



## Petersgate Post: 19th December 2025

### Mrs Mitchell's 'Message of the Week'

I am always blown away of how much we can fit into a term and it has certainly been a packed term at that. I am so proud of all of the children's achievements over this past term in their new year group. I have seen the children grow and develop so much over this time and it has been a privilege to lead such a wonderful school.

Over the past few weeks, we have been lucky to host all of the families for our nativities either here at school or at St James' Church and our annual Christmas concert. To watch all the children perform with such joy and confidence has been an absolute pleasure.

Welcome to Mrs Lamonby and Mrs Coates to the Petersgate team. Mrs Lamonby will be based in the Yr 1 wing and Mrs Coates will be based in the Yr 2 wing.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work and for being the champion for our children and to the parents who have offered their kind words or best wishes of support, as well as, the donations for PoPS events, we are really grateful.

Thank you finally to the PoPS team who work tirelessly in raising money for the school and giving our children some amazing experiences.

Finally, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the new year.



### Safeguarding

Over these cold dark winter months, I have noticed that the mornings and after school seem to be getting darker and darker. To keep yourself safe, it might be worth wearing/bringing something reflective, especially with the cars who use Green Lane and how busy it gets.

Please can we ask, to keep both adults and children safe from fumes, to shut off your engine when parked by the school. Thank you.



### Attendance and Punctuality for 1st to 19th December

Whole School Attendance = **95.59%**  
(National Average = 94.6%)

Best Attendance: **Rabbit class = 98.48%**

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

### Amazon Wish Lists

We have created wish lists for different year groups.

Year 2 are in the process of compiling theirs.

If you would like to purchase anything on the wish lists, you can do so directly using the links below.

These are also on the homepage of our website near the bottom of the page and have been shared on Seesaw.

**Year R — [Wish List 1](https://amzn.eu/9odv8Qp) and [Wish List 2](https://amzn.eu/8fpLhk3)**

or copy and paste these links into your web browser

<https://amzn.eu/9odv8Qp> and <https://amzn.eu/8fpLhk3>

**Year 1 — [Wish List](https://amzn.eu/cUKFkrX)**

or copy and paste this link into your web browser

<https://amzn.eu/cUKFkrX>

**Thank you!**

### A massive thank you

Thank you so much to Horndean and Clanfield Food Bank for the donations of hampers for some of our families. Thank you to the staff from Petersgate and the staff at Pelham Group, Waterlooville for the generosity of the Christmas gifts for the children within the family. The generosity from everyone really does reflect our SCARF value of caring and I know our families are truly grateful.



## Christmas at Petersgate



The Christmas festivities began on the closest school day to 1st December with Sparkle Day. The children sprinkle a little glitter, make a wish and hope the tree grows overnight. Then the children help to decorate it.

We have come together as a whole school community for our Christmas Dinner. We had crackers, told jokes and wore our party hats. Thank you to all the staff for helping the children and Leicester and the kitchen team for a scrummy Christmas dinner.



Then Santa came to visit us too! We had a really good time visiting Santa at the grotto. Thank you to Santa and the PoPS team for the lovely gift.



We have also had our fun-packed Christmas fayre. We really did have the 'fun of the fayre' with traditional games and activities with lots of things to spend pennies on. The children had a wonderful time.



We also had our infamous Christmas shop, where all children could buy and wrap gifts to put under the tree at home. This gives the children the invaluable experience of understanding the gift of giving and reflects our caring value.

Thank you to the PoPS team for supporting and organising some of our Christmas events. Thank you to parents and families for the many





## Modeshift STARS Active Travel Winter Journey!

As we head into a busy and festive time of year, we know many schools are already getting involved in wonderful seasonal activities such as Elf Day, Christmas Jumper Day, or even a Reindeer Dash!

This December, Modeshift are simply inviting you to add an active travel twist to the fun. Whether your pupils are dressed as elves, reindeer, or proudly wearing their favourite festive jumper, it's a great opportunity to encourage walking, wheeling, scooting, cycling, or taking the bus, train, or—if the snow falls—maybe even a sledge or skis!

The Active Travel Days of December theme can also be used to link to other activities in the [Modeshift STARS](#) scheme to help towards gaining travel plan accreditation. For example, you could organise a festive bling your wheels day, hold an active elf breakfast for those who walk or wheel, or support a charity with fund raising activities with elf ears, Santa outfit or reindeer antlers as part of the school journey.

You can take part in as many, or as few, activities as you wish, and mix and match them to suit your plans for the month. There's no set order, just join in however works best for your school community.



## WOW Challenge

Whether you walk, scoot, ride, 'Park and Stride' your child can earn badges each month.

We want to promote walking/scooting, cycling or park and stride at least once a week. Even if you can only manage to park a little further away, then walk into school, we can count that as a park and stride and log that on our travel tracker.

Thank you to all those who have taken part, the children have received their badges.

## WOW Challenge update

Well done to all the classes for promoting active travel and thank you to the WOW Ambassadors for supporting the children in completing the travel tracker each day.

Well done to Rabbit class for the highest active engagement for December.

All classes have over 60% of engagement in the challenge, well done!



## What is new in the **myHappymind** parent app?

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.

If you would like to sign up for the app

Please [click here](#) or copy and paste this link into your web browser.

**myHappymind Places** is designed to help children understand their emotions and strategies to feel safe, happy and calm. There are three key Places to help children identify how they are feeling:

- The Happy Place: Where your child feels safe, happy and calm.
- The Middle Place: Where your child might visit in between their Happy and Busy Places. They might feel a mixture of emotions.
- The Busy Place: Where your child might feel overwhelmed with big emotions.

## Mini Masterclasses

Laura Earnshaw, the founder of **myHappymind**, has created a series of Mini **myHappymind** Masterclasses. These sessions are designed to help you navigate some of the scenarios that we know often arise at school and at home. They are short videos (around 5 minutes each) to hopefully give you some practical strategies and reassurance.

The sessions cover themes such as Separation Anxiety, Emotionally Based School Avoidance, Building Self-Esteem, and Managing Big Emotions. New to this area of the app are sessions on Trauma-Informed Practice and Sleep. [CLICK HERE](#)

