

SS Peter and Paul Newsletter



Term 1 20th September 2024

We are now in the third week of term. The children are all settled and enjoying their learning. Our new Deputy Head, Mrs Hewlett, and our new Year 5 teacher, Miss Williams, have settled in their new roles. Our new Foundation Stage children have just completed their first full week of school and look like they have always been here.

The KS2 building project is progressing well with the floors and ceilings in place in the toilets which are due to be ready for use from the 7th October. Following completion of the toilets, work will commence to transform the old boys' toilet into a new cloakroom for KS2 and the old cloakroom area will be transformed into a lovely study area for the children. The transformation will be completed before half-term. It has been my ambition to change the KS2 toilets since I arrived 10 years ago and it is very satisfying to see the transformation finally happening. I look forward to inviting you in to school to view the work once it is completed.

Year 6 Camp



Last week Year 6 had their residential trip to Elan Valley, Wales. The weather was changeable and quite cold but the children still had a marvellous time. It is an important trip for the children as they have the opportunity to become independent and stretch themselves as well as developing self-confidence and resilience. It is also an important opportunity for their teacher to get to know the children out of the classroom environment and for them to bond as a class. The children undertook a wide range of activities designed to challenge them as individuals and help build their team skills. The activities included: kayaking, raft building, archery, team building and problem solving, as well as high ropes and orienteering.

Thank you to Mrs Arnold and Mrs Partridge for giving up their time to take the children on camp.

Welcome Mass



Yesterday the school celebrated the start of term with Canon Colin celebrating Mass for us with our lovely Year 6 leading the Mass and singing beautifully. It was Canon Colin's first-time celebrating Mass for us and Mrs Hewlett's first time organising Mass which made it an extra special occasion. Mrs Partridge kindly agreed to play the piano for us and

we are very grateful to her. Our next Mass will be on Thursday 17th October at 9.30am in celebration of Harvest Festival and we hope you will be able to join us. We will be asking for donations of dried food at the beginning of October for St James' Priory, who support the homeless.

Creation



Our topic in RE for the start of this term is Creation and our focus is caring for our planet. We have been looking at how to save our world and reverse some of the damage that has already been done. Foundation Stage and KS1 have been planting bulbs in the school grounds so that there will be lots of food for the insects in the spring. Year 3 and 4 have been making bug hotels, bird houses and feeders which they have stocked with seeds, whilst Year 6 have been writing letters to councillors and our local MP to try to improve the recycling around school. Everyone in school is trying to reduce waste and the use of plastic. If your child brings a packed lunch to school please try to avoid giving them pre-packaged meals and use a re-useable lunch box.



Year 5 Ukulele



Year 5 have begun to learn how to play the ukulele. They will be having lessons every Tuesday for whole academic year. All the children enjoyed their introductory session and played well. We look forward to hearing their first concert at the end of term 2. Children can now have private music lessons for keyboards, piano, guitar, cello and ukulele.

School Uniform



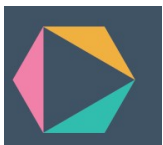
Thank you for sending your children into school with the correct uniform. I would like to remind you that all children should wear black shoes for school, **not trainers**. Trainers are to be worn for PE only and are not for everyday use.

The PE kit is a white T-shirt, preferably with a logo, and blue shorts or blue jogging bottoms and should be in school every day.

If you require any additional items of uniform we would encourage you to buy it pre-loved from the PTFA. This saves you money and saves our planet.

Shoulder length hair should be tied up and hair should be off the face and secured with a small band or blue ribbon.

If your child wears glasses please make sure the class teacher knows and that the glasses come into school each day.



Clifton Cathedral Junior Choir

The choir is a children's choir sponsored by Clifton Cathedral's Music Service.

Rehearsals take place once a week at the Cathedral on Fridays from 4.15pm – 5.45pm.

The choir sings Vespers each week on a Friday evening at 5.15pm during term time as well as contributing to various Masses, concerts, tours and broadcasts throughout the year. Membership of the choir offers children the opportunity to develop their musical and vocal skills, particularly sight-singing, and to make new friends with similar interests, whilst having fun and performing a wide choral repertoire to a high standard.

The choir is open to any children in KS2, but it also welcomes children in Year 2 to join after the Easter holiday in that academic year. Potential new choristers have a four-week probationary period before an audition, in order to become full members of the choir. For further details please contact the Cathedral Organist and Junior Choir Director, Stephen Bryant.
Email: juniorchoir@cliftondiocese.com

Starting School in September 2025

If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 you need to make an application for Reception in September 2025 by midnight on 15th January 2025. The guide for parents/carers is available on-line at www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions for parents/carers to view and download. In addition, we would recommend you complete a supplementary form available from the website or the school office. Please feel free to recommend the school

to friends and family. We are currently advertising a number of school tours for children who would like to join us in September 2025. All the dates are available on the school website calendar. Please contact the office to book.



