



Petersgate Post—26th January 2024

Mrs Mitchell's 'Message of the Week'

It has been a lovely few weeks here at Petersgate. Despite the weird and wonderful weather we have been having I am always greeted with a cheery hello and smiles on the gates, which I really appreciate.

We are edging closer to half term and there are some exciting things coming up at school which we would love you to be involved in. We have NSPCC Number Day and World Book Day coming up, as well as, some exciting PoPS events to look forward to as well.

We look forward to welcoming you all to some of these wonderful events.



Parent Forum

Thank you to those who attended the parent forum this week where we focused on policy consultation. We consulted on the updated Relationships and Health Education policy and the Calculation policy. Once agreed by governors, parents will receive an updated copy via Arbor and it will go on our website.

The next Parent Forum is on Wednesday 28th February from 1:30-2:30pm—Pop along for a cuppa and a chat. Each month the parent forum will have a focus and next month the focus will be **attendance**.

Farewell News!

We say a very sad farewell to **Mrs Sara Elkins**, Seahorse class Learning Support & 1:1 SEN Assistant, who leaves the Petersgate Team today. Mrs Elkins has worked with the team for over 3 years and will be greatly missed by all the children and staff. I hope you will join me in wishing her the very best of luck in her next venture.



Attendance and Punctuality from 15th—26th January

Whole School Attendance: **91.2%**
(National Average: 94.3%)

Best Attendance: **Seahorse—98.79%**
Best Timekeepers: **Seahorse class**

Health & Wellbeing Tip

Despite the wintry weather and dark and gloomy days, it is important to try and get outside, if you can. Make the most of a break in the weather and go for a walk and take in your surroundings. It is amazing, even at this time of year, that you can start to see the seasons change.

Why don't you go to Butser Hill or to a local wood and become a tree detective? Some trees have hollows so big that you can climb inside, while others have tiny cracks where minibeasts hide. You'll have to investigate every nook and gnarl of your tree to really get to know it.

Crouch down to look at the roots of your tree, or clamber to the very top of its branches. Measure how wide its trunk is with your arms. And use your hands to feel the texture of its bark – is it bumpy, rough or smooth? You could make a rubbing with paper and a crayon to reveal the lines and patterns.

Look up. Are your tree's leaves dancing in the breeze? Are there any flowers or seeds growing there? Listen for birds or squirrels who may be hiding or making their home. You could even search your tree for scars, and try to imagine what may have caused them: a storm, an animal or something else?



Current Vacancies at Petersgate

SEN Learning Support Assistants—please [click here](#) for more details

Caretaker—please [click here](#) for more details

Forthcoming Events

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*

Wednesday 28th

Parent Forum 2-3pm

Thursday 29th

Parents Consultations*

March 2024

Thursday 7th

World Book Day

Dress up—to be confirmed*

Friday 15th

Red Nose Day*

Thursday 21st

World Down's Syndrome Day*

Monday 25th

Rocksteady Concert*

Thursday 28th

Last day of Spring term

April 2024

Monday 15th

Inset day— school closed

Tuesday 16th

School open at 8:40am

**details to follow*

Attendance and Punctuality

We have noticed over the last half term that attendance is dropping across the school.

I want to take this opportunity to thank families for working with us regarding your child's attendance across school. Attendance is a focus for all schools nationally and the school has to regularly monitor, track and report attendance data figures. The school day is timetabled for different subjects for each point of the day, so even a small portion of missed school for an appointment, being late or other reasons, has an impact on your child's education.

As part of the next parent forum will be discussing further the importance of regular attendance and what we can further do to encourage good attendance and punctuality. We will be sharing hints and tips in our newsletters regarding attendance and some helpful statistics and facts. If you need any further support with attendance or punctuality, then please contact the admin office email account and enquire about making an appointment with Mrs Robb, our Family Support Liaison Officer.



Turning up just **5 minutes** late every day adds up to over **3 missed school days** in a year.

Important—Health Information

You will have seen the news regarding the rise in cases of measles in London and the large outbreaks in the West Midlands.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has now declared a national incident in order to focus actions to limit the spread. Further outbreaks of measles will spread to other towns and cities unless urgent action is taken to increase Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination uptake in areas at greatest risk. Children who get measles can be very poorly and some will suffer life changing complications.

To support this incident the Department of Education (DfE) has published: [What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school](#) guidance for parents and for schools.

