

St Peter's

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Belonging, Believing, Building a future



“I have come that they may have life,
life it all its fullness.”

(John 10:10)

We welcome everyone, as part of the St Peter's family, to experience the fullness of God's love in their lives.

We aim for everyone to be nurtured in order that they can reach their full potential and so flourish, achieve and live fulfilled lives.



St Peter's welcomes children aged 4-11, providing them with the unique opportunity to learn and play in a happy, safe and stimulating environment. We are proud of our school's warm, caring atmosphere, where every child is truly known and valued for who they are and where they develop a genuine love of learning.

With a yearly admission number of 14, we are a full primary school of almost 100 pupils. As we are a small village school, originally founded in 1869, we are able to focus upon the needs of each individual child and family. We have high expectations and seek to develop in all our children a strong sense of responsibility for their behaviour and a respect for others. The Christian foundation of our school underpins all that we do.

At St Peter's, each child's unique talents and personality are embraced and developed. We listen to and work with parents and are committed to being integral to the local community. The children are provided with an exciting, broad and balanced education enriched by a wide variety of trips and active, hands-on learning opportunities.

With a Victorian building at its heart, and set in beautiful grounds, our school has modern classrooms with the latest technology and high quality resources. Through continual praise and support, children are carefully nurtured by a highly talented and dedicated team, supported by an enthusiastic and committed Governing Body. The School is a long standing member of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) who support and guide us to continually develop and improve school for the benefit of all.

The warm-hearted ethos of St Peter's is very special indeed – the children really do flourish and are very well prepared, in the widest possible sense, for their future lives.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school and to working together with you in helping your child to develop intellectually, socially and emotionally during these very special years. We hope that you will support the school to achieve our vision by becoming part of the St Peter's family.

Mrs Diane Axford

Headteacher

Our School Day

Children arrive at school from 8.15am and the day formally begins at 8.30am. Children are greeted at the gate by staff, connect with their friends and develop independence by putting away their own belongings.

Assemblies are held daily and are led by the headteacher, classteachers or members of the clergy team.

At morning break, milk, water and fresh fruit/veg are available for all children. Reception and KS1 share a breaktime together and then KS2 children do the same.

Lunch break is between 12 and 1pm. All children at St Peter's are able to order a hot school meal which they enjoy in the school hall, however children can bring a picnic lunch from home if they choose. Children are encouraged to use cutlery appropriately, to have good table manners and to try everything on their plate! Schools meals are free for children in Reception and KS1 and reasonably priced for KS2 children. Children from all classes have an opportunity to play together at lunchtime.

The school day finishes at 3pm, where parents gather on the playground to collect their children from the teachers. Safe parking is available at several places in the village for those who drive in.





The Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception)

Children start school at St Peter's from the September following their 4th birthday.

The transition from pre-schools and nurseries is carefully managed with the Reception teacher(s) visiting children in their settings. Parents and children have the opportunity to visit St Peter's and spend time with staff visiting the classrooms. Parents are invited to a welcome evening to ensure they feel well prepared for this important milestone in their child's life. The Reception Class benefits from a full-time teaching assistant, ensuring that the children have consistent adults to build long lasting, positive relationships with. Children thrive through praise and encouragement.

Life in the Reception Class is busy, exciting and above all, fun! Young children have a natural love of and curiosity for learning. We instil a joy of learning through a carefully planned programme of play and discovery, alongside structured activities, which secures the very best foundation for your child's education. The indoor and outdoor environment enables exploration, creativity, active learning and problem solving.

The Reception Class follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum which underpins all future learning by supporting, fostering, promoting and developing the children's learning in all seven areas of the curriculum. Through topic-related themes, a creative and challenging play-based approach is tailored to meet the needs of each individual child.

The children are presented with a wide range of practical experiences which are intended to motivate, challenge and encourage independence, inside and outside the classroom, including regular visits to our local woods and whole class trips.



Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) children learn together to experience a broad, balanced, challenging curriculum which addresses the National Curriculum and develops the skills, concepts, knowledge and social skills for all future learning.

There is a carefully balanced transition from Early Years to allow pupils to transfer and build on their growing interests, knowledge and skills using a more play based approach and over time becomes more structured as pupils settle into Year 1.

