



Newsletter

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Friday 10th May 2019



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or

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THANKS FOR REMEMBERING
THIS IS A



PEANUT/NUT FREE
SCHOOL

We currently have three children who have serious nut allergies. Please remember that we don't allow any nuts or nut products in school. **This includes Nutella.** Thank you for helping us to keep St Peter's School a safe place.



Cycling Proficiency

I desperately need some more volunteers!!

Please consider helping if you can, because if we don't have two people with me each morning, we can't run the course.

It's already that time of year when I'm looking for volunteers for helping with our cycling proficiency course for the year 6s. It's so beneficial as it teaches the children not only how to ride on the road but how to be aware of potential danger, the rules of the road, how to stay safe, etc.

However, we can't run it unless we have volunteers! **I need at least two helpers each day otherwise I'm not allowed to take the children on the road.** If you can give any time to help between 9am and 12pm from Tuesday 4th June each day to Friday 7th June, that would be brilliant.

You don't need to be a year 6 parent and you don't need to ride a bike! Please come and speak to Emily in the office if you can help. Thank you.

Please note—the year 6s will need to have their bikes at school every day, as well as on the Friday before half term (24th May)



Tissues



As it will soon be the start of summer, it's also the start of hay fever season and we already have a lot of children with runny noses and watery eyes.

Could we please ask that next time you go shopping, you buy an extra box of tissues to donate to us? If we need to buy them it's a large amount of money that could obviously be spent in far better ways. Thank you!



News



Trips and ParentMail

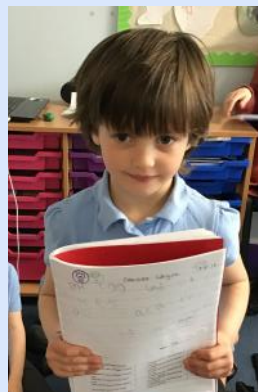
We've had a few people lately who have been confused over the permissions and payments needed for school trips.

For every trip, there will be a consent form for you to complete. If there is a payment, there will also be a separate 'request for money'. These are two different things that need to be completed, but some people are not realising this and only completing one or the other.

Every time there is a trip, or something else that has a payment attached to it, you should receive notification that there is something else for you to purchase. It seems that these notifications haven't been going out, although the payment is definitely there! If you can't find it, it should be in the 'shop' area. I'll get in touch with ParentMail and make sure that these alerts are reinstated in the future.



Please make sure that both consent form and payment, if needed, are completed. Also - if you've done the consent form on Parentmail, we don't also need a physical copy.





iRock



Our final iRock band!



SPSA News—School Pool



As we approach the opening of the swimming pool this year, we thought it might be useful to give a bit more information on why it is there and how we keep it going.

Almost 50 years ago, a young lad from Cassington drowned whilst playing in the river near Cassington Mill and another died in the pit (filled with water) off Bell Lane. After these tragic events, the villagers decided to fundraise to build a pool in the school grounds, so that all the children could have a local facility where they would be taught to swim.

The running of the pool became the job of the PTA (now the SPSA) and has been passed down through many generations of parents and is still going strong today. With ever-shrinking budgets, the school simply doesn't have the time or resources to run the pool, so it is vital for its future that these parents are willing to give up their time to help.

The volunteers get the pool ready for use – bringing it out of its winter hibernation, doing any DIY jobs, checking the pumping and heating equipment, cleaning the water and ordering chemicals needed for the year. A group then attend a lifesaving course so we can man the pool and rotas are prepared for this and for the regular pool checks that are needed to keep this valuable resource running.

Aside from the out of school swimming, with the pool up and running, the school can take advantage and use it for in school swimming lessons.

The pool has weathered many a storm, dead hedgehog and the burgeoning pressure from local authorities introducing more procedures, rules and regulations; so much so that we have struggled to get enough people with the correct qualification to sit poolside.

This year, we enlisted the help of the Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS) to guide us through all the scenarios likely to be accepted by the strict Health and Safety measures employed by the EPA. After lengthy meetings, much debate and a presentation to the Head of Governors, Mr Jeffries was satisfied that we could go ahead with our after school/holiday swim plan using a new (and easier to sustain) strategy – an 'ER' manned pool – which stands for Emergency Responder.

It is important to note that, although there will be an ER trained parent poolside, they are not taking on a Lifeguard role and will NOT be responsible for the children in the pool – this responsibility will lie with the parents and carers for their own children. The ER trained individual will respond if there is an emergency situation. More details for this, including our rules, normal operating plan and emergency action plan will soon be found on ParentMail along with the subscription form to register for out of school swimming.

Swimming lessons during school time are outside of these new rules and you will be hearing separately from the school regarding that.

