



Petersgate Post: 16th January 2026

Mrs Mitchell's 'Message of the Week'

I want to wish you all a warm welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. I wish you all a wonderful 2026. Although Christmas seems like a distant memory, it has been an absolute joy being back with the children. They have all come back ready to learn and they are already producing some wonderful learning which they have shared with me and other adults. Over the coming term, we have a number of events coming up, so please keep an eye on the website calendar for key dates or on the 'What's Coming up Next Week' memo. We do have a Learn Alongside Your Child event for each year group over this term, so please do come along and see the learning in action. We also have some class assemblies starting this term (some classes will be next term). I hope you can join me in welcoming the staff back who work tirelessly in supporting your children.

Attendance and Punctuality for 5th to 16th January

Whole School Attendance = **96.4%**
(National Average = 94.6%)
Best Attendance: = **Squirrel class 98.33%**
Best Timekeepers: **Rabbit class (on time everyday!!)**



Parent Code of Conduct

Just a reminder we do have a parent Code of Conduct which you can find on our website. We ask that you don't approach other parents yourself when an incident has happened in school. Speak to a member of staff and we will work with you to try to resolve it.

Amazon Wish Lists

We have created wish lists for different year groups.

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>

Year 2 — [Wish List](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/5KHOCNSNPJ94/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)
or copy and paste this link into your web browser
https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/5KHOCNSNPJ94/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex



Health and Wellbeing

The dark winter months are always difficult for our emotional and mental health, as well as, our physical health.

As part of myHappyMind we are focusing on the Appreciate module, where the children are focusing on things they appreciate or are grateful for. You could start a gratitude journal as a family and draw/write and discuss what you are grateful for each day.

To support your physical health, try and get outside when you can to breath in the fresh air. You could go for a nature scavenger hunt around Clanfield or a walk on Butser. But simply breathing in the calm cool air really helps your emotional health and well-being.

One-way system and access around the School during drop-off and collection

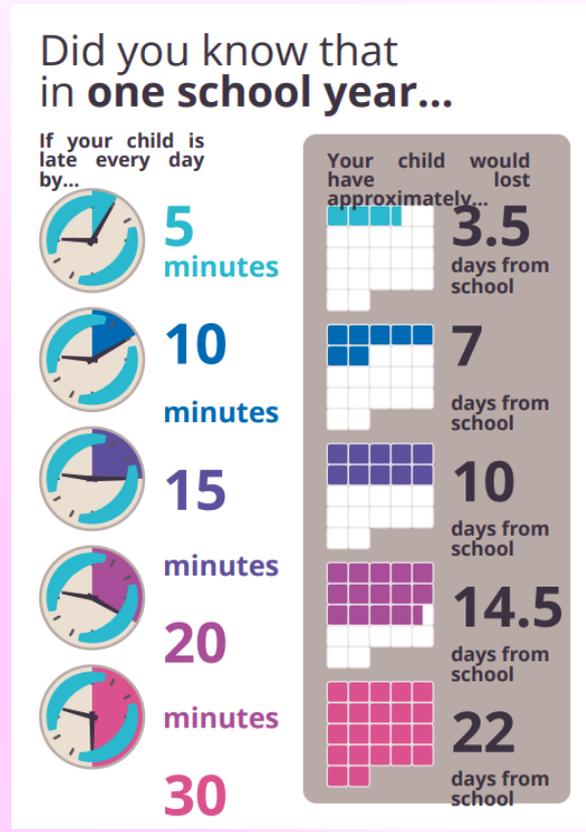
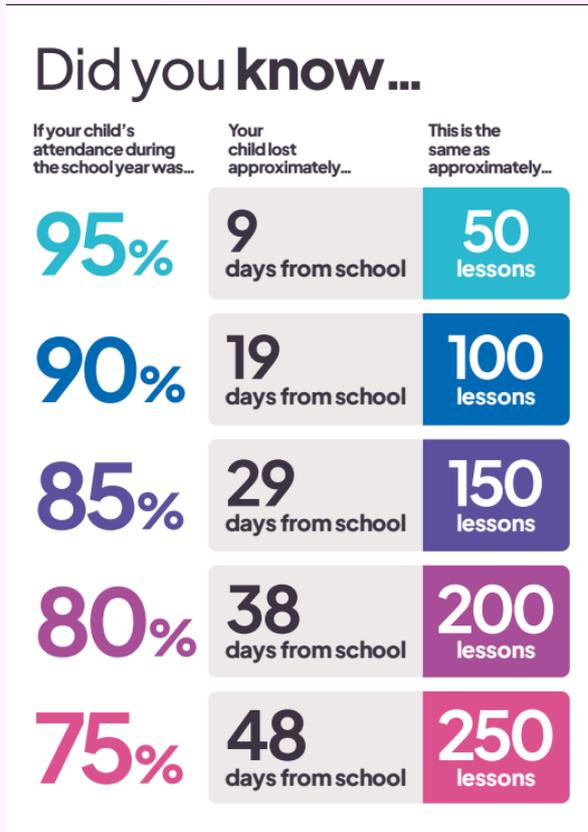
In order for a smooth drop off and collection, we have a number of ways to enter the school. There is the main gate by the drive, the gate by the office and via the Year R gate and walk around the back to get to the classes on the opposite side of the school. This system is to ease congestion both in the morning and at the end of the day, especially if you are collecting a sibling from a feeder school.

