question from parent forum regarding the subjects which were taught in school and how these were separated.

Core subjects are reading and writing (English), maths and science. Reading, writing and maths are taught daily and science is taught weekly.

The other subjects are known as foundation subjects and these are; religious education (RE), history, geography, computing, music, physical education (PE), art, design and technology.

Since our Ofsted, we have looked at our foundation subject assessment arrangements. We will continue to further refine these next term, to ensure there are opportunities for overlearning of key knowledge and skills. This will also give an opportunity for children to apply these in a range of ways. By looking at the way we assess these subjects, will enable us to more forensic in our approach in assessing against these knowledge and skills.

In the spring term, we will be sending out a Microsoft form as a survey regarding reading at home. There has been some feedback regarding the E-Collins books we use at home and I want to gather wider feedback about this approach to reading at home. As a school, I want to look really carefully to what the barriers are for why some children are not reading at home, so we can ensure there are a range of opportunities to support the reading at home.

The systems around the SEND provision has been a key focus and SEND paperwork has been developed and shared with parents. These contain long and short term targets for the children. We will continue to review these over the year.

The Role of the Governing Body

Governors are strategic leaders within schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education.

A governing body have a strong focus on the 3 core strategic functions:

- ◆ Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- ◆ Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance of the staff
- ◆ Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Over the next couple of newsletters, we will be introducing our governors to our parents and families.

Introducing our Governing Body

In each newsletter, we have asked each Governor to introduce themselves and write a short snippet about themselves.

This week we are introducing **Sallie Ankers, Co-Opted Governor**

I have been a co-opted governor at Petersgate Infant School since July 2020. I joined Petersgate in January 2020 as the Deputy Headteacher and have taught across the school, mainly in Early Years.

I am passionate about children's education and want the very best for all the children both in their academic and emotional development. I believe a child needs to feel emotionally and physically secure in order to learn and develop to their full potential. We have the children for the shortest time span of their education, but we endeavour to give them the tools needed to continue their learning journey once they leave us.

Being a Petersgate governor is a privilege and allows me to forge positive relationships with people that represent all our stakeholders and working together to achieve the very best.



Early Years—Donation Request

Early Years are looking to implement Curiosity Cubes into their classrooms next year! Curiosity Cubes are a fantastic enhancement that inspire awe and wonder, support communication and language as well as develop children's imagination. Therefore, we would be very grateful for any donations of fish tanks or acrylic storage boxes that we could use. Thank you!





Do you have a child starting school in September 2024?

Meet the Headteacher and join us to see our wonderful school in action!

To book a tour of the school, please email or call the school office

Please contact the school office to book a tour:

adminoffice@petersgate-inf.hants.sch.uk or **023 9259 3950**

We do not want you to miss out on a parent tour!

Everyone that attends will be given a goodie bag for their child to enjoy.

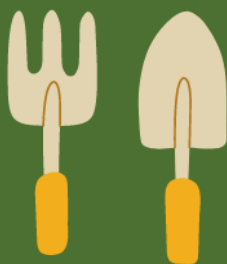
You can now apply for a school place for September 2024 using this link

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions

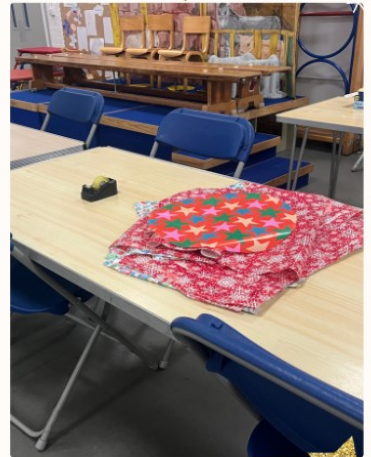
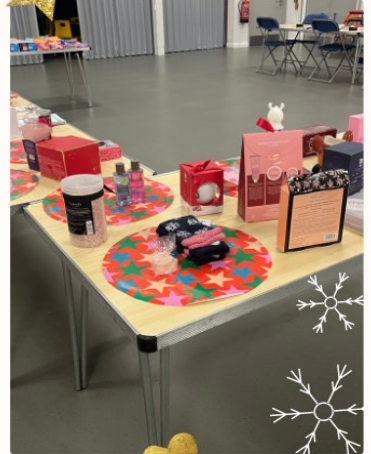
Closing date: Monday 15th January 2024

There are also limited places available in other year groups too!