Suffice to say, a lot of planning, meetings and time has gone into trying to secure a future for our school pool. A few months ago, it truly looked like the pool might not open and we would be sending the kids off in coaches for leisure centre pool sessions.

So please support this valuable resource by registering your child for out of school swimming. Remember how much hard work goes into preparing and maintaining the pool, the planning involved in training people to man the pool and the effort we go to making sure someone is able to open the pool after school and in the school holidays. You can also support us by offering help with any of the aforementioned jobs – just speak to one of the team.

It is truly wonderful to see the confidence of the children in the water and I hope we can keep it running for many years to come.



Forest School





Awards of the Week



Awards of the Week

If your child has an award below, you are invited to join us for our Celebration Assembly next Friday at 9 o'clock in the school hall:

Class	Special Award Term Focus - Independence	Star Award
	Flo Oliver	Alice Cox Layla Black
	Euan Judd	Jack Armitage Bradley Knight
	Charlie Cook	Elliot Miller Harry Lewis
	Olly Lewis	Jacob Miller Laura Newton
	Martha Paulin	

We would really appreciate any donation of pots, pans and any other kitchen tools.

We would also appreciate donations of small world toys.

Thank you,

From Apple Tree Class





A Message from Mr Jeffries



Dear Parents/Carers,

The term is speeding along – a bank holiday certainly helps! We talked in collective worship this week about a charity the school could support. We started the process by thinking about what is important to us at St Peter's. The responses were that we are a kind, caring and friendly school where we have a 'can do' attitude and that it is important to be respectful and independent. The children will be doing some more work on this in class over the next 2 weeks and thinking about how we could use these skills and attributes for a greater good.

Apple tree class were moderated this week to check the levelling towards the Early Learning Goals. This happens every four years and is necessary to maintain standards across the country. The moderator was extremely impressed with the amount of evidence that Mrs Gardner was able to show and especially how far the children's writing had developed. The children really do make incredible progress so a huge thanks to the whole EYFS for making this happen.

Next week is SATs week for the year 6 children. The children have worked incredibly hard and learned so much not only about the national curriculum but also about themselves. They have shown incredible resilience and for me this is one of the most important life-skills to learn. They may never need to explain the passive voice or past perfect tense again after next week but when faced with challenges in life, they will be much better prepared to say, 'I'm up for a challenge, I'm a yes person, bring it on', as opposed to 'That looks a bit tricky, no thanks, I'm not going to try'. The SATs are tough, perhaps unfair and questionably necessary, but you can say the same about life - which is ultimately what we are preparing them for. As Ameer shared with us in collective worship some months ago 'Your attitude determines your direction. What wise children we have at St Peter's!

Rest well year 6s, you are going to be great!