The curriculum is taught through termly topics. Daily english and maths lessons are taught as well as daily discrete phonics lessons. Topic work supports learning in science and the foundation subjects: design and technology, history, geography, art and design, music, physical education (PE), computing as well as Personal, Social and Health and Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, Religious Education (RE). A range of high quality resources complement both indoor and outdoor learning. Subjects may be taught individually, however cross-curricular enrichment opportunities are also provided. A variety of teaching styles ensure highly effective teaching and learning to meet the needs of individuals.

Pupils have access to their own cloakroom and toilet area and benefit from a well stocked class library. Small work areas allow staff to work with small groups effectively. The class has full time support.

Lower Key Stage 2

In Year 3 and 4, children move to our purpose built upstairs classroom featuring our original ornate window and modern air conditioning to allow all pupils to learn in an optimum environment. Once in Key Stage 2, pupils use a backpack instead of a book bag. Teachers work closely to prepare pupils well for the transition from Key Stage 1 to 2 (Year 2 to Year 3).

The curriculum is taught through termly topics which supports learning in science and the foundation subjects as well as deepening english and maths learning. Pupils start to learn french alongside the rest of the National Curriculum and work independently and in groups, supported ably by teachers and dedicated teaching support staff. Subjects may be taught individually, however cross-curricular enrichment opportunities are also provided. Pupils become more responsible for their own learning, with termly homework projects set and daily reading continuing.

Active learning still plays an important role and different areas of the school are used for learning when appropriate.

Upper Key Stage 2

As pupils move into Year 5, they join Year 6 in our newest purpose built classroom at the other end of school site. Pupils are proud of having the independence and responsibility that comes with being in their own dedicated classroom space and benefit from their own cloakrooms, toilets and library/group work space. Teaching support staff make full use of this space to deliver individual and small group work.

The curriculum is challenging and exciting! Daily english and maths lessons are taught. Termly topic projects engage and supports learning in science and the foundation subjects. Pupils continue to learn French and also have explicit lessons on relationships.

Pupils have regular homework set and are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for organising their time and developing self help skills. As they move into Year 6, they complete a range of work designed to best prepare them for their transition to Secondary education.

Year 6 pupils are celebrated in the Summer term as we wish them well in their onward learning and thank them for their valuable contributions to our St Peter's family, over their last seven years.

Moving Beyond St Peter's

Once at the end of Year 6, pupils transfer to secondary school. Moving to secondary school is one of the most significant changes in a child's life and we take great care to ensure all our y6 pupils are as prepared as possible through a programme of special induction events.

Most pupils move to the secondary school with our partnership of schools; Burford. Pupils are already familiar with the site and some staff through partnership work, particularly through sport, throughout primary school. Burford is a co-educational day and state boarding school for 11 to 18 year olds. There are of course, other options and we are happy to discuss this further with parents at the relevant time.

This strong family ethos, moral compass and social and emotional skillset developed at St Peters, alongside academic success, means pupils are very well prepared for their future schooling in the fullest possible sense.

English

The English curriculum encompasses, speaking and listening, reading and writing. At St Peter's we firmly believe in the importance of spoken language in children's development. The quality and variety of language that children hear and speak are vital for developing their vocabulary and grammar and their understanding for reading and writing. Teachers ensure that speaking and listening is developed in all areas of the curriculum.

Reading

Reading is an essential skill and we aim to develop and encourage a love of books and reading so that, by the time they leave St Peter's, children are able to read fluently and with confidence and have a passion for reading. All children are encouraged to read widely and often to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live, opening up a treasure trove of wonder and joy for curious young minds

Early Reading and Phonics

In Reception and Key Stage 1, early reading is taught through use of a synthetic phonics scheme. This structured and research based approach, helps children to become confident in decoding words. Children read daily and use reading records to share their reading journey between home and school and track their progress. Pupils in Year 1 take the statutory phonics check as a benchmark of their learning.



Once phonics is secure, pupils in Year 2 move to learning more complex spelling patterns and reading more complex texts, developing simple comprehension and inference skills and reading a wide range of genres.

Class Libraries

Each class has an attractive library that plays a key role in children developing their love of books. They are stocked with a range of up to date books including page turners, multicultural texts, biographies, poetry, fact and historical fiction. New releases and focus authors are highlighted and visitors are invited in to share their knowledge and expertise to inspire children about literature.

Children are encouraged to develop their reading stamina by reading often and independently and book club style reading discussions happen in class often.

