



Petersgate Post: 16th May 2025

Mrs Mitchell's 'Message of the Week'

It has been a really busy time here at Petersgate, with the busiest half term still to come. During this half term, we have had a number of bank holidays, class assemblies and the VE Day commemoration. For some children, they deal with these changes with ease, whilst others find these changes more challenging. We will continue to work with you in supporting all the children.

The next half term is a really busy one, with key events happening frequently. Please can I ask that you keep an eye on the website, newsletters, social media and the 'What's coming up next week' memo for these dates. When communicating with staff, whether that is through email, on the phone or in person, that you speak to any member of staff with respect and kindness in line with the parent code of conduct. Thank you.



Attendance and Punctuality for 5th—16th May

Whole School Attendance = **96.38%**
(National Average = 94.6%)

Best Attendance: **Fox class = 99.6%**

Best Timekeepers: **Squirrel class**
(on time everyday!!)

PoPS Sponsored Mile



We all had a fantastic day taking part in the Sponsored Mile, all the children took part and had fun. They all showed resilience and worked together with their friends to achieve a personal goal. We all celebrated their effort, determination and team spirit and all children received a medal and certificate.

We would like to thank families and friends for their huge generosity. From all the sponsors received PoPS raised a staggering amount of

£4,160.00

We would like to also thank Beth, the PoPS Committee and parent helpers who helped organise and encourage the children today. Well done PoPS.

Year 2—Getting Ready for Junior School

From **Tuesday 3rd June**, in preparation for transition to Junior school you may like your child to walk independently into school.

We are asking parents/carers to escort children to the bottom of the pathway and let them walk up to the school gates and into their classroom.

Where possible Mrs Mitchell or a member of staff will be standing at the top of the pathway watching the children walk up and into their classrooms. You will not be able to stand at the bottom to watch your child walk up the path, due to the congestion this may cause. Please can we ask that you are mindful of other parents bringing their children to school and to not block the driveway.

We ask that you discuss this with your child, that they walk sensibly and do not run or scoot up the pathway into school. If children are unable to walk safely into school without a parent or carer they will lose this privilege.

You do not have to do this or alternatively you may like to say goodbye to your child at the gate and allow them to walk the last few metres on their own to their classroom door.

Please note that after 8.50am, the classroom doors will be closed, parents/carers **MUST** walk with your child, please **DO NOT** allow them to walk up without you after this time. You will then need to bring them to the school office and be signed in and asked for a reason for the lateness.

Thank you.

Tesco Stronger Starts program

Exciting news! We are pleased to have been chosen to receive funding from **Tesco "Stronger Starts"** initiative. We have applied for this funding for our outdoor space improvement. As you know we are redesigning and enhancing our outdoor learning environment, which will enable us to link aspects of the school curriculum with learning outdoors.

We are competing against two other causes to receive up to £1,500 and we need your help to win! If you shop in Tesco or Tesco Express in Petersfield or Tesco Express in Liss you can support us by casting your vote in any of these stores; simply drop a blue token into our voting booth until 30th June and remember...**Every little helps!!**





Safeguarding

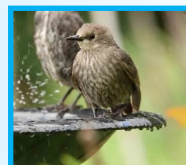
Over the year, I have tried to highlight some key games online that the children are talking about and try to raise awareness of the safeguarding concerns around them. This time I am focusing on Minecraft. Minecraft has an age rating of 10+ and is played by millions of children around the world. Minecraft is a virtual block building game, where the children use their imagination to build multidimensional worlds, making each game unique. However, despite the 10+ rating, many children at school talk about playing the games on their own or with their friends. Please see below some need to know risks of using Minecraft. If you have concerns about what your child is accessing online please get in touch and we can offer advice and support.

