



Loving and learning together, with Jesus

Happy New Year!



The children have made a great start to 2025, getting straight back into learning and there is a buzz of engaged and busy learners across the school.

As it is a new year we have used this as an opportunity to bring our School Vision to the forefront of our minds by ensuring we are uplifting and inspiring everyone towards excellence.

We are having a consistent drive on:

Behaviour

Standards

Adaptation and Challenge

Catholic Social Teaching

The children at St. Peter's will spend time this year delving deeper into the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and planning their Faith in Action. For each newsletter, we will take a look at one principle at a time.

This week, we are focusing on:

Participation

Promoting participation means recognising *we each have something unique and important to contribute to society.*

We are called to be **active members** of our communities and promote the well-being of all people so that we grow together.



What can you do?

- Reflect on what your gifts are and how you can use them to participate in local activities
- Lead prayer in your parish, home or classroom
- Ensure all people are included and welcomed into the communities you are part of
- Work together with your family and friends to promote Catholic Social Teaching
- Plan an activity for a group that you are part of that is inclusive for all
- Research your rights and responsibilities and promote equality

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“Each of us has a part to play, a gift to share, a service to offer, for building up the Body of Christ in love.”

Pope Francis, June 19, 2013

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[CST: Participation – Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand Catholic Social Teaching resources for children](#)

FOCUS ON LEARNING

Retrieval practice is the ability to recall something you have learnt in the past. Retrieval practice is an important tool used in the classroom to support pupils' memory and retention of key knowledge and facts. It can also help pupils to transfer previous knowledge they have learnt to new concepts and situations. At St. Peters we use a variety of strategies to support memory retention and retrieval within the classroom.



Brain dumps - brain dumps are used to support children in recalling key facts, knowledge and information from the previous lesson. This strategy

supports children to constantly refresh and recap key points of their learning. Brain dumps are usually given at the beginning of a lesson, but they can also be used throughout the lesson.



Cops and Robbers - this form of retrieval involves partner talk. Children will be asked thought provoking questions and asked to provide ideas and thoughts before sharing their ideas with their partner as well as "stealing" their partner's knowledge too. This approach supports collaboration between pupils as well as supporting children who may struggle to find and recall information independently.

Give me 5! - this is a quick retrieval tool for children to list 5 facts, concepts or key pieces of information as quickly as possible. "Give me 5" can be used across the curriculum and may include examples such as: "Give me 5 prime numbers" or "Give me 5 adjectives to describe this setting".



Rapid recall - Rapid recall is a great tool to use in those moments we call "lost time" throughout the

school day. For example, lining up for break time and lunchtime. Rapid recall involves firing questions to support quick recall of key facts. Rapid recall is a successful tool in recalling mathematical concepts such as number bonds and times tables facts.

SPOTLIGHT ON SEND



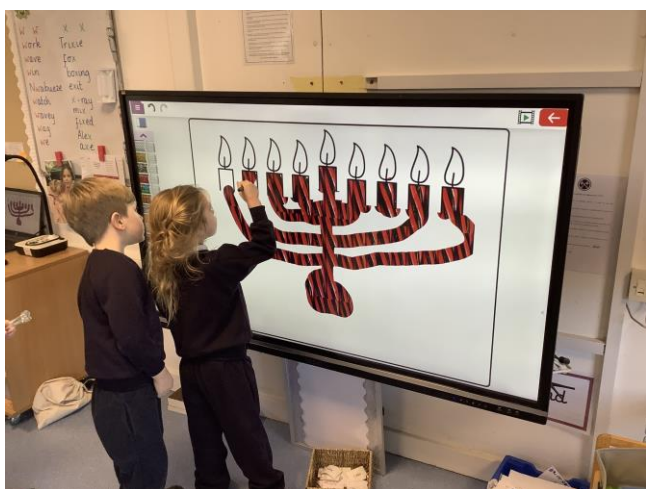
SEND Coffee Morning – Tuesday 21st January
Please join us for a coffee morning on Tuesday 21st January at 9am. This will be an opportunity for parents of children who are supported for their educational needs to meet one another and share experiences and ask questions. It will also be an opportunity to explore some of the strategies and supports we use in school and consider how they could be used in the home. Our last SEND coffee morning was a lovely, friendly and supportive environment. We would love to have more SEND families involved!



CURRICULUM IN ACTION

EYFS

This week, Reception has been busy celebrating Hanukkah! We've read *Eight Nights, Eight Lights*, learning about the special traditions of this holiday. The children loved writing cards for each other, making delicious potato latkes, and enjoying tasty jam donuts! We also had fun spinning the dreidel, decorating our own menorahs, and placing candles on them to mark the occasion. It's been a week full of learning, laughter, and lots of fun!



Sporting Achievements



Well done to the Year 4, 5 & 6 children who represented our school at the Mayflower rugby tournaments this week. They all played extremely well and worked together as a team in their respective matches. We are very proud of their determination, even in the mud!



Visit the online safety section on the

Internet Matters website:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

which gives advice for parents on talking to their children about online safety and what children are to do if they come across inappropriate content.



Healthy Snacks

Please be reminded that snacks brought into school to be eaten during the morning break must be healthy. A healthy snack may consist of a piece/combination of fruit/vegetables, plain popcorn or plain breadsticks and rice cakes. High sugar items such as cereal bars are not to be brought into school to be eaten at break times. Please also refrain from bringing items containing nuts into school.

Please see the separate email regarding our Healthy Snacks and Treat Day requirements.

Parent Calendar

Parents are reminded to check the Calendar in the Information section on the School Website for upcoming dates and events.

Polite Reminder

Parents and carers are politely requested to be mindful of parking restrictions and the local residents when dropping off and picking up from school. We appreciate that the areas around the school do get very congested but the children's safety is our top priority.

Dental Appointments



Please book routine dental check-ups after school or during school holidays to avoid disruption to your child's learning time and the school day.

You may need to book this with the dental surgery some time in advance.

If the appointment relates to a dental concern/emergency, please make us aware