At the end of drop off time (8.50am) and collection time (3.20pm) the gates are closed and these are closed in a particular order to safeguard the site and the children.

Therefore, if you collect/drop off nearer the end of the 10 minute window each day (i.e at 8.50/3.20pm), then I ask you to follow the one-way system we have in place leaving via the Early Years gate. This is the last gate which is closed. This system has been in place for a number of years. Once closed, gates will not be re-opened. Please ensure anyone collecting your child is also aware. Thank you



Safeguarding Attendance



As part of my role and the role of the other Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) we monitor attendance and punctuality every day. This is then monitored over a week and then over the month. As part of our Attendance Policy (which you can find on our website), we look at all children's attendance/punctuality, especially those who fall below a certain percentage.

Whilst we completely understand if a child is unwell and we would not want a child to try and make themselves go to school when they are poorly, we do have to address attendance when it falls below a certain percentage. Therefore, if you do receive a call from school or a letter from myself to discuss attendance, this is part of our duty of care for the children. Part of our role to ensure any support is put in place, if it is needed, or to discuss how we can improve attendance or punctuality working in partnership with you.

We are also noticing more children are being collected early. The designated school hours over a week are 32.5 hours, as a minimum. Therefore, every minute counts with regards your child's education. Therefore we will query any absence requests, requests to collect early or why your child is late.

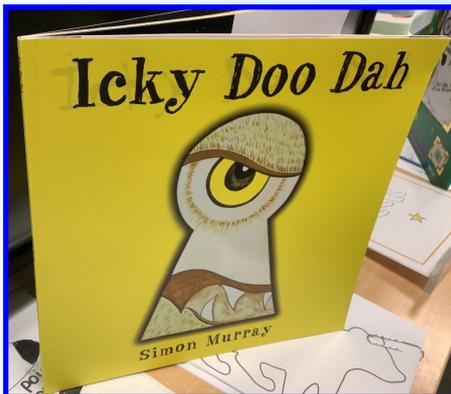
We want to work in partnership with you to ensure your child's percentage for attendance and punctuality is as high as it can be!

Simon Murray—Author/Illustrator visit

On Tuesday 13th January we were really lucky to have a visit from Simon Murray who is a children's author and illustrator. Simon is an author and illustrator of fiction for children but also a part-time teacher.

We have two stories in our library by Simon called Icky Doo Dah and Icky Doo Dah The Royal Bling Thing. You have until Friday to return your order slips for a signed copy of his book. Your child came home with the form on Tuesday.

The children loved the visit and were really engaged in the learning. All children had time with Simon who taught the children to illustrate a character just like he does. The drawings the children created were incredible.



Pond Development

As you may or may not be aware, developing our outside areas have been a huge importance to me since joining the school. The emotional and mental health benefits of learning outside is well cited in research, especially during these darker winter months.

During the INSET we welcomed FishLife Pond Services to support the pond development. Following their advice, we have had to wait until the right time of year to clear the pond of the weeds, any toys or any other debris that should not be present in the pond. This is due to the wildlife and plants which may have been present in the pond.

Following the clearance, we have discovered and been informed that the pond is an ideal wildlife pond. Although the pond water levels are low at the moment, these will rise with the rainfall. It already has frogs living in there, which will give us frog spawn (we hope) during the spring months.

We also have Great Crested Newts living near the pond, which is amazing to have a protected species living in our grounds. We even have lilies growing on the water. Hence another reason why we had to be careful when we cleared the pond.

We have spoken to all the children to be careful when playing in the Year 2 outside area, to avoid toys being thrown into the pond (even if accidently) so we can preserve the nature in the pond.

We have been really fortunate to have secured a grant to clear to the pond and our grounds maintenance team will maintain it throughout the year.

We now have SSS Services coming this week to check and make any repairs to the bridge to ensure the children can now use the pond for their outdoor learning and parts of the National Curriculum Science curriculum.

We are so lucky to have this fabulous resource in our school and we cannot wait to start using it!

Thank you to FishLife Pond Services for supporting the school with the pond clearance and being outside on one of the coldest weeks we have had this winter. Also a massive thank you to Mr Forknall (Site Assistant) and Miss Carter for their many tip runs to ensure the site was clear and tidy ready for Monday. A special thank you to Mr Forknall for working outside all day in this cold weather doing extra clearance in the Year 2 area.



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](#)

