



Headteacher Message

Good afternoon,

It has been another busy week in school and we have loved welcoming so many parents and family members into school to join our festive celebrations. Each event has been well attended and the children across the whole school have performed well. We are proud of all of the children for their bravery, hard work and determination. It was lovely to see our Y1 and Y2 children taking their performing roles very seriously and demonstrating great confidence on stage.

We are extremely grateful for the support from our families and The Friends who have helped with providing refreshments, setting up for the Carols by Candlelight and supporting the KS1 Nativities.

It has been a long half term. Both staff and children are very much ready for some time away to relax and enjoy the festivities. The staff team have worked tirelessly this half term to make sure the nativities and Christmas performances make memories for families to treasure. The team are wonderful!

I won't be providing a long newsletter next week. It will mainly be key reminders for January 2024. Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Dodd and the team at St Peter's

Our School Worship and Christian Characteristics

As we are in the second week of advent, we lit our second candle on the advent wreath and reflected on peace. We explored how life is different for people across the world. We thought about the hopes and wishes we may have placed in our letters to Santa and how the hopes and wishes of our school may be different to children from around the world.

We invited the children to reflect on the following...

During this week consider the lives of others. Christmas is much more than presents.

It is about showing kindness.

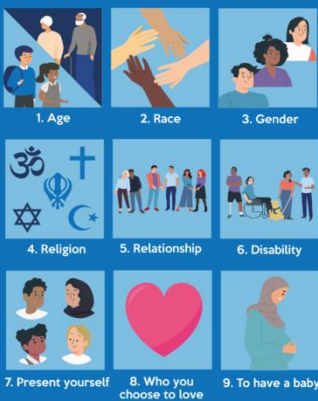
- Enjoying time with family members.
- Showing love.
- Being hopeful.
- Being at peace.
- Bringing and feeling joy.



Christmas is not the same for everyone so let's be kind, compassionate and think about people within our school, community, country and world.

Protective Characteristics and British Values

Protected Characteristics



During collective worship, PSHE and other areas of the curriculum, we ensure children learn about Fundamental British Values and that they understand equality, diversity and inclusion. Through life there are nine protected characteristics should not be discriminated against. Through all of our teaching, we ensure children understand how to treat everyone equally and fairly.



During this week's collective worship and class discussions we focussed on religion or beliefs. The children discussed and considered that life is not the same for everyone in our world and we may have different religions or beliefs. It is good to be different and we show respect, kindness and understanding.

Because children deserve a safe digital world

On Monday 11th December we held our first online safety parent evening workshop which, following very positive feedback so far, was very successful. We are glad the parents and carers who came along found it useful and it is definitely something we will continue to put in place for the future.

I have updated the online safety part of the school website with the document that was shared at the training. In the file there is a link to many videos. Nigel, who delivered the training has outlined that anyone can access these materials:

<https://www.stpetersheysham.lancs.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding>

Carols by Candlelight and Thank You

Thank you to all the children who performed and to the staff who supported, ensuring 'Carols by Candlelight' could take place on Wednesday this week. It was a lovely evening with the children retelling the key messages of Christmas through narration and Carols. The parent comments have been lovely to hear!



Thank you to the Mrs McGirl and the School Council for providing even more Christmas cheer with their stalls, which raised a wonderful **£35.20** towards future school council projects.

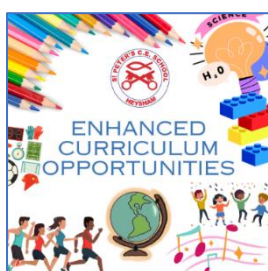
Thank you also to the Friends who assisted in the decoration, preparations and refreshments for the evening. Again, without the support of the Friends, it would be difficult for school to continue to provide these experiences for our St Peter's family. We really do appreciate the support you give to school! We also urge any parents to help out where they can for any future events.

Message from the Friends

The Friends would like to give a special thank you to our local business community for sponsoring our Christmas activities, decorations and trees this year.

- Business and legacy donations were received from; Jennings Estate Agents, Safer Caring Consultants, OEP UK Ltd and the family of Matilda's Mission.
- Raffle prizes were donated by Co-Op Heysham and Nisa Beech Stores.

