



SPES “STICKY KNOWLEDGE” AND “KNOWING MORE, REMEMBERING MORE” GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Welcome to St Peter’s approach to learning and assessment. Our school is dedicated to making learning meaningful, memorable, and engaging. By focusing on key knowledge and connections across subjects, we build a strong foundation that helps students thrive. This booklet provides a brief overview of how we assess and monitor your child’s progress, as well as ways you can support them at home.



OUR TERMINOLOGY:

Disciplinary Knowledge or “Sticky Knowledge”

These are the essential facts, concepts, and skills we want students to remember and apply. It’s “sticky” because we aim for it to stay with students long-term and form the foundation of their understanding in each subject.

Substantive Knowledge or “Knowing more, Remembering more”

This covers the deeper understanding that helps students connect and retain knowledge over time. It reflects our goal for students to continually build on what they’ve learned.



PEDAGOGICAL THEORY



Our teaching methods are inspired by the work of educational researcher, Shirley Clarke. Clarke emphasises that making connections to the subject matter is essential for engaging students and deepening their understanding. According to Clarke, making these connections promotes a deeper cognitive engagement, allowing students to apply their learning in meaningful contexts.

With our pupils we call this “making subject connections”. This helps with developing schemas. Our brains are wired to organize information into “schemas” or mental frameworks based on prior knowledge and experiences. When new information connects to what a student already knows, it fits more easily into existing schemas, making it easier to understand, remember, and retrieve later.



SOME OF OUR APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT

Lesson-Based Questioning:

In each subject students answer up to three questions about the previous lesson's material. This is a quick way to check how well they've understood and retained knowledge, allowing us to reinforce or review as needed.

"Sticky Knowledge" Quizzes:

At the end of each term, students take quizzes on key "sticky knowledge" concepts they've been learning. These quizzes help us assess long-term retention and identify areas where students may need extra support.



SUPPORTING LEARNING AT HOME

You play a valuable role in reinforcing what your child learns at school. Here are some ways to support their learning journey at home:

Ask Questions About Their Learning.

Regular conversations about school can help your child reflect and reinforce their knowledge. Please see the next page for some sample questions you can ask...



DAILY QUESTIONS:

- "What was something interesting you learned today?"
 - "Can you tell me about something new you remember from today's lesson?"
 - "What new things did you learn in history or geography today? Why do you think that's important?"
 - "Can you tell me about what you learned in science this week? How does it connect to something you already knew?"
 - "Did you learn any new ways to solve problems today? Could you teach me?"
 - "Did anything you learned today remind you of something in a different subject?"
 - "What's one 'sticky knowledge' fact or idea from your lessons this term? Let's see if we both remember it tomorrow!"
 - "What's something you learned earlier this term that you still remember?"
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