Writing

Children are encouraged to become confident, fluent, independent writers. Emphasis is placed on effective composition, which involves articulating and communicating ideas and organising them coherently. Writing is a process and is generated after exploring a text in detail first.

Children are taught about spelling and grammar rules and give regular opportunities to practise them. Presentation is important and all staff have high expectations of presentation and handwriting. Children are taught to write in a neatly joined style.





Mathematics

At St Peter's every child receives a high quality Mathematics education. Children develop an appreciation of the beauty and power of Mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject. They are able to think critically, reason and solve problems by applying their understanding of mathematics.

Our school is committed to fostering positive attitudes towards Mathematics and providing regular and stimulating cross-curricular enrichment opportunities. The teaching ensures that all children develop conceptual understanding

and the necessary skills and knowledge for mastery in number, operations, measurement, geometry, data handling and algebra.

Maths lessons are taught daily and include counting and oral maths, as well as written. Practical equipment and visual representations such as counting blocks and number lines are key features of lessons as they help children to internalise mathematical concepts.



Humanities (Geography, History, RE)

At St Peter's, children are inspired to develop their curiosity and fascination about the world and the people who live there, past and present.

Through first-hand experience and fieldwork, children develop their observational skills to study the geography of our school and its grounds, and the key human and physical features of the village of Alvescot.

World maps, atlases and globes and other sources of information are used to identify and find out about places further afield.

In Key Stage 1 children learn about historical events such as the Great Fire of London and the history of flight and the lives of people in the past such as Mary Seacole and Samuel Wilderspin.

In KS2 children explore historical time periods, such as Viking and Saxon times and the Tudor period. They also learn about key issues in history, such as slavery.

Religious Education at St Peter's has a key role in preparing the children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. Through stories, artefacts and other religious materials the children explore key questions about Christianity, Judaism and Islam. They learn about different beliefs about God and the world around them. Learning opportunities allow children to develop a sense of wonder about the world. They talk about what is important to them and others, valuing themselves, reflecting on their own feelings and experiences and developing a sense of belonging.





Science

At St Peter's, Science teaching builds on the natural curiosity of children as they try to make sense of their world through discovering and investigating.

Our stimulating environment and high quality resources provide children with opportunities to develop questioning and enquiring minds through a range of interesting and enjoyable first-hand experiences

Events such as Science week raise the profile of Science as a career option and we take full advantage of the opportunities provided being situated in Oxfordshire, an important scientific community.

Technology is used to enhance scientific learning, such as data loggers, timers and computers. Links are made with subjects such as maths and geography where possible to make learning meaningful.

PE and Sport

Sport stimulates passion, loyalty, commitment and teamwork and is a vital part of life at St Peter's. With a philosophy to 'inspire a love of sport' all children receive lessons taught by specialist staff who have expertise and enthusiasm for their sports.

All children participate in a range of competitive and inclusive sporting activities with other schools in the Burford Partnership and have opportunities to attend a variety of after-school clubs such as rugby, cricket, football, gymnastics, cross-country running and stretching.

St Peter's is well equipped for the teaching of PE and Sport and makes full use of sports facilities in the village, as well as the swimming pool in the nearby town of Carterton. We ensure that children appreciate the importance of balanced diet and exercise for a healthy lifestyle.



The Arts

Art

Starting in Reception, children are introduced to the styles of different artists and have the opportunity to experience different mediums and techniques, discovering their own artistic skills. In addition to drawing and painting, children are introduced to sculpting, print-making, modelling, collage and ceramics throughout their school life. The exhibits displayed both in school and the community reflect the high standards achieved.

Drama

All children participate in drama, adopting, creating and sustaining a range of roles and responding appropriately to other characters. Drama encourages self-confidence and the ability to speak clearly in public. The whole school visits the theatre each year. All KS1 children perform in the nativity and all KS2 children in a carol concert. Every child has opportunities to read aloud to an audience whether at a family service in Church or in a whole school assembly.

Music

The teaching of music at St Peter's aims to inspire children to develop a love of music alongside their talent as musicians. It increases their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. We are well resourced with a wide range of musical instruments which the children enjoy using. Some classes perform at the annual Burford Partnership Music Festival or get involved with County wide events such as The Big Sing.



A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms. The boy on the right is holding a tablet and both are looking at the screen with interest. The background is a colorful, abstract pattern. The text is overlaid on a light blue semi-transparent box.