UKHSA have stated that measles is not currently circulating in the south-east, there are cases in London and a sustained outbreak in the West Midlands (specifically Coventry and Birmingham but now in all local authority areas in the region) but at the moment in the SE, rashes are more than likely to be for other reasons (particularly in children). However being prepared is important.

At a national level UKHSA are working on an outbreak pack for, similar to the packs for scarlet fever and gastric illness. We will cascade this when it is published.

Health Information

With temperatures dropping this month Clare Joy – an NHS school nurse working locally – explains in this short video some top tips on keeping winter bugs at bay and using the Healthier Together app for advice.

You can watch on the [Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS YouTube channel](#).

It can sometimes be hard for parents to know the best way to help children recover from winter bugs.

Healthier Together has been developed by local clinicians and gives simple advice on how to help them get better at home.

The app will also help you to spot the signs if it is something more serious and guide you to the right help.

Visit what0-18.nhs.uk, download from the App Store or get it on Google Play.

The UK Health Security Agency have also published helpful advice on [spotting the signs of when to keep children home](#). You can visit the [Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS winter wellness web page](#) for more advice on keeping warm and well this winter.



Monday 19th February to Thursday 28th March

In 2018 Veg Power formed a key partnership with ITV and together created the Eat Them to Defeat Them campaign. This multi-award-winning campaign combines the power of advertising with a schools' programme and moves away from traditional five-a-day messaging to a concept designed for children – one they find fun and engaging.

The campaign has involved a collaboration of creative talent, celebrity support, local government support, schools and catering companies. We created a positive buzz and a central narrative which puts the parents and kids on the same side.

Now in its sixth year, nearly 5,000 schools across the UK and over 1.5m pupils have taken part. We have evaluation data which confirms that repeated involvement in the campaign leads to increased veg consumption over the long term. 53% of parents with children involved in the schools' programme reported an increase in the volume and variety of vegetables consumed. With 29% of children eating less than one portion of vegetables per day, these results are an important step in improving children's diets and the health of our nation.

If you would like details of the programme and impact please check out the full report or watch a short video on the website. Each week a family favourite vegetable will be featured. Children can collect stickers and learn catchphrases to go with the vegetables.

We want to encourage children to try each vegetable three times so that they become part of their daily diet.

We'll be encouraging kids to get those gnashers to work defeating those veg one big bite at a time, and we are planning some great chomp visuals and fun. Chomping on raw veg is also excellent for dental health – so double win!

For more information please visit the Veg Power website

<https://vegpower.org.uk/>

GROUND FORCE TEAM WANTED PETERSGATE NEEDS YOUR HELP!



We are looking for volunteers to help clear the pond and make a mud/sand pit for Early Years.

Please contact the school office if you can help with any of the above - date to be confirmed



PoPS (Pals of Petersgate School) need you!

If you are interested in becoming a committee member or a volunteer to help at events, please contact the PoPS Team on their facebook page.

Mrs Mitchell, Megan and the current PoPS committee members will be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the committee and events that they have planned for the coming term.

PoPS—Dates Coming Up 2024!

Thursday 8th February—Disco*

Friday 23rd February—Bingo Night*

Thursday 21st March—Easter Fayre*

***details to follow**

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 **Martin Hill, Parent Governor**

I am extremely proud to be a Parent Governor at Petersgate Infant School. My youngest son has just started in reception and has loved his first term at the school, especially the lunches! Our eldest son left Petersgate last summer after three very happy years.

My background is in education and I currently teach Economics in the secondary sector. I particularly enjoy seeing how pupils progress and I am very aware of the importance of primary education in laying the foundations for this and instilling a love of learning. These are the reasons why I wanted to become a governor. I have been a governor since September 2023 and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to see the school in action.






**HAMPSHIRE
PARENT CARER
NETWORK**
enabling voices to be heard

An opportunity to have 1:1 advice with your independent advice service

The Hampshire Parent Carer Network are delighted to welcome a representative from Hampshire Sendiass to meet with our parent carers and offer:

- Free impartial special educational needs advice
- 1:1 confidential bookable slots
- Empowering parent carers with the information to help their young person
- Free beverages and peer support with other parent carers





Hampshire SENDIASS

Tuesday 20th February 10.15
Fareham, Lysses House Hotel

Book at
www.linktr.ee/hpcn.org.uk

Follow us on our socials:



linktr.ee/hpcn.org.uk
participation@hpcn.org.uk