

Dear parents/carers,

We are all looking forward to an exciting end to term with our 'Christmas Cracker' week. We are going to have a lot of fun! Don't forget, it's non uniform all week. You don't have to buy Christmas gear, but if you have it, you can wear it. To the right we have Millie and Evie, who might just be preparing a little treat for you all, and some of our Nursery children who also look like they've been learning the Christmas story.



I am really pleased to say that thanks to the benevolence of our community, I was able to give out £1,500 worth of vouchers this week to families in our community who have had a tough year. Even more incredible, is I have more to give out next week, including some Christmas hampers from our very own Budleigh Lions. These acts of kindness make me so thankful for the wonderful community we live in. If you are struggling, or know someone who is, please let me know - we can help!

You hopefully didn't notice, thanks to the temporary heaters and better windows in the main school block, but our boiler went kaput last Friday. Thanks to a sizable grant from the Diocese of Exeter, we were quickly able to get a new one installed, so a big thank you to them.



This week marks Sara McDonald's 15th year at St Peter's! She is our assistant manager in the school kitchen, and does a fantastic job of serving up the meals and keeping the children jolly. She also put up all our hall decorations this week! Nice work Sara.

Important Christmas news - Christmas cases

We are hoping and praying that we can get to the end of the term without losing any bubbles to a COVID case. Please keep following the current rules, a couple of the key ones being:

- you must not socialise with anyone who you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble, indoors, anywhere.
- when outdoors, you must not socialise in a group of more than six people.

Contact tracing over Christmas break: please let me know if your child contracts COVID-19 before Christmas day. I might have to notify the rest of their bubble, which will have to go into isolation. Contact me on head@sps1.org.uk

Christmas bubbles: 23rd to 27th December

The government has said that the local tier restrictions will be relaxed between Wednesday 23 and Sunday 27 December, to [enable family and friends to form 'Christmas bubbles'](#) of up to three households.

This means:

- you can form an exclusive Christmas bubble of people from no more than three households
- you can only be in one Christmas bubble
- you cannot change your Christmas bubble
- you can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble
- you can only meet your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces

- you can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home according to [the rules in the tier you are meeting in](#)
- if you form a Christmas bubble, you should not meet socially with friends and family that you do not live with in your home or garden unless they are part of your Christmas bubble.

People can travel to meet those in their bubble from Wednesday 23 December, but they must be home again by Sunday 27 December. Anyone travelling to or from Northern Ireland may travel between Tuesday 22 and Monday 28 December.

Also, just because you are allowed to mix a bit more during these few days, it does not mean that you have to if you don't want to.

Remember, until the Christmas bubble period starts on Wednesday 23 December, and again from Sunday 27 December when it ends, [make sure you continue to follow the local tier restriction guidance](#). Devon is currently in Tier 2, High Alert. This will be reviewed on Wednesday 16 December, and it may or may not change.

Christmas bubbles will no longer apply on New Year's Eve, so you must continue to follow the local tier restrictions on where you can go and who you can meet.

In today's newsletter:

- Small notices.
- Last day of term pickups - Friday 18th Dec
- Swimming Restarts Tuesday 5th January - Spotters needed
- Pupil Premium - you might now qualify - IMPORTANT DEADLINE 15th January 2021
- Wesley's - Supporting families from St Peter's Primary School and the wider community
- Follow the Star

Small notices

- The school menu will be back to the normal 3 week rotation in January.
- Volunteers needed! Can you help with swimming? It is essential that we have a volunteer or swimming can't take place. See more below.
- Congratulations to Stacey James who has been appointed as the school administrator and will join Mrs Ebsworth in the school office in early January.
- Congratulations to Claire Robson and Jodie Garrett have been appointed as MTA staff.
- Thank you to A2Z Fancy Dress, a local family business, for supplying some new Nativity costumes to school. The children looked fantastic! Check them out at - www.a2z-fancydress.co.uk
- Please watch these tips for parents and carers about 'in game' chat. The YouTube video is [HERE](#) and is fantastic to give you a quick guide. It's only 38 seconds long. Remember - most games now have chat and this is another form of social media where children are at risk.

Last day of term pickups - Friday 18th Dec

Some of you may have heard that the government has given schools permission to move an INSET day to the last day of term. We are not doing this.

We will finish as usual at the times below and will need to maintain staggered collection. They are as follows (if you have more than one child, come at the earliest slot).

One adult only. One way system: Enter via Moor Lane gate - Exit via the Green Gates.

- Wait on a blue dot in the playground.

- 13:15 - Beech, Oak and Ash
- 13:25 - Willow, Rowan and Chestnut
- 13:35 - Cedar, Sycamore and Cherry

Swimming Restarts Tuesday 5th January - Spotters needed

The swimming slots are as follows:

- Monday AM: Cherry - **Spotter Needed**
- Tuesday AM: Nursery and Sycamore
- Tuesday PM: Chestnut - **Spotter Needed**
- Wednesday PM: Ash - **Spotter Needed**
- Thursday AM: Nursery and Cedar - **Spotter Needed**
- Thursday PM: Willow
- Friday PM: Rowan

Please note that Key Stage 2 classes only swim for two terms of the academic year. Oak and Beech will swim again in the Summer Term.

We would like to request for volunteer 'Spotters' on the above days. The role of Spotter is to assist the swimming teacher poolside as an additional pair of eyes to ensure that all pupils are safe when swimming. They also assist by encouraging speedy changing before and after swimming.