Computing

As a vital tool for learning and for life, computing is taught as a discrete lesson and is also embedded in all areas of the curriculum. Children are taught computational thinking, programming and knowledge of digital systems from the youngest age.

Learning how to use devices and the internet safely are a high priority at St Peter's. We teach children e-safety regularly and involve parents where possible to support with this. We are very conscious of the risks that the internet presents and access by the children is carefully monitored and controlled.

The school is constantly upgrading its technology, to keep abreast of the latest innovations. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards and there is a school set of laptops and iPads to support and enhance teaching and learning as well as cameras, voice recorders and data loggers. Classrooms have ready access to devices.

Pupils become not only digitally literate but also responsible and safe users of technology in the modern digital world.



Enrichment

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities giving children the opportunity to try something new and develop interests as well as fostering a sense of community.

We aim to open children's eyes to the world beyond their immediate experience. This is achieved in various ways, such as talks from visiting speakers and outings, which take place locally and further afield, including two residential by the end of Year 6!

Our rich programme of trips may include the following:

- A beach visit
- Warwick Castle
- Bracknell Forest and The Look Out Discovery Centre
- The Oxford Science Museum
- The Transport Museum in Long Hanborough
- The Cotswold Farm Park
- Cogges Farm
- The Ashmolean Museum
- Court Hill and The Ridgeway
- Places of Worship - Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford Synagogue and Mosque.



In addition to after-school sports clubs, a wide range of activities and other clubs are organised after school, run by our own staff and outside experts.

These challenging and exciting activities support the curriculum and provide children with new experiences and opportunities. Children attend a variety of clubs which may include:

- Gardening
- Construction
- Computing
- Art
- Chess
- Cooking
- Drama
- Choir



Special days and events are also held, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Curriculum days such as poetry day and e-safety day raise the profile of subjects. This helps children make meaningful connections with their learning and the wider world.

The PTA (FOSPS) run fun-filled events throughout the school year. These provide important opportunities for children to connect outside of the school day and bring the whole community together. Pupils of St Peter's play a full and enjoyable part in the wider life of the village, this contributes to their sense of belonging.

Pupils at St Peter's have the opportunity to nominate themselves for School Council. The council work together on a variety of issues including; improving the school environment; raising money for charity; raising awareness of local issues; communicating expectations within school. This fosters a sense of responsibility and understanding and a basic understanding of democracy in action.

St Peter's works closely with the Church community to ensure that our Distinctive Christian ethos remains at the heart of our school. Pupils and families benefit from the guidance and support the church has to offer, whether they have any faith or no faith.



Parent partnerships

Parents and children's families are an important part of St Peter's and are regularly invited to school events and activities. We value and actively encourage your involvement throughout your child's time at St Peter's.

Class teachers and the Headteacher are available at the end of most schooldays and opportunities for more formal meetings with them, the Headteacher or Special Needs Co-ordinator are available by appointment. The Homeroom app is regularly used to communicate homework and to share photos and messages about your child's day. Parent meetings are held twice a year and annual reports ensure that you are fully informed about your child's progress.

There is regular communication about school life through regular newsletters and the school website: <http://www.stpeters.oxon.sch.uk/>

Curriculum meetings and workshops are held to enable you to be informed about and support your child and their learning.

Safeguarding is paramount at St Peter's. We make sure all our staff are fully trained and well equipped to meet the safeguarding needs of children in our school. We work closely with parents to ensure children at St Peter's feel safe and happy and make full use of external agencies to ensure families feel supported and informed and each child's needs are met.

The Next Step

This prospectus can only give you a sense of our very special school. To arrange a visit to find out more about us and to discover for yourself the enthusiasm and dedication of both staff and children, please

- Telephone the school administrator on 01993 842535
- Email office@stpeters.oxon.sch.uk
- Visit our school's website at www.stpeters.oxon.sch.uk

The Headteacher will be very happy to meet with you and give you a tour of the school, if you haven't already had one.

Places may be applied for by following guidance on our website.



The logo for St Peter's Primary School features the school's name in a white, serif font on a dark red rectangular background. The word 'St' is smaller and positioned to the left of 'Peter's'. Below 'Peter's', the words 'PRIMARY SCHOOL' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

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PRIMARY SCHOOL

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