



St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

14th November 2025



Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year: Believe in me.
Heavenly father, we thank you for the gift of faith that each of us has been given.
Help us to share it with whoever we meet.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to parents' evening this week, and a pleasure to discuss the wellbeing, progress and next steps for our children. We are very grateful for the working partnerships we have with our families, and for all of your continuing support.



Armistice Day – we were very proud of all our children as they prayed and reflected silently for one minute on 11 November in school. It was also lovely to meet up with so many of our families on Remembrance Sunday at the procession in Stalybridge. We were particularly proud of the members of our school community who are part of the uniformed groups. Thank you to Patrick for laying the wreath on behalf of St. Peter's on Remembrance Sunday.



Jubilee Pledge - In this Year of the Jubilee, we have made a pledge as a school. We are going to support Bishop Mark's charity CARITAS; a Catholic charity which helps people locally and internationally. We watched a short video about the work of CARITAS as a whole school on Monday.

Our pledge has a very 'Christmassy' theme!

Each class is going to bake some Christmas biscuits. Our worship leaders (if they are free) are going to sell these straight after school on Friday, 28 November. The biscuits will be on sale in the outdoor haven that day. If the weather is bad, they will be on sale in our Year 6 classroom.

We are also inviting everyone to wear a Christmas jumper to school on the last day of Friday, 19 December, for a kind donation of 50p.

Attendance: First week of Autumn Term 2 Week beginning 3 November, 2025		
1 st place	Nursery	98.5%
2 nd place	Year 6	98.3%
3 rd place	Year 1	97.7%
4 th place	Year 2	95%
5 th place	Reception	94.7%
6 th place	Year 4	93.5%
7 th place	Year 3	90%
8 th place	Year 5	86.1%
School Target: 98%		Overall School Attendance to Date: 95.4%



Fantastic attendance in Nursery, Year 1 and Year 6 last week!

In the love of God and neighbour

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RE Newsletter Please click the link to our website to view what has been taking place in your child's class in RE last half term. You can also read updates on our Catholic Life and Mission, and on Prayer and Liturgy at St. Peter's: [Religious Education – St Peter's Stalybridge](#)

Wednesday Word - [This week's Wednesday Word](#) *The Wednesday Word* is an excellent resource that can be used in the class and at home to reflect on the issues and messages present in the liturgies. *Wednesday Word* is an outreach which shares Sunday's Gospel with **families**, in a unique way. Please visit the [Wednesday Word Website](#)



Maths at St. Peter's

We wanted to take the opportunity to let our families know a little more about the scheme called *Power Maths* which we use to support our teaching of maths at St. Peter's. We very much empathise with the ethos of *Power Maths*, as it is built on the belief that everyone can learn maths successfully.

The philosophy behind *Power Maths* is that being successful in maths is not just about rote-learning procedures and methods, but is also about problem solving, thinking and discussing. Many people (perhaps those of us who are of a certain age)! feel they were taught maths in a way that was about memorising formulas and calculation methods, then having to apply them without any real understanding of what or how these methods actually work.

Power Maths includes practice questions to help children develop fluent recall and develop their conceptual understanding.

Power Maths uses growth mindset characters to prompt, encourage and question children. They spark curiosity, engage reasoning, secure understanding and deepen learning for all.

Each lesson has a progression, with a central flow that draws the main learning into focus. There are different elements, informed by research into best practice in maths teaching, that bring the lessons to life:

- **Discover** – each lesson begins with a problem to solve, often a real-life example, sometimes a puzzle or a game. These are engaging and fun, and designed to get all children thinking.
- **Share** – the class share their ideas and compare different ways to solve the problem, explaining their reasoning with hands-on resources and drawings to make their ideas clear. Children are able to develop their understanding of the concept with input from the teacher.
- **Think together** – the next part of the lesson is a journey through the concept, digging deeper and deeper so that each child builds on secure foundations while being challenged to apply their understanding in different ways and with increasing independence.
- **Practice** – children then work individually or in small groups, rehearsing and developing their skills to build fluency, understanding of the concept and confidence.
- **Reflect** – finally, children are prompted to reflect on and record their learning from each session and show how they have grasped the concept explored in the lesson.