All Spotters will need to complete our induction process (this can now be accessed using a computer) and have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

If you would like to be a Spotter then please contact the School Office by 15:30 on Tuesday 15th December so that the DBS check can be commenced before the holidays (Telephone 01395 443167 or admin@stpeters-budleigh.devon.sch.uk).

Pupil Premium - IMPORTANT DEADLINE 15th January 2021

Since the start of the recent pandemic the number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals in Devon has risen. We are concerned that some pupils may be eligible for Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium, but have not applied yet. **Please apply by Friday 15th January 2021 to avoid missing the Department for Education school census date. If you miss this date then you will miss out on funding.**

The Pupil Premium is additional funding allocated to schools to improve the academic outcomes of eligible pupils of all abilities.

Who is eligible?

Pupils are eligible for the Pupil Premium if:

- They qualify for Free School Meals - even if only for a relatively short period of time; or
- They are a looked-after child (LAC) as defined in the Children Act 1989; or
- They have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order.

How do I know if I am eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium?

Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

What are the benefits?



Academic support, including interventions.



Emotional and Mental health support for the family.



Resources bought for school.



Cost of all trips, visitors and residentials paid which could total **£750** from Reception to Year 6.



Autumn and Spring and Summer club costs paid which could total **£700** from Reception to Year 6.



Autumn and Summer peripatetic music tuition paid which could total **£1,400** from Year 1 to Year 6.

I want my child/children to have these opportunities and for my family to be supported. How do I apply for the Free School Meals and Pupil Premium?

Apply using the Devon County Council Citizen Portal (National Insurance number needed):
https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login

I don't think I will be eligible?

The benefits far outweigh the short time needed to complete the online form. You will get an instant decision - so give it a try!

If your family circumstances have changed, or if you are unsure about your eligibility for support (e.g. universal credit, income support, tax credits etc), then we can put you in touch with our contact with Citizens Advice East Devon. She has privately and confidentially supported a number of families during the last 12 months. Please speak to Mr Lee or Mr Hitchcock for a referral.

I successfully applied in a previous year and my child/children already benefit from the Pupil Premium - I know it helps to make a difference. Do I have to apply again?

No, you do not need to apply again.

I have applied in the past but my children were not eligible. However, our family circumstances have since changed. Can I apply again?

Yes - there is no limit on the number of times - you can apply. Unfortunately, too many children miss out on Free School Meals and Pupil Premium as parents do not reapply when family circumstances change. Recently we supported a family who were initially not eligible - but when their circumstances changed and we encouraged them to reapply they found that they were eligible!

My child is in Reception/Key Stage 1 and so already receives universal free school meals. Why do I need to apply for Free School Meals on the Devon County Council Citizen Portal?

In order to receive the Pupil Premium you must go through this application process. The benefits of the Pupil Premium are significant - please apply today!

What is the Services Pupil Premium?

A separate Services Pupil Premium (reduced amount of £310 per annum) is available if:

- One parent is serving in the regular armed forces;
- One parent died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme;
- One parent is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve service are classed as service children.

During the current academic year, we use this money to provide pastoral support. Please advise the School Office if you think your child is eligible.

When do I need to apply by?

Please submit your application by **Friday 15th January 2021** to avoid missing the Department for Education school census date.

Want further details about the Pupil Premium?

Visit <http://www.st-peters-school.org.uk/key-information/pupil-premium/>

Need access to a computer? Want help applying for the Pupil Premium?

Please e-mail the school office to book an appointment with myself.

Phillip Lee
Deputy Headteacher

Wesley's - Supporting families from St Peter's Primary School and the wider community

Wesley's - café and community space at the Temple Methodist Church Hall, Fore Street, Budleigh Salterton

During the festive break, all families of children at St Peter's CoE Primary School are welcome to enjoy free meals from 10:00 to 16:00 on the following dates at Wesley's.

- Saturday 19th December 10:00-16:00
- Monday 21st December 10:00-16:00
- Tuesday 22nd December 10:00-16:00
- Wednesday 23rd December 10:00-16:00

This is open to all families - not just those who have children who are eligible for Free School Meals. It is recognised that some families are currently facing reduced income, rising bills, difficulties managing unexpected costs, as well as increased food costs over the festive period.

Wesley's can cater for all dietary needs, including vegetarian, dairy free, vegan and gluten free.

You do not need a voucher! Just head down to Wesley's and let the staff/manager know that you have been referred by Mr Hitchcock and Mr Lee - then enjoy some free delicious food for the whole family.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.budleightemplmethodist.org.uk/wesley-s-cafe-community-space>

Follow the Star

Celebrate Christmas together by joining in with Follow the Star - a socially-distanced event for the whole community! Follow our big art trail around the town telling the Christmas story (made by local community groups, organisations and residents)

- Make your own stars and help us create a trail of stars in windows across the town (if you're stuck for ideas there's lots on the website)
- Take pictures of your stars and selfies with the artwork and post it online with the hashtag [#budleighstars](#)
- Hear the Christmas story told by puppets or through readings from the Bible.
- Find out about church services happening across the town this Advent and Christmas.

Visit www.followthestar.org.uk or [find us on Facebook](#) to get more information and updates.

What's going on soon?

New term starts

Tues 5th Jan 2021

Contact us

PHONE - 01395 443167

Steve Hitchcock - head@sps1.org.uk

Phill Lee - plee@sps1.org.uk

Office - admin@stpeters-budleigh.devon.sch.uk