



Diary Dates – An Explanation for New Parents

- Term dates are published for County for future years on their website <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/school-term-datesclosures>. You can find a link to the County website on our webpage Term Dates page: https://www.petersfield.cambs.sch.uk/site/pages/pageReact.php?page=term_dates&t=1729184699
- Our School Term Dates are published when the term dates, including INSET days, are finalised. These are approved annually by Governors and can be found here: https://www.petersfield.cambs.sch.uk/site/pages/pageReact.php?page=term_dates&t=1729184699
- A full list of Diary Dates is published annually in September and can be found on our website at: https://www.petersfield.cambs.sch.uk/site/pages/pageReact.php?page=parent_information&t=1729630995
- Links to the Term Dates and Diary Dates are included as a reminder on the Newsletter each week: “**DIARY DATES** A full list of diary dates for parents is now on the [school website](#) and the dates for the year have been added to the [calendar](#).”
- The School Calendar has all of the dates from the initial list of Diary Dates added to it. You can access it here: <https://petersfield.cambs.sch.uk/site/pages/calendar.php?s=pet&t=1729191161>. The calendar enables you to choose dates to import straight to your calendar by clicking on the ‘add to calendar’ function which appears if you hover the mouse over an event.
- In September and October, in the [Petersfield Press](#) newsletters every week, space dependent, we publish the following few dates and add future dates, working our way progressively through the months, September – June. We do this annually following previous parental requests that they are reminded to gradually add Diary Dates for the year to their personal diary over several weeks rather than having to add them all in one go.
- July’s dates are confirmed on the newsletter each year as soon as the transition is confirmed. This is usually in the summer term.
- Once the full year’s Diary Dates have been published in the Petersfield Press over a series of weeks, only the upcoming Diary Dates feature weekly – again as many or few dates as space allows each week.
- It is very rare for us to cancel published Diary Dates. Should any changes be needed, parents will be notified of these by a separate email or post on the school website ‘[Latest News](#)’ if very urgent. Alternatively, any changes would be identified in the twice weekly communication – the Learning Link email and Petersfield Press newsletter – shared with parents. For example, in the Petersfield Press, an additional date – Wear Yellow for Mind – was highlighted as a **change in red** to draw your attention to it.

We have lots of exciting events planned for pupils with some events particularly for our new EYFS families.

If you have any questions about our Diary Dates, please do refer back to the published [Term Dates](#) and [Diary Dates](#) on the website in the first instance.

Please do read the newsletter – [Petersfield Press](#) – and Learning Link email information regularly. These are where we update you with information as it becomes available.

If you have any questions, please do speak to your child’s class teacher in the first instance. They can give you additional information again, as soon as this information is available.

Following previous parent feedback that this would be helpful, please find below a summary of the events we look forward to welcoming you to in this, and future, academic year so you have advance information about what to expect. More information will follow nearer each event but we hope this summary enables you to have a flavour of the opportunities we hope you will come and share with us. We hope this update enables you to plan in advance around work commitments etc.

At the start of the year, teachers publish a **short video introduction to their class** for the current academic year. Please do watch this then attend the **open classroom and book look** event straight after school. For our EYFS pupils, this is an opportunity for the children to show you the classroom learning environment (they do not have books to share). If you have any questions about any aspect of the video, please do ask your child's classteacher.

In advance of Parent-Teacher Consultations and summer reports we **open the classrooms** straight after school on one day each term for you visit your child's classroom and enjoy sharing their book (and learning environment for EYFS) with you.

For **Parent-Teacher Consultations**, please book 1 slot on MCAS when bookings open. Please come to the main entrance (or join the virtual meeting from the link in that week's Learning Link) at least 5 minutes in advance of your timetable slot. In school, parents wait in the library and parents are invited into the hall to talk to the classteacher when it is your turn. Ideally children should not attend school during Parent-Teacher consultations at all. You will have the opportunity to talk privately to the classteacher. You can book a virtual slot if childcare is a challenge. For virtual meetings, you will initially be in the virtual waiting room. You have a 10 minute slot. To be fair to all, we ask that you stick to your time slot. If you need to continue a conversation, this can be arranged for another time with the classteacher.