Power Maths is based on a 'small-steps' approach, sometimes called a mastery approach. This means that the concepts are broken down so that children can master one idea without feeling overwhelmed. There are a range of fluency, reasoning and problem solving questions in each lesson that are designed to support the different needs and confidence levels within a class, while at the same time fostering a spirit of working and learning together. Each lesson includes a challenge question for those children who are ready to delve deeper into a concept.

There is a bright, colourful and informative Powerpoint file attached to this newsletter – do take a look to find out more.

Mrs Barber is our maths lead at St. Peter's, and she would always be happy to answer any queries you may have about maths.



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Children in Need - [runPudsey - School](#)

Children in Need Day is today (14 November). Children at school are looking great in their yellow, spotty and Pudsey items! We have responded to our parent voice which asked us to consider more creative ways to celebrate the work of charities such as Children in Need, and will be taking part in an assault course for 'Run for Pudsey' in the hall this morning. The link above will take you to our school's fundraising page. You will need the following code in order to register: **B66A**
We understand that many of our families may be struggling with the cost of living crisis at this time, so please only donate what you are comfortably able to do.

Class Assemblies

Family members are most welcome to join us for class assemblies where the children celebrate their learning with us. All are held in the hall on Fridays at 2.45pm.

14 November (today) – Year 2

21 November – Year 3

Mass

Each class will celebrate Mass in the chapel of St. Peter's Church as a class this academic year. Families and friends are warmly invited to these special occasions. Dates are as follows:

26 November: Year 5

14 January: Year 4

25 February: Year 3 (Mass of enrolment)

18 March: Year 2

29 April: Year 1

1 July: Reception

8 July: Nursery



It was lovely to be part of such a large congregation at the Mass of our Year 6 class on Wednesday. Thank you to the many people who attended. Please be assured that families are welcome to attend ALL Masses – there is no need to wait until it is the turn of your child's class.

Sacramental Preparation Programme

If your child is in Year 3 or is older, and you would like your child to prepare for the sacraments of First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion, then important dates are as follows:

Monday, 9 February at 3.30pm in school – Meeting for families

Wednesday, 25 February, 9.15am in St. Peter's Church – Mass of enrolment

Tuesday, 3 March, 2.00pm in school – Prayer sponsors' party (all families welcome)

Thursday, 12 March, 6.00pm in St. Peter's Church – Sacrament of First Forgiveness

Monday, 4 May at 3.30pm in school – meeting for families

Saturday, 16 May at 10.30am in St. Peter's Church – Mass of First Holy Communion



St Peter's Christmas Shows

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will take part in 'The Nativity.'

Children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take part in the nativity story through song, dance and gospel readings.

Robinwood Residential Instalment Reminder - A letter was sent out on 11th July regarding the Robinwood Residential trip taking place on 29th April 2026. If you have opted to pay in instalments, please continue to follow the guidance outlined in the

letter. The next instalment was due 10th October and should be paid via Arbor through the Trips section on your child's account. Please note that all payments must be settled in full by **27th February 2026**. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide this exciting opportunity for our pupils.

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Nasal Flu Vaccination – Reception to Year 6

The Department of Health has confirmed that all children from Year R to Year 6 will be offered a nasal flu vaccination annually. This year, the immunisations will take place at school on Monday, 17 November. To give consent, please check your email for the e-consent form, which was sent on Wednesday, 15 October. If you haven't received it, please contact the school office.

Nursery Snack Fund via Arbor - We'd like to let you know that the Nursery Snack Fund is now available to purchase via the School Shop on Arbor. This is a one-time payment that covers snacks and curriculum enhancements for our Nursery children. Going forward, payments will be added to Arbor **half-termly**, with the amount varying depending on the number of school days in each half term. This is a reminder to please ensure payment for **Nursery Snack – Autumn 1** is made via the **Arbor Shop**.

Please note:

- Parents will only be able to purchase **one product**, so if you have already paid, you will not be able to purchase an additional item.
- **Nursery Snack for Autumn 2** will be available to purchase from today at the same cost as last half term - £24.50!

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide enriching experiences and healthy snacks for our Nursery children.



