



Petersgate Post: 17th January 2025

Mrs Mitchell's 'Message of the Week'

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all and I hope you have had a restful Christmas break. It seems like a distant memory now but I hope you all had a lovely time with family and friends.

It was so nice to be back with the children and staff over the last couple of weeks. The children have returned to school focused and ready to learn. Thank you to all the parents who attended the Open Morning event in Year 1, where parents/carers and families could learn alongside their child. It was really well attended, the Year 1 wing was a hive of activity and there was a real buzz for learning. One Year 2 class have already visited CJS for a Nature Adventure morning, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

There are lots of lovely events coming up this term, so keep an eye on our website, social media and on our 'Coming Next Week' memo for more details.

Health & Wellbeing Tips

As a school we are signed up for the Ruby Robin Award to support the campaign to save our beautiful British songbirds. If you would like to find out more information please [click here](#) or copy and paste this link into your web browser <https://www.songbird-survival.org.uk/what-we-do/campaigns/rra/ruby-robin-award>.

The Well-being and Life skills lead has signed the school up to take part, so when she is learning alongside the children with our gardening and outdoor learning programme, she can use some of the activities with the children (see over). The award raises awareness of our songbirds, whilst helping them over the winter. This is done through some fun challenges.

If you would like to take part at home, check out the link to find out more. But you can do simple things like creating bird feeders or bird baths or learning about the birds which live in your garden through different bird spotting activities or listening to bird song. Thank you to the parent who shared the link before Christmas, we really appreciate it.



Job Vacancies

Lunch Leader : Do you enjoy working with children, are you caring, enthusiastic & well organised? We need you to join our team of 'super' lunch leaders. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.



Parking

We have received yet another complaint from a resident by the back gate of the school. They have been blocked in their driveway by parents parking across it and they were unable to get out to take their child to school. Secondly parents have also been using a disabled bay without evidence of a blue disabled badge being displayed.

No matter how late you may be, please can we ask that you are considerate where you park, as we want to retain a good relationship with all our local residents.



Attendance and Punctuality for 7th—17th January

Whole School Attendance = **97.36%**
(National Average = 94.3%)

Best Attendance: **Hedgehog class = 99.07%**

Best Timekeepers: **Deer class (on time everyday!!)**

Water Bottles

Please can we ask that your child only brings in water in their water bottles, we do not allow children to have squash or juice in school. Thank you.



Safeguarding

Following on from my newsletter back in October, we informed you that as part of an ongoing project, further security and safety measures had been added to the main door and Year 2 wing and this would be extended across the school once further funding had been sourced.

I am pleased to inform you that we were successful in securing further funding and we now have the additional safety and security measures across the school. These measures are there to keep the children safe and also add additional security. We are really pleased that the school had been successful in securing the funding to support this project.



It has been brought to my attention that children are accessing a game called Sprunki at home. Although it is marketed for children of all ages and it may appear it is a fun music based game. The game may contain horror, suggestive themes, crude humour, violence and blood, which some children may find this scary or frightening.



We are really proud to be part of the **myHappyMind** family.

As a school, we have been gifted an opportunity to deliver a whole school programme to build positive mental health and well-being. This programme is endorsed by the NHS and is a fully funded programme.

myHappyMind helps children to understand how their brain works and creates a culture that helps to build resilience, confidence, and self-esteem. myHappyMind also teaches the children how to self-regulate and manage their emotions in stressful times, allowing them to be their very best selves!

We have already launched the programme in an assembly with the children this week and we would like to invite parents to our coffee afternoon on Thursday 30th January at 14:00-15:00, where I can go through the programme in more detail.

There will also be an opportunity to sign up for the free parent app, which will help you in supporting your child at home.

More information can be found on our website and we will continue to update you via social media and Seesaw too.

We have also developed a section on our school website for parents/carers for mental health and well-being which signposts you to resources to help you at home.

Please [click here](#) or copy and paste this link into your web browser

<https://www.petersgateinfantschool.co.uk/parents/mental-health-and-well-being-for-parents>



Outdoor Learning update

We are very excited that the pre-install has taken place for our Outdoor Classroom. Over the coming month, we will hopefully see further developments of the classroom and see it take shape.

This week, it was National Watching Bird Day and Year 1 went outside to identify birds and their bird song (using a trusty app) to support the science curriculum.

Our Well-being and Life-skills Lead has signed us up to the Ruby Robin Award for the Songbirds Survival Campaign. We are lucky to have an amazing range of songbirds in the UK. More than 100 types! But their numbers are going down rapidly as the world around them changes. We need to protect them and make sure they are still here in the future.

Over the next term children will be joining Mrs Wright to get involved with completing 4 different challenges. This will enable the school to receive a Ruby Award Certificate and Badge for supporting the songbirds in our area. For more information [click here](#) or copy and paste this link into your web browser <https://www.songbird-survival.org.uk/> and the Ruby Robin Award website [click here](#) or copy and paste this link into your web browser on <https://www.songbird-survival.org.uk/what-we-do/campaigns/rra/ruby-robin-award>.



PoPS

For your information the total amount raised for all the Christmas 2024 events was an amazing

£1,757.02

This years Summer Festival is on **Sunday 6th July**.

PoPs are already organising outside companies to attend our Summer Festival.

If you would like a stall then please contact Beth by email popstogether@outlook.com

If you want to find out more about PoPS or join the PoPS team of volunteers and support them in supporting the school.

Ofsted Update

We continue to develop our curriculum this year and have had a real focus on the pedagogical approaches to learning. In Year 1, the enhanced provision approach is having a really positive impact on learning. The children can confidently articulate their learning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents/families who attended the Year 1 open morning event on the 8th January.

We will be looking at having more events over the coming year for other year groups.

As part of our curriculum development, we have refined our assessment process for the foundation subjects, such as, history, geography etc and the outcomes from the assessment will form part of the end of year report.

Provision for children with SEND continues to evolve as we further develop our task design when planning for the children. In the next few weeks, the teachers will be working with the Local Authority in English, Maths and Early Years teams who will be offering further professional development around planning and provision for all children, but especially those with SEND.