EYFS parents' lunch – EYFS parents are invited, in advance of the diarised EYFS parents' lunch, to complete a form to book for 1 of 2 dates where there is an EYFS lunch for our new parents. There will be a charge for the cost of your meal which is payable in advance on MCAS. Mums and Dads are welcome to book yourselves into the same day together or different days if you are both able to attend. Please note, each parent can only attend once. Very occasionally, neither parent is able to attend. In this scenario only, a grandparent or other family member may be able to attend in your place so your child has an adult attend. Please do speak to us about this if you are unable to attend.

Church Services – through the year, we have church services at St Andrew's church. We begin with our Harvest Service in the early autumn term. Children are invited to bring donations on the day of the service. These donations can be nonperishable food and toiletries for the local food bank or money in support of Machemba school. Our EYFS children join this service virtually. The Christingle service is the second church service of the academic year. There is also a service before each term's holiday – Christmas, Easter and summer – in the diary. We leave from school as soon as we have registered (and gone to the toilet) and walk to church. Parents are very welcome to come to church – we usually arrive at approximately 9:20am – and share in the service with us. No need to book, please just meet us at the church. Other family members are also welcome. If younger children attend, please do bring things to entertain them or briefly step out if needed so everyone else can hear as the pupils help with leading the service.

We particularly hope you can join us for the **Christmas Service – the Nativity**. This is where EYFS provide the Christmas tableau whilst the year 6 read. The EYFS children will dress up for this but costumes will be provided by school.

Our Key Stage 1 (KS1) and EYFS pupils (Ash and Elm classes) look forward to sharing their **Christmas Production** with Ash and Elm parents in December. There are 2 dates – a morning and an afternoon – and parents are invited to attend 1 of the 2 sessions. Again, you are welcome to come together or attend separately as your diaries allow. Two adult tickets are offered to each family automatically. Nearer the time, we offer the opportunity for family members to request tickets if we have space. We usually do have space as long as you book in advance for Grandparents and family members. Pupils may be asked to provide a costume or specific clothing (e.g. black t-shirt) if possible.

Our **Class Assemblies** are an opportunity for each class to share their learning with the parents from that class. Please come to the main entrance as soon as you have dropped your child at school on morning of their class assembly. The assembly usually lasts approximately 20 minutes and so is usually completed by 9:30am. In EYFS, this is the first time our youngest children lead the assembly and as the years in school progress you will see they grow in confidence and volume. Therefore please come ready to be proud of them for standing up and participating in front of such a big audience even if their voices are sometimes a bit quiet!

Thank you to Yew class for modelling the first **Cake Sale** of each year. When it is your child's class's turn, we ask that you supply cakes (no nuts) for the cake sale. This is optional. Cakes should be brought into school on the morning of the cake sale in a named container. These can be homemade or shop bought. Both shop bought and home made cakes have to have a full list of ingredients supplied with them. These cakes are then sold (usually for 50p) straight after school.

Headteacher Awards and Hollands Cup & Trophy – each half term we award children achievement certificates which are presented in our Celebration Collective Worship. With the exception of the last one of the academic year, these are usually held on the Wednesday after the holiday at 2:45pm (entrance via the main school entrance). Names of pupils who are to be awarded these are published in the Petersfield Press before the preceding holiday to give parents maximum time to arrange to attend if you are able. Where there is more than one child in the class of the same name, please speak to your child's classteacher to establish if it is your child. Some parents choose to tell their child about the award in advance. Others choose to surprise their child by attending. We do not tell the children in advance, however children may occasionally be told by their peers.

School photos day require children to attend in clean, smart uniform. Photos all take place in the school day with siblings being photographed together also.

You are invited to join us for **Sports Day**. This usually starts as soon as possible after school drop off in the morning – entry via the Sensory Garden gate - and the children participate in team activities with their team (yellow, blue or green). The team activities are followed by races. The event usually lasts for several hours with parents watching and cheering.

The **Book Fair** takes place immediately after school – you have the opportunity to buy books for your child (or Christmas presents!). Card payments are taken.

Christmas dinner and the Leavers' (year 6) picnic are bookable dinners as the cook has to order ingredients in advance. A form will be sent to book this in advance of these events. No bookings can be taken on the day.

Other events listed on Diary Dates take place in the school day. These, and additional dates added through the year, will be detailed further in subsequent communications to you.

Thank you for reading all this information! We hope this helps you with planning in advance. We very much look forward to welcoming you into school!