Secondary Applications

Year 6 parents need to apply online for Year 7 places for September 2023 by 31st October. When making the decision about which schools to apply for please check the admissions criteria carefully. Certain schools are oversubscribed and it is unlikely that you will get a place if you do not meet the admissions criteria. Every year we have a few children who do not get any school of their choice and this is usually because they have not met the criteria. The application process can be accessed via this website: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/school-admissions/secondary-admissions/secondary-apply>

Most secondary schools are holding open evenings this term and some will offer smaller tours during the day. Please check the individual school website for details. Mr King, principal of St Bede's, will visit Year 6 next week and the children will be able to ask him questions. St Bede's open evening is 3rd October 2024 6pm to 8pm. All are welcome to attend.

Year 5 parents are welcome to attend the open evenings to help inform their choice for next year.



No Nuts

A REMINDER - In the interest of those children with serious allergies to various types of nuts, we would like to remind parents not to send children into school with nuts or nut-based products such as Nutella, peanut butter or cereal bars containing nuts. Children with allergies can become seriously unwell just by being near these products, without actually consuming them. We appreciate your co-

operation in this matter. Please do not bring any products containing nuts into school. Thank you for helping to keep the children safe.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is very important. The following table shows the amount of learning that can be missed through absence.



100% attendance	Zero days missed	Perfection!
99% attendance	Two days of absence across the year	Excellent!
97% attendance	Five days of absence across the year	Good
95% attendance	Nine days of absence across the year: one week and four days of learning missed.	Satisfactory
90% attendance	Nineteen days of absence across the year; three weeks and four days of learning missed	Poor
85% attendance	Twenty-eight days of absence across the year: five weeks and three days of learning missed.	Very Poor
80% attendance	Thirty-eight days of absence across the year: seven weeks and 3 days of learning missed.	Unacceptable
75% attendance	Forty-six days of absence across the year: nine weeks and one day of learning missed.	Unacceptable

The government is working to improve attendance and the law regarding attendance at school changed on the 19th August 2024. Under the new rules a Penalty Notice (fine) can be issued for unauthorised absences (for any reason) once there is a minimum of 10 sessions (5 full days) within a 10 school week period. This includes absences either side of school holidays.

The Penalty Notice can be issued per parent, per child.

The Penalty notice amount is rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. However, this will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

If a second Penalty notice is issued within a 3-year rolling period to the same parent in respect of the same child, the Penalty Notice is £160 if paid within 28 days. There is no option to reduce the amount if it is paid earlier.

If the Penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, then you may be prosecuted for failing to secure regular school attendance.

A third Penalty Notice **cannot** be issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period. Should you continue to incur further unauthorised absences then alternative action will be considered which could include a prosecution for failing to secure regular school attendance.

Under these new regulations no term time holidays can be authorised. We recognise that there will be some exceptional circumstances and these will be considered at the time of the request.

If your child's attendance falls below 90% they are considered to be a persistent absentee and their attendance will be monitored by the school and the Education Welfare Officer (EWO).

We understand that children do get ill and we would like to work with you to help them attend school. To help you decide whether your child is well enough to attend school the NHS has published some useful information to help you decide. This is the link to the website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

In addition, the school office will administer medication to your child during the school day if required. Please complete an administration of medicine form from the office. The office holds a bottle of Calpol which can be given to children if necessary and parental permission has been given.

Activities for Term 1 2024/25:

Monday Year 3 Multi-Sports- Finish time 4.15pm

Tuesday Year 4 Invasion Games- Finish time 4:15pm
Year 6 Dance - Finish time 4:15pm

Thursday KS2 Lunchtime Choir
Year 5 Archery - Finish time 4:15pm
Years 1-3 Frisbee - Finish time 4:15 (provided by U-Sports, paid activity)

Friday Year 2 Multi-skills - Finish time 4:00pm

If you would like more information about the clubs please contact the school office.

In addition, we will be starting a Chess Club in the next few weeks so please look out for the letter.

Maths club will start next week. Invitations are being sent out shortly.

Don't forget
parents'
evening!

Parents'/Carers' Evenings

Parents'/Carers' evenings will be held on the 8th and 10th of October. The booking forms for parents/carers' evenings will be sent out early next week. This meeting is for you to discuss how your child has settled in school. If have any problems with the system please contact the school office. It is important that you have the opportunity to speak to your child's teacher and find out how they are doing in school.

PTFA

The PTFA is an amazing organisation which provides many valuable resources for school and supports us in many different ways. This term there are 3 ways you can support them:

Tea afternoon & uniform sale – 25th September after school

Sponsor bounce - 4th October during the school day

Movie night - Friday 18th October after school

The Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 29th November and the Summer Fair will be 4th July 2025.

Term Dates 2024/2025

Term 1 Monday 2nd September to Friday 25th October 2024

Term 2 Monday 4th November to Friday 20th
December 2024

Term 3 Monday 6th January to Friday 14th
February 2025

Term 4 Monday 24th February to Friday 4th April
2025

Term 5 Tuesday 22nd April to Friday 23rd May
2025

Term 6 Monday 2nd June to Tuesday 22nd July
2025

Inset days for 2024/2025

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Friday 25th October 2024

Monday 6th January 2025

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Prayer

Thank you for looking after our school.
Thank you for the love you give to each
and every one of us.

Help us to learn, play and share
together, so that the wonderful world
you have given us becomes more
beautiful every day.



Amen