Clubs and developing your child's interests



We want our enhanced after school clubs to provide opportunities for children to learn beyond the curriculum. To ensure fairness and consistency in allocating spaces, every club allocation is selected at random and is not on a first come, first served basis. All those who are not selected for a club's first offering will automatically be placed a 'reserves' list, and parents will be communicated to as priority, should the club's offering be extended into another term and future opportunities be created.

As we progress into the Spring term, we will be providing the following clubs:

- **Young Voices** - continues on Tuesdays from 3.15 - 4.15pm until the February performance at the AO Arena in Manchester. We will then also arrange for Young Voices to perform for extended family members who may not have been able to make it to the AO Arena at a date and time TBC following the concert.
- **Lil Beats Dance Club for EYFS / Y1** on Thursdays from 3.15 - 4pm. Communication has already been sent out for those who have and have not been allocated a space.
- **History Club for Y1** (concentrating on the History of Transport) on Thursdays from 3.15 - 4.15pm. Letters have been sent out and places will be confirmed next week, following the deadline for returned forms on Monday 18th December.
- **Ball Skills with Morecambe Football Club for Y3** on Fridays from 3.15 - 4pm. Letters have been sent out and places will be confirmed next week, following the deadline for returned forms on Wednesday 20th December. Please ensure you can commit to the full number of sessions provided.

There may be additional clubs which will be communicated in the New Year and we will also have the sports partnership events to take place in.

The Christmas Post Box



Year 5 continue to carry out a wonderful job of organising the school Christmas post. To enable our Year 5 postal workers to do their job efficiently, please ensure the **full name** and **child's class** is written on the envelope. The post box is in the school foyer, just outside Mrs Dodd's office.

HO! HO! HO!
Christmas Post!

Y3 Music Lessons



As we move into the Spring term, we have commissioned Lancashire Music Service to deliver instrumental lessons to Y3 children. Every Thursday they will learn to play the Ukulele. All instruments will be provided by Lancashire Music Service on a loan basis, for the duration of the lessons. We would like to encourage the children to take responsibility for the instruments and enable them to take them home to practice through the week. We would also need the instruments back in school every Thursday. These lessons will take place every Thursday starting the week commencing 8th January 2024.

Do we have any aspiring journalists?

The Guardian are looking for more budding young journalists to write about their winter wildlife adventures. This would make a wonderful Christmas holiday project!

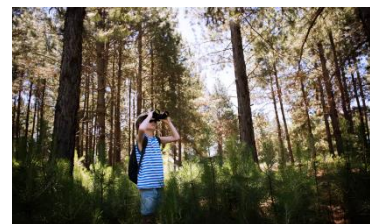
How your child can take part

First of all, they are looking for children age 8 to 14, so we will need your permission, as parent or guardian. Then here's what the child needs to do:

Step 1 – Go out one day to where there is some nature. It could be their local woods or beach, their garden, a farm, or simply the nearest park.

Step 2 – Write an article of 200-250 words telling us what they saw and what happened.

Step 3 – Send the article to us using the form below. We ask that you fill in the form yourself rather than the child.



Photos / drawings – these are helpful (especially landscape rather than portrait) but they are not a condition of entry. If you have some, please tell us in the "more information" field, as there's no way to attach them to the form.

More details and the entry form can be found at:

[C' mon kids! Here's your chance to get published in the Guardian | Wildlife | The Guardian](#)

General Reminders and Notices

Friends Festive Sale Today

The Friends will be selling festive items in the playground at school pickup **today** (Friday 15th December). Please come along and have a browse – card payments are accepted!

LOST PROPERTY – WE HAVE LOTS OF LOST PROPERTY! HATS, SCARVES AND LUNCH BOX CONTAINERS TOO.

Once again the amount of lost property is increasing. Please ensure you come into school and check for missing items at the end of the day. We have a range of lunch box items, containers, hats, ear muffs, coats, jumpers etc. With this in mind, please label your child's items so we can return them promptly.

ParentPay – Outstanding Balances

As this term draws to a close, please check your ParentPay accounts and clear any outstanding balances for school lunches and breakfast / afterschool clubs. We may not be able to offer these services next term for children who have payments that remain outstanding into the New Year. Thankyou

Christmas Dates for the Diary

As per the previous newsletters, we will continue to add dates for the diary over the festive period as soon as we can.

