



## Welcome

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new families and children to St Peters ELC, we hope you and your child(ren) have a happy and positive experience.

Since returning or starting nursery (since August), our focus has been to support children during their transition, follow daily routines and build/form positive relationships with peers and adults while developing and enhancing observed interests displayed by children.

## Play and Learning - Little Learners Room (3-5) -

### "Being Safe" -



"SIMOA" and "Wee Cal" arrived at nursery, our safety and wellbeing officers! SIMOA is responsible for our health and safety, supporting us to follow rules, play safe and identify risks. Wee Cal recognises our daily and ongoing achievements in our play and learning, celebrating our success!

SIMOA helps us carry out daily risk assessments, both indoors and outdoors, she helps us establish new rules and follow them within play spaces and when using equipment. She has accompanied us on safety walks within our local community.

### Fun Ways to Listen -

During our morning welcome time, we have enjoyed and participated in a range of focused experiences, supporting our listening skills with exposure to rules and expectations. As we play focused and repetitive games, we practise our recall & memory skills while sharing & turn taking and are encouraged to respond to our name.

### "Talk for Writing" -

Talk for Writing is an approach we use to expose children to a wide variety of stories while introducing them to story structure. Please refer to the detailed parent/carer information leaflet attached.

We have been enjoying our new story "The Sleepy Bumblebee". With daily exposure to the tale, we have learned signs and actions, used props to retell the tale and we join in with the repetitive phrases "oh no, I can't stand this". Using the story map, we can independently "read" the story. We are practising our mark making skills as we produce our individual story maps.

### Environment & play spaces -

Our environment, play spaces and invitations to play are organised and presented to enhance children's curiosity, creativity and problem-solving skills through an exploratory and active approach to capture and extend children's interests. Popular play spaces include our designated block centre, woodwork bench, roleplay spaces, open sand pit and malleable stations.

## Play and Learning - Butterfly Room (2-3 room)

Our environment is created to be flexible and adaptable to children's changing needs and interests. Play and learning is facilitated by responding to children in the moment, offering appropriate interactions, resources and (or) providing active experiences to extend play situations.

### Nursery Rhymes -

We have displayed an interest in nursery rhymes, utilising puppets, characters and pictorial books. To extend the interest, a wide and varied selection of play and learning provocations have been presented bringing familiar rhymes to life, exploring them in an active and concrete manner.

### Heuristic Play -

An enriching play, enabling children to interact with real life objects, exploring and discovering their properties by freely experimenting through sensory engagement. The unstructured play allows us to interact as we gather, fill, stack, sort, manipulate and transport the natural materials, encouraging our imaginative thinking. As we continue to be offered heuristic play sessions, we will foster our curiosity, problem-solving skills, fine motor coordination and language development.

## Collections, Resources and Natural Objects

To provide ongoing natural and curious play situations we constantly require help from our families to gather and collect materials, resources and real-life items. Please continue to ask friends and family members for the following items -

- A selection of brushes (hair, nail, scrubbing, shoe, pastry)
- Bunches of keys
- Loofahs
- Sponges
- Wooden spoons, metal spoons, whisks, ladles, measuring spoons
- Containers with lids (various sizes)
- Cardboard - boxes, tubes, egg cartons
- Zips
- Jewellery boxes
- Purses with studs and zips
- Shells
- Large pebbles
- Curtain rings (wooden, metal)
- Bangles (not bracelets or stretchy ones)
- Materials / textiles
- Gravy boats, ceramic tea sets, tea pots

## Family Committee -

Our family committee organised their first fundraising event, a pyjama day, which was held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September. An invitation to join our committee is extended to all our families. If you wish to join or find out any information regarding the committee please ask a staff member who will happily put you in touch with our committee members. We strongly rely on committee fundraising events to provide termly and annual events for all our children. We continue to greatly appreciate all our families' efforts in supporting our nursery.



## Bookbug Session -

We held our first Bookbug Session on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September which was a great success and very well attended by families. We were extremely lucky to have a special visitor attend,



Bookbug enjoyed listening and joining in with his favourite rhymes and songs!

In previous years, our Bookbug sessions have proven popular where families attend with their child(ren) and we look forward to welcoming new families to our monthly sessions. For further information and benefits to Bookbug session please refer to our "Helpful guide for parents & carers" - All About Bookbug".

## Dolly Parton Imagination Library -

A registration check has, unfortunately, highlighted not all our families / children have registered with Dolly Parton Imagination Library. We have been provided with a list of families who are not yet registered, if you are unsure if you have successfully registered, please speak to a staff member. If your child is turning 5 years old between now and May 2026 please speak to Lorna, regarding "Graduating" from the programme.



For those families who haven't yet registered, please use the QR Code to do so, we are aiming to achieve 100% of children registered with the free book gifting programme. Children will enjoy receiving their free book through the post and making connections to learning between home and nursery.

## Parent/Carer Appointments -

Parent/Carer appointments will take place on Monday 06<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Appointments will last approximately 10 minutes to discuss your child's return / or start to nursery. Individual times and date will be provided by your child's keyworker. Families will have the opportunity to view their child's individual learning journal, play and learning Floorbooks and ensure all care plans, medication forms etc are up to date and accurate.

Families will have the opportunity to participate in our services self-evaluation process.

## Macmillan Coffee Afternoon -



We will be hosting our annual Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October from 1.45pm-3.00pm to raise funds for people living with cancer, an extremely worthwhile cause. Invitations are extended to all families and friends from St Peters ELC and Primary School.

To host the event, we are asking for any donations of home baking, shop bought cakes or donations to host a raffle.

## Tempest Photography -

The photographer will visit St Peters ELC and Primary School on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October for class / group photographs.

## Halloween Party Day -



Our Halloween party will be held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Children can arrive wearing their Halloween outfit; however, we advise no masks. Our celebration day will involve stories and songs, pumpkin carving, sensory play opportunities, potion making, dooking for apples, string doughnuts and party games. Party foods will be provided.

## Snack Donations -

Snack donations for term 1 (Aug - Oct 2025) should be paid into your ParentPay account. Some funds available within the account will be used to purchase resources, foods and drinks for our Halloween party. The total amount for Term 1 is £35.00 (or weekly payments of £3.50).



Term 2 (Oct - Dec 2025) can be made payable into your ParentPay account. The termly payment is £35.00 or weekly payments of £3.50 can be made. Please ensure your ParentPay account has been activated.

Funds within this account are used throughout the year, to benefit all our children including parties, presents, events and fun days. We appreciate your continued support.

If any family require any help or support accessing ParentPay, please contact the school office on 0300 300 0188, the clerical staff will be more than happy to offer any assistance.

## Footwear & Clothing -

We have a selection of spare wellies, feel free to check for your child's size, label them with your child's name and place them into your child's wellie rack/shelf.

Please ensure all clothing items are labelled with your child's name.

Children should be provided with a pair of indoor shoes, on arrival, parents/carers are responsible for changing their child's shoes. Indoor shoes are required for various play spaces and offer a comfortable change from outdoor footwear.