With warmest wishes,

Jon Jeffries



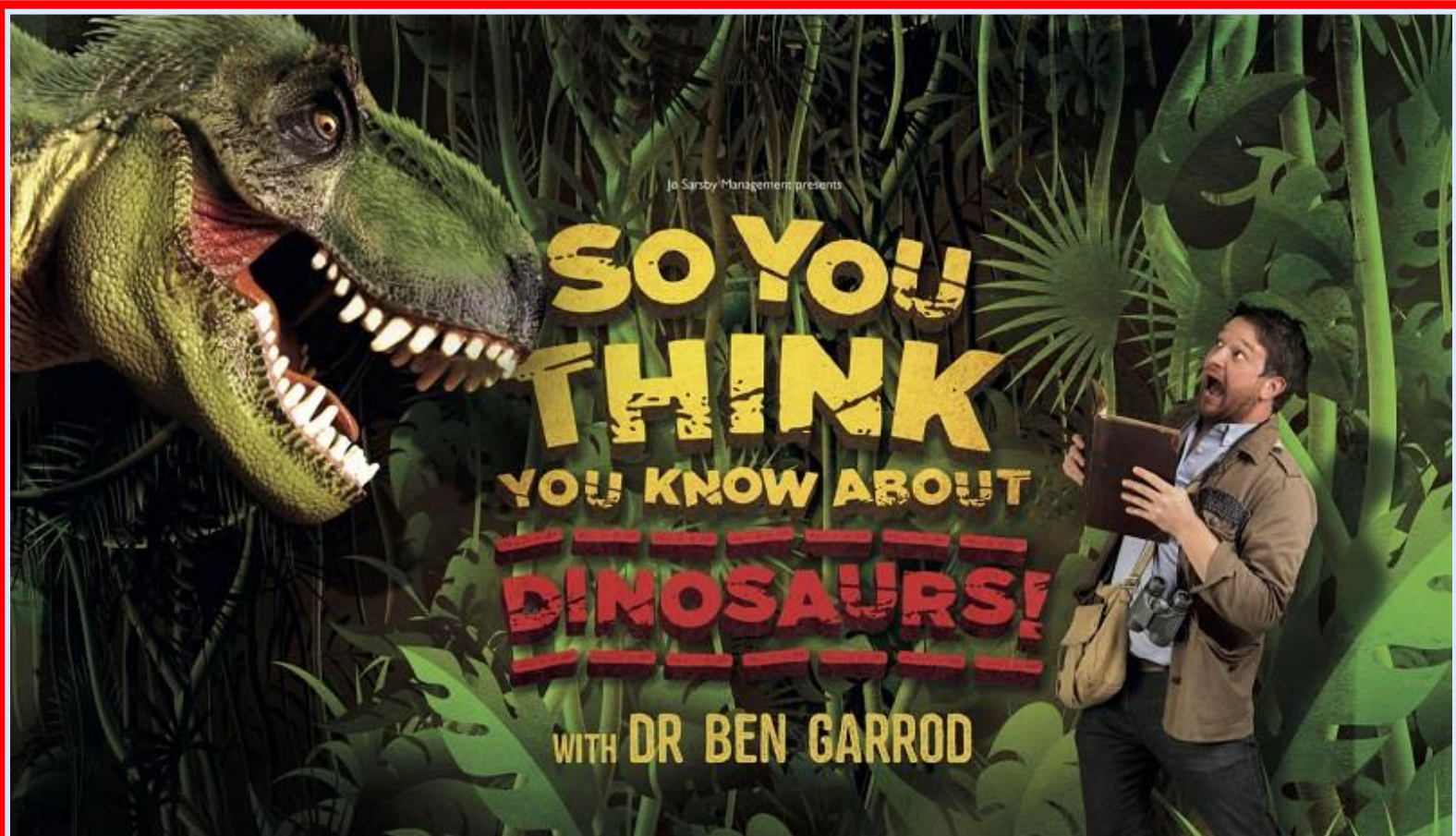
Important Dates



Monday 13th May -	SATs week
Friday 17th May -	Yoga for Willow Class
Wednesday 22nd May -	Oak Class to Whipsnade Zoo
-	Willow Class to Compton Verney
Friday 24th May -	Cycling Proficiency for Year 6
-	Stay and Play in Apple Tree - 2-3pm - £2 per family
Monday 27th May -	Half term
Sunday 2nd May -	St Peter's Together
Monday 3rd June -	Inset Day
Tuesday 4th June -	Cycling Proficiency for Year 6 - until Thursday 6th June
-	SPSA meeting - 8pm in Red Lion
Tuesday 11th June -	Maple / Willow EPA Sports Day - Tilsley Park, Abingdon



Year 5 enjoyed spending time with the younger children in Apple Tree class this afternoon.



SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT DINOSAURS! WITH DR BEN GARROD

Saturday 11 May 2019 3pm Amey Theatre, Abingdon

So You Think You Know About Dinosaurs is the hit stage show starring dinosaur aficionado Dr Ben Garrod. Get ready to go on an exciting pre-historic adventure as Ben explores the biggest, deadliest and weirdest predators that ever roamed the planet. Yes dinosaurs such as Tyrannosaurus Rex, Allosaurus and Spinosaurus would have walked or swam right where you are now!

Pitting the knowledge of unwitting adults against their all-knowing kids, Dr Ben presents an interactive, educational and highly entertaining show using film footage from the BBC's '**Planet Dinosaur**'. So come and test your knowledge against Dr Ben in this hit live interactive show - Now bigger and better than ever.

Book tickets here—http://abingdonschool.savoyssystems.co.uk/AbingdonSchool.dll/TSelectItems.waSelectItemsPrompt.TcsWebMenuItem_1428.TcsWebTab_1429.TcsPerformance_596796.TcsSection_59749

Watch the trailer here—https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmLV7r_ShEQ

If you haven't seen Ben Garrod's Dinosaur show—it's brilliant! I can't recommend it enough. Ben is awesome and he'll answer absolutely any dinosaur or evolution question you can throw at him!

If your children (or you) love dinosaurs (or just love learning new stuff) then this is for you.

(Tell him Emily recommended it!)



As part of looking at the vision/values of the school, we want to align ourselves with a charity that would have specific meaning and relevance to the school and form a core part of who we are.

We will have an event later in the term to share and consider further but to get the ball rolling can you help by suggesting:

a) What makes St Peter's unique/special

b) Is there a specific charity or type of charity that has relevance to us that we could support?

EXAMPLE

A school where a child had a degenerative eye disease decided to support an eyesight charity working in impoverished parts of the world.

The school became experts on eyes/eyesight and they went further than just raising money; the children wrote letters/gave advice on how to look after the eyes etc and it became a core part of who the school were.