December proposed dates – we will be aiming to keep to these dates and are giving you lots of notice to enable you to sort any leave required from work.

- Monday 18th – Y6 Carol Concert @ 6pm at St Peter's Church
- Tuesday 19th - EYFS / Reception Class Christmas Sing Along @ 9am in the Hall
- Wednesday 20th – Whole School Christmas Lunch – all pre-orders have been sent to the kitchen. If you have not ordered one for your child, please ensure they come to school with a packed lunch on this day. It is also Christmas Jumper Day 😊.

Food Bank – Donations

Thank You for your continued support with your donations to Morecambe Bay Community Foodbank. We are very grateful for all your donations. If any families wish to make donations in the final week of the school term, please can you ensure they are in on Monday 18th December.

Rev. Mark has been collecting them weekly from school and delivering them to the Food Bank. There is no expectation to donate, so please only do so if you can.

Class	Friday
Oystercatchers	12 th January
Turnstones	19 th January
Eider Ducks	26 th January
Curlews	2 nd February
Skylarks	9 th February

Dates for the Diary – Week Commencing Monday 18th December 2023

Monday 18th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Y4 swimming – this will continue on the 2nd week back in January (Monday 15th January) • Y6 Carol Concert: 6pm @ St Peter's Church. Please book spaces via the school office.
Tuesday 19th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS (Reception) Sing Along: 9am in the school hall. Please book spaces (2 max) via the school office.
Wednesday 20th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Jumper Day – children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper in place of their school jumper, along with the rest of their normal school uniform. • Christmas Lunch – please send your child to school with a packed lunch if you have not pre-ordered their Christmas lunch. • JAM Club: 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 21st December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y4 DT Learning Showcase (parent drop-in): 3.15 – 3.45pm in the school hall. No booking required – just make your way around to the hall.
Friday 22nd December	<i>*School Closes for the Christmas Holiday at 3.15pm*</i>

January dates so far...

- **School Reopens on Monday 8th January 2024**
- No Y4 swimming in week 1 – this will restart on Monday 15th January
- Young Voices will restart on Tuesday 9th January
- No JAM Club in week 1 – this will restart on Wednesday 17th January

Community Events and Information

Connecting to Nature at Heysham Nature Reserve
Festive Family Events

Winter Sounds Audio Trail
Sat 25th Nov - Sun 7th Jan
This winter why not visit Heysham NR and listen to wildlife sounds. Just download the trail before you come.

Dear Santa
Sat 25th Nov to Sun 10th Dec
It is time to deliver your letters to Santa. Write your letter and why not combine it with one of our winter trails when you come to post it.

Its a Christmas Cracker
Saturday 2nd December
1.00 to 3.00 pm
Come along to make your own recycled Christmas crackers enjoying a festive drink and biscuits.

Wild Winter Walk Activity
Sat 25th Nov - Sun 4th Feb
Take in the sites and look out for signs of winter with this fun activity whilst visiting Heysham Nature Reserve throughout winter.

TO BOOK EVENTS AND FOR ALL INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.LANCSWT.ORG.UK/EVENTS

Scan me 



RIPLEY ITT



Primary and Secondary Teacher Training

Based at Ripley St.Thomas CofE Academy, Ripley ITT offers Initial Teacher Training courses for both primary and secondary phases of education. If you already work in a school, you may be eligible for our Teacher Apprenticeship or our Assessment Only route. Alternatively, if you are changing or starting a new career, our School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) route might be for you.

Following our recent Outstanding OFSTED inspection and with government bursaries available for training in many subjects, there has never been a better time to get into teaching. Find out more by scanning the QR code below or email us at itt@ripley.lancs.sch.uk. Visit our Eventbrite page to see our upcoming information events <https://tinyurl.com/3zy28p2r>.



Need to know:

- Qualifications required: honours degree (typically 2:2 or above); GCSE grade 4/C in English and mathematics (primary also science)
- Duration: September-July
- Funding: SCITT route - funding available through student loans or apprenticeship scheme
- Bursaries: Between £10000 and £28000 available for some secondary subjects (SCITT route)



Scan code to visit our website www.ripleyitt.co.uk
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"I have come in order that you might have life, life in all its fullness," John 10:10