School Meal Payments Now on Arbor - We'd like to inform parents of pupils who pay for school meals that **all payments are now made via Arbor**. This change will help streamline the payment process and make it easier for families to manage school-related costs in one place. Please log in to your Arbor account to view and make payments for school meals. If you have any questions or need support accessing Arbor, feel free to contact the school office.

If your circumstances change you may be eligible to apply for free school meals. More information is available on the school website under school meals where there is a link to a website www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-tameside Here, you can complete an online application to see if you are eligible.

Also, if you think you may be eligible and you have a child in the infants - including Nursery, although Infant children are entitled to a free school meal under the universal free school meal scheme, you should still apply for this, as school receives extra funding to support your child in school. Please contact Mrs Murray in the school office for more information.

Please ensure cocktail sticks are not included in your child's packed lunch, as they can pose a safety risk.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Coconut, Prawns, Avocado and Nut allergies - please could I ask parents not to include any of these items in their child's packed lunch as we have children in school with significant allergies. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Packed Lunches - If your child would like to change from school meals to packed lunches, then please give us 2 weeks' notice at schoolmeals@st-peters.tameside.sch.uk More information about school meals may be found on our website

Christmas Lunch - the children are invited to have a Christmas Dinner on Thursday 18th December.

If your child is in Year 3 to Year 6 and normally has a packed lunch and would like to have a school dinner please email - schoolmeals@st-peters.tameside.sch.uk. All orders must be received no later than **Friday 12th December 2025**.

Children in Reception to Year 2 who normally have a packed lunch can have a Christmas Dinner and payment is not required. Can you please inform the school office if your child wishes to have a Christmas Dinner. Please note – Christmas Dinner is for children in Reception to Year 6.

If your order is placed after this date, then unfortunately, your child will not be eligible for a Christmas dinner. Please understand that our kitchen staff are only able to order the supplies for the number of meals that have been ordered by our families. Thank you

****Children who normally have a school dinner will automatically be included in this special meal****

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School Fund – We kindly invite families to contribute to our School Fund for the 2025-2026 academic year. The suggested donation is £38.00, and payments can be made conveniently online via the School Shop on the Arbor App. As this is a voluntary contribution, we are sincerely grateful for any support you are able to provide. All funds raised go directly towards wider curriculum opportunities for the children, enriching their learning experiences beyond the classroom. Thank you for your continued support.



Diocesan Building Fund - If anyone would like to make a donation to this fund, please do so via the school shop on Arbor. Building works for voluntary aided / Catholic schools are granted 90% of the costs, therefore school has to find an additional 10% of the building cost. This fund is of great importance to our school and helps to maintain the building and major repair projects. There is a letter on our school website in which Bishop Mark gives more information. We are very grateful for any donations received.

Arbor - Please download the new free Arbor parent app onto to your smart phone where you will be kept up to date with all correspondence from school. The in-app messaging will replace the text messaging service that school used in the past. If additional parents would like their email address adding to their child's information to access Arbor, please contact the school office. We currently have 89% of parents/carers using the app and keeping up to date with information!

Community Events

Beyond Mama - Beyond Mama offers wellbeing workshops and group sessions designed to support mums in reconnecting with who they are beyond motherhood. I also run creative, seasonal workshops that bring local women together for connection, mindfulness, and community — including two upcoming festive sessions: an Advent Calendar Workshop and a Christmas Wreath Workshop, both held locally at The Well @ Quarry Bungalow, Mottram. Please see attached posters.

God Bless,

Mrs K Ryan
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

- 17 November: Flu vaccinations
 - 25 November: Own clothes day (in exchange for a gift for the Christmas fair tombola)!
 - 29 November, 11.00am-3.00pm: Parish Christmas Fair in school
 - 10 December, 9.30am and 1.45pm: Christmas show for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – tickets available nearer to the time.
 - 16 December, 9.30am and 2.00pm: Junior Christmas show
- (We simply communicate these dates well in advance as we know many parents and carers like to book time off work in order to attend).
- 18 December: Christmas dinner and party day (children may choose to wear party clothes).
 - 19 December: School closes at 2.30pm for the Christmas holidays

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