



ST. PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HESWALL

NEWS UPDATE – September 2017

Welcome / Welcome Back

On behalf of the staff and governors I would like to welcome you back to what I hope will be another exciting and successful school year. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new families who have joined us in either Foundation 2 or other year groups throughout the school: we look forward to getting to know you and hope that you and your child have a long and happy association with St. Peter's.

Home Reading

This summer has seen a review of our reading scheme for pupils across F2, KS1 and KS2. Following a generous contribution from the Friends of St. Peter's, we have purchased a large number of brand new books, encouraging more depth and breadth to our children's reading experiences and providing them with the opportunity to read, at their level, from a wider range of genres and published reading schemes. This new structure is called Book Banding. Further information in relation to the specific year groups has been sent in a separate letter by Emma Birmingham, our Reading and Phonics Leader.

Spelling and Phonics

Linked to the improvements to our reading scheme, we have also seen a renewal of our Phonics and Spelling Programme across F2 and KS1 as well as the introduction of the Read, Write Inc. spelling scheme from Year 2 to Year 6. Read, Write Inc. is a fast-paced, robust, systematic spelling programme that has proven to be effective in many schools across the UK, helping children to spell with confidence and providing additional support and extra challenge where appropriate. Further information on the way spelling and phonics is being taught across the school will be available at our annual Parent Workshop on 22nd November 2017.

Buildings Update

The summer break saw the long-anticipated refurbishment of the school hall with a renovation of the floor, full redecoration and new curtains; we are looking forward to showing it off during our various services to which parents are warmly invited throughout the year.

Staffing News

At the start of the year we welcome a number of new members of staff: Miss Abby Williams joins Year 3/4, teaching class 3/4MW; Mrs Marie Williams joins Year 5/6 for the Autumn term, teaching class 5/6AP for one day a week; Miss Sarah-James Parr has joined Mr Westaway as Sports Apprentice and Mrs Suzanne Aland, Mrs Alison Filder and Mrs Jacqueline Hutchinson join our existing Midday Assistants. We look forward to them becoming established members of our staff team.

I am delighted to share the news that Mrs Sally Monks and her husband are expecting their first child in January. Mrs Monks plans to take up her maternity leave at start of the Spring Term; Miss Abby Williams will then take over full-time responsibility for class 3/4MW.

Mr John Quinn will be taking leave to have a hip replacement starting on Tuesday 12th September; we are sure you will join us in wishing him well and hoping for a speedy recovery and return to work when he is fit and well again. In his absence, Mr Richard Coy will be taking over the role of Temporary Site Manager: we extend a warm welcome to Richard who has been working alongside Mr Quinn over the last few days.

Mr Darren Jones, newly appointed Headteacher who is due to take up post in January, is planning to attend the welcome back 'Sausage Sizzle' event arranged by the Friends of St. Peter's and looks forward to meeting as many parents as possible at the event.

There will be an opportunity to meet the staff as part of a series of coffee afternoons to be held this month, along with the above-mentioned 'Sausage Sizzle' arranged by the Friends of St. Peter's, details of which are provided below.

Welcome Back 'Sausage Sizzle'

Friends of St. Peter's have, again, organised a 'Welcome Back' sausage sizzle event after school on Tuesday 19th September. This popular event is non-ticket and will run between 3.45pm and 5pm. It's a great opportunity to meet new parents as well as old friends and catch up after the summer holiday.

'Meet the Team' Coffee Afternoon

We will be holding a series of coffee afternoons this month to provide an early opportunity to meet myself, the teachers and teaching assistants in the respective teaching teams over cake and a coffee. These informal meetings will take place in the 'learning hub' between 2.45pm and 3.30pm on the following dates;-

FS2 Team – Friday 22nd September

Y1/2 Team – Thursday 21st September

Y3/4 Team – Monday 25th September

Y5/6 Team - Tuesday 26th September

Snacks and Treats

This year we have a number of pupils who have severe, potentially life-threatening, allergies to ingestion of, or contact with, even a small amount of wheat, nuts and some vegetables. At lunch times we are able to properly control and clean the areas in which these pupils eat however KS2 eat their break time snacks on the playground where all pupils play; this makes it very difficult for us to minimise the risk of one of the affected pupils coming into contact with any of the allergens. In order to

minimise the risk for these pupils, we ask that KS2 pupils bring fruit only as their break time snack.

We also kindly request that children do not bring in sweets or cakes for the class to celebrate their birthday. Thank you for supporting us in keeping all the children at St. Peter's as safe as possible.

School Meal Payments

Please ensure that you remember to top up your child's account on ParentPay for school meals. There are a number of accounts with significant arrears which school must fund if they remain unpaid.

Harvest Festival & Food Bank

This year's Harvest Festival will be on Friday 29th September and will be led by Mrs Breeze's class, 1/2DB. We would welcome contributions of non-perishable food items (tins, packets, pasta, etc.) to come into school from the beginning of that week. Further information about this will be sent out shortly. All donations will be taken down to church for the Harvest Service before being distributed to local charities and some of our elderly residents.

It is also an opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our local 'Food Bank'. Mrs Paula Donnan, one of our parents and Lunchtime Supervisor coordinates the collections from school. Collections take place during the first week of each month and donations can be left at any time in the box in our Reception Area.

Lost Property

Please ensure your child's uniform and school belongings are all **CLEARLY NAMED**. Our pupils are strongly encouraged to take responsibility for looking after their belongings, but from time to time items are mislaid and end up in 'Lost Property'. When such items are clearly named, it enables them to be quickly reunited with their owner. Unfortunately, far too often, items are not named or the name has faded making it impossible to return them. Please help us to help you and your child.

Parent Helpers

We always really appreciate the additional help and support from parents and grandparents, who are able to spare a few hours during the week to help in school, whether it be to hear readers, work with a small group or provide general support in the classroom. We welcome help for all year groups so if you are free to help in school, please send a note in to the class teacher.

As part of our commitment to Safeguarding, all volunteers who work in school (including parent helpers) will need to complete a 'volunteer agreement' and will receive detailed information relating to the role of being a volunteer at St. Peter's. It may also be necessary to arrange a DBS clearance before you are able to work in school.

Parents in FS2 who wish to offer help will be contacted after half term once the children have settled in.

Are your details correct?

If you have recently moved or changed your contact details over the summer, please inform the school office of your new information. A data collection sheet will be sent out with your child for checking to ensure the information we hold on our system is accurate. This includes any medical needs or conditions your child may have and it is important that our school records reflect this and are both accurate and up to date.

Please check and return to school regardless of whether there are changes.

INSET Days for 2017/18

A further reminder of the INSET days for this academic year. These are the five staff training days that are allocated during the school year when pupils do not attend. Full term dates can be found on the school website. The dates are;-

Monday 4th September 2017

Monday 30th October 2017

Monday 8th January 2018

Monday 26th February 2018

Monday 4th June 2018

School Website and Calendar

The school website continues to include information and news about what is happening and what is coming up at our school. It is the best place to find information about events and school news. We will be continuing to send daily e-mail alerts with important links, letters and information.

The calendar for the term can be found on the website and includes all the key dates leading up to Christmas with provisional dates set for the whole year, which hopefully enables you to plan ahead. Please refer to this both at the start and during the term to keep a note of what is happening and all the different things coming up.

I hope you are able to make one of our 'welcome events' over the next couple of weeks and I look forward to working with you in the term ahead.



Kate Ball

Interim Headteacher