GROUND FORCE TEAM WANTED Petersgate Need you!

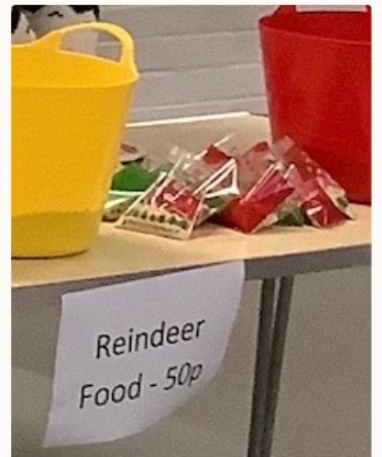


Volunteers needed to help clear the pond
and help make a mud/sand pit for Year R.
Please contact the school office by phone,
email or popping in, if you can help.
Date TBC....



Christmas Fun at
Petersgate 2023!





More Christmas Fun at
Petersgate 2023!





PoPS (Pals of Petersgate School)

Please contact Megan Ngo meg_ngo@yahoo.co.uk or 07940 310061 if you are interested in becoming a Chairperson, a committee member or a volunteer to help at events.

PoPS—Dates Coming Up 2024!

Friday 23rd February—Bingo Night*

Thursday 21st March—Easter Fayre*

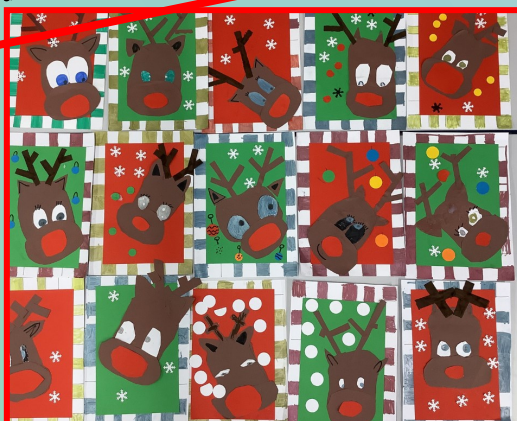
*details to follow

THANK YOU!

We would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to all members of the PoPS Team and volunteers for organising all these wonderful events for the children to enjoy. These events would not happen if we did not have such an amazing team. They spend lots of time and energy in organising them to raise much needed funds for our school and the children to enjoy.

Craft Club

We would like to share some of the Christmas craft the children have been making at the new after school craft club. The children have all really enjoyed the club and Mrs Smith and Mrs Wright are keen to continue with the craft club in the new year. Look out for details being sent home soon! Thank you Mrs Smith and Mrs Wright for organising!



Book Corner Competition

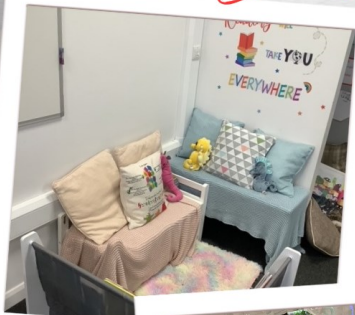
Each class was given £100 from PoPS to design their own class book corner—what amazing results each class have achieved.

Each class had to use the money to make the book corner inviting and engaging. Mrs Mitchell was so impressed with the variety of books, the information given by the children who talked her through why I should vote their book corner as the winning book corner. Mrs Mitchell was blown away by how unique they all were.

We would like to announce that after much deliberation, **WHALE CLASS were the winning class!!!** Well done everyone. The class received a new book for their book corner and a little prize for their teacher.

We would like to thank PoPS for the money for each book corner, we hope the children will all enjoy their time in their class book corner reading much loved books!

Book Corner Competition



Seahorse



Jellyfish



Octopus



Clownfish

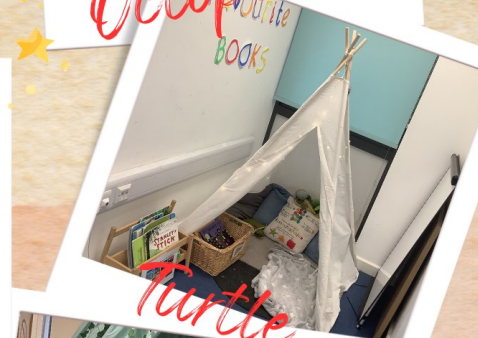


Whale

Well Done Whale Class
for the best book corner!



Lobster



Turtle



Starfish