What parents need to know about MINECRAFT

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| GROOMING The majority of users who play Minecraft are children, making it an 'appealing' gateway for groomers. It has been reported that some users have created worlds in Minecraft to lure young people into a conversation to ask for explicit photos. There have even been more serious cases in which children have been persuaded to meet these people in real life. | COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS There are thousands of servers to choose from in Minecraft which are a single world or place created by the public, allowing users to play the game online or via a local area network with others. No two servers are the same and each server has its own individual plug-ins which are controlled by the creator. This means that some servers will allow communication with strangers. | AGE RESTRICTION & 'FANTASY VIOLENCE' According to the ESRB 'Entertaining Software Rating Board', Minecraft is suitable for users aged 10+. Due to its 'Fantasy Violence', the ESRB states that the rating has been given as 'players can engage in violent acts such as lighting animals on fire and harming animals with weapons. Mild explosions are occasionally heard as players use dynamite to fend off creatures and mine the environment.' |
| CYBERBULLYING & GRIEFING In multiplayer mode, there is a live chat feature which allows players to talk to other players through text. The chat functionality includes basic filtering to block out external links and offensive language being shared, but this varies between each server. Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creation or generally doing something to spoil gameplay for another. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating for players. | VIRUSES & MALWARE FROM MODS There are several websites that offer downloadable 'mods' which modify gameplay in a number of different ways. Most of the mods will be safe to use, but as they have been created by the public, they will often contain viruses that can infect your child's device and potentially try and find personal information from you or your child. | CHILDREN MAY BECOME ADDICTED As with other games, Minecraft is a game where players can keep returning, with constant challenges and personal goals to achieve. Children may find it difficult to know when to stop playing, becoming absorbed in the game and losing track of time. |

Health & Wellbeing Tips

To tie in with our bird song theme from assembly, why don't you try and make something for the birds in your own garden. At this time of year, as it gets warmer, why don't you build a bird bath for the birds, so they can have a drink or a bath. You need a shallow dish (why don't you recycle something), rest it on some bricks to make it as solid as possible, choose a location the birds can access it, add some rocks/stones and then add clean water. Don't forget to keep the water clean.



PoPS Sip & Paint—Friday 16th May 19:00 for 19:30 start

We are looking forward to our first Sip & Paint fundraising event tonight!

PoPS Summer Festival—Sunday 6th July 11:00-15:00

We are busy organising the Summer Festival.

If you would like a stall or know someone that would like to have a stall at the Summer Festival then please contact Beth.

PoPS are also looking for lots of volunteers to help organise and help to make the Summer Festival run smoothly.

If you are able to offer your help, even if you can only give an hour of your time please contact Beth. e: popstogether@outlook.com

Thank you for your continued support in helping raise much needed funds for our school!





The Reading Survey results are In...

Thank you to everyone who replied to the reading survey sent out earlier this year. We had 104 replies, far more than last year, here's a summary of the results.

As expected, parents report a range in their children's confidence and ability. Many parents feel their children are confident able readers and report their children are motivated and enthusiastic especially if they are able to choose their own reading material. Lots of you are backing up your reading practice by reading signs, packets, subtitles and sports reports etc. Some children are less confident or enthusiastic about their reading practice and those parents reported lots of great strategies to assist such as sharing the "reading work" together with their grown up or reading to other members of the family especially grandparents, choosing their own reading material or reading small selected chunks of the reader at any one time. Lots of families have found the tips offered at the reading workshop such as "spotting digraphs", "chunking" or pre reading the vocabulary at the front of the book helpful to increase confidence.

As many of us are parents ourselves, we understand how tricky it is to balance family life and homework.

Despite this, many of you are finding creative times to do 10 minutes of reading practice such as outside school or clubs when waiting to drop off or pick up siblings, breakfast time and as a precursor to a reward or special time with a parent or grandparent. Keep trying, every little helps! Many parents are not keen to do the reading practice before bedtime, which is historically a good time to read, as they want to avoid screen use at this time of day.

There were lots of positive comments about how well you feel your children read, how quickly they progress using the Little Wandle scheme and how helpful your individual teachers are. Many parents find the termly report advising whether your child is reading at the expected level helpful and everyone likes the opportunity to borrow a new top quality library book each week, in fact many of you would prefer this to happen more than once a week. This is something we will look into for next year.

Many parents surveyed do not record their reading practice on Seesaw but a quick picture of your child with the book you have shared loaded put into their electronic reading file gives good evidence of their reading choices and activity and can facilitate reading discussion between teacher and child during their reading group time.

Many of you surveyed do not like the Collins app to access your decodable reader. The app can be "clunky" and often needs deleting and reinstalling. Many of you would prefer a physical book being sent home. We appreciate and understand this and physical books would certainly be a long term goal to support a hybrid model so that parents could use both methods to support their child. At the moment, despite the quality of the texts being fantastic, the physical quality of the books is poor and they are easily damaged and as such are not currently appropriate for going backwards and forwards from home to school. Collins are aware of this and are aiming to improve the quality of these readers.

Thank you to all those parents who took time to fill in the survey. It helps us shape the delivery of our reading curriculum for the future.

The Coffee Events with Key Leaders Survey results are in...

Thank you to all those who responded to the survey and sharing your feedback. Following the feedback we wanted to respond outlining the reasoning behind these events.

The coffee events were a mechanism to offer further support around behaviour, special educational needs, curriculum or support for child at home. They were led by key leaders or members of staff who would support parents and families offering suggestions and/or strategies at home to help you support your child. These sessions were group sessions, where you could meet other parents and share ideas and strategies which may help at home. These events were aimed to be helpful, with the school nursing team being on hand to offer additional ideas around various themes.

Whilst not everyone found these sessions useful, the aim was to offer a different approach in working in partnership with the school and families in supporting your child. We will take the feedback on board and find a way where we can adapt these sessions, so parents/families find them more helpful.

These sessions, are in addition to the many other ways you can access help or support, as well as, sharing your views about the school.

If you ever require a 1:1 meeting with the SENDCo, Inclusion Lead, Curriculum Lead, class teacher or Headteacher, you can request an appointment via the admin email account and these can be organised with you. We do, of course, have the parent consultation meetings throughout the year too.

Our themed monthly forum is also a mechanism to share your views about the school journey. These are with the Headteacher.



We are really proud to be part of the **myHappymind** family.

This week we launched our new module 'Appreciate' which is all about showing gratitude for the small things in life. Please continue to share with us when the children are using their strategies at home, so I can share with **myHappymind**.

From speaking to the Happiness Co-ordinator this week, lots of parents are getting in touch, which is great to hear.

We are now a **myHappymind** ambassador school, which we are so proud of!! This means we are embracing the **myHappymind** strategies and principles across the school and our work is being shared more widely with other schools and the programmes commissioners.

myHappymind Places

There is something new in the app!

myHappymind Places is a new resource designed to help children explore and understand their emotions in a personal and meaningful way while developing self-regulation strategies. It builds confidence in expressing emotions in a way that works for them.

Children can personalise their own Places, linking them to emotions through locations or colours that resonate with them.

There is a parent information video, activity guides, a stamp guide where the 'stamps' represent different self-regulation strategies and tools and some printable resources. Thank you to all the parents who have signed up for the app

You can still sign up for the app (see the box below for more details).

We now have 69 app users compared to 32 when it first launched. Keep going!



We are really proud to be part of the **myHappymind** family.

As a school, we have been gifted an opportunity to deliver a whole school programme to build positive mental health and well-being. This programme is endorsed by the NHS and is a fully funded programme.

myHappymind helps children to understand how their brain works and creates a culture that helps to build resilience, confidence, and self-esteem. **myHappymind** also teaches the children how to self-regulate and manage their emotions in stressful times, allowing them to be their very best selves!

We have already launched the programme with the children and parents/carers and families were invited to the physical launch. Further information was sent out to all families which included a letter outlining key information, parent presentation and link for a short video.

Thank you to all those who have signed up for the free parent app and I hope this helps you in supporting your child at home. Information of how to do this was in the letter but there are posters around school with the QR code and sign code to access the app. Please can we ask that this code is not shared with anyone else. The resources and materials will be on display during our parent consultation evenings coming up. The app QR code will be available to sign up then too.

We have also developed a section on our school website for parents/carers for mental health and well-being which signposts you to resources to help you at home.

Please [click here](https://www.petersgateinfantschool.co.uk/parents/mental-health-and-well-being-for-parents) or copy and paste this link into your web browser.

<https://www.petersgateinfantschool.co.uk/parents/mental-health-and-well-being-for-parents>