

ST. PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HESWALL

NEWS UPDATE – July 2017

This is the final News Update of the school year and my last as Headteacher of St. Peter's. I have written 'a final word' at the end of this update but wish to take the opportunity to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for the many kind words, best wishes and encouragement that I have received over the past couple of months.

Headteacher Appointment

Many congratulations to our newly appointed Headteacher, Mr Darren Jones, who will be joining the school from January 2018. Mr Jones is currently Headteacher of Bishop Wilson C of E Primary School, Burton, Cheshire. I know that he will receive a warm welcome and support from the whole school community and I wish him every success as he leads the school in the years ahead.

Miss Kate Ball will be interim Headteacher during the autumn term, ensuring a smooth transition leading up to Mr Jones taking up his post. The structure and staffing of the classes for the new academic year, including the interim arrangements for the autumn term, will be confirmed by letter on the 12th July following our transition morning – see note below.

Staffing News

At the end of this term we will be saying good bye to one of our established teachers: Miss Jenny Harris has been a teacher at St. Peter's since 2008, initially working as part of the Y5/6 team but for the last 8 years has been a teacher in Years 3&4. In addition to this, Miss Harris has also been the school's English leader and her passion for English and love of reading has been influential in leading the development of standards in reading and writing across the school. This has included overseeing the successful Book Fairs and the planning of the new school library.

Miss Harris is relocating to Oxford over the summer following her engagement to her fiancé Tim, with the couple planning to marry in the autumn. I would like to thank Miss Harris for her contribution to St. Peter's over the last 9 years and wish her every happiness as she embarks on a new chapter of her life.

Transition Morning & New Classes

On Wednesday 12th July, the children will be spending the morning with their new classes and, for those moving into a new year-band, their new class teacher. A great deal of time and consideration is afforded by the teachers when determining the groupings for next year. The transition morning has proved to be hugely beneficial to our children, particularly those moving to a new class as they come to spend the morning with their new teacher, which

helps to prevent the anxiety and stress that can sometimes occur for a very small minority of children.

KS2 Sports Afternoon

Our Key Stage 2 Sports Afternoon takes place this Monday 10th July at 1.15pm, with the gates opening just after 1pm. The children in Years 3 to 6 will be taking part in a range of traditional races and events on the track and will be competing for points for their respective Houses. Parents and family are welcome to attend; feel free to bring your own rugs and chairs to sit on. If the weather is very wet with heavy rain we will send a text and put a note on the school website, making the decision to postpone by 12pm. The reserve day for KS2 sports is on Tuesday 11th July.

FS2/KS1 Sports Afternoon

The children in Foundation 2 and Years 1/2 will be taking part in a carousel of sport and games activities on Thursday 13th July, weather permitting. The afternoon will begin at 1.15pm with the children commencing their activities and challenges, moving around with their designated group. Parents and family members are welcome to watch and encourage their child during the afternoon by walking around the outside of the field with their child's group as they move to the different activity stations. You are welcome to bring your own chair to sit on. If the weather is very wet with heavy rain, we will send a text and put a note on the school website, making a decision to postpone by 12pm on the Thursday. The reserve day is on Friday 14th July.

Fantastic Fundraising Achievement - Summer Fair & Summer Ball

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Summer Fair on the 17th June. We were so lucky with the weather, having such a glorious day. The Friends were able to put on a wonderful fair with a great range of food, drink, activities and challenges. This is the school's most important fundraising event of the year and thanks to the hard work of the committee, parent and staff helpers, the day raised over £6000.

The following week saw the bi-annual St. Peter's Summer Ball, this year being hosted at Thornton Hall Hotel, another special event that included a silent auction with a number of gifts very generously donated by parents and friends of the school. A great evening was had by all and again raised an incredible £5000.

These two events combined have seen £11,000 worth of fundraising achieved that will be used to fund essential and key projects for the benefit of all of our children next year. Details of such projects will be communicated in the autumn term following its allocation by the Friends' Committee. This year has seen the transformation of our school playground with a new surface and thermoplastic markings that have been a great hit with all of our children.

Many congratulations and grateful thanks go to the members of the social committee and all of the parents, staff and friends who have helped with the range of social and fundraising events throughout the school year. We really appreciate the time, energy and enthusiasm

you put in to raising important funds for the school and for the benefit of all of our children. I would particularly like to thank Mrs Victoria McMahon, who has chaired the Fundraising team this year and who will be replaced by joint chairs, Mrs Jo Todd and Mrs Jo Jackson for 2017/18. New members of the Social Committee are warmly welcome for the new year.

Building Work – Hall Refurbishment

This summer sees the refurbishment of the school hall and dining area. It has been ten years since the room was last redecorated and is one of the most used areas of the school. I am pleased to confirm that, thanks to funding from the Friends, the work will finally see the replacement of the existing 'very tired' curtains – something that I know many feel is long overdue. We hope that the planned work will significantly improve this multi-functional part of school.

Leavers Service

The annual Leavers' Service for our Year 6 pupils will take place at St. Peter's Church on Monday 17th July at 7pm. The service will be led by the staff team, including singing from Concordia and the pupils in Year 5. You are welcome to attend this special service to support our Year 6 as they prepare to leave St. Peter's and move on to their secondary schools.

Final Day – Leavers' Assembly

The final day of term is on Tuesday 25th July. There will be a special Leavers' Assembly led by our Year 6 pupils to which their parents and family are invited to attend.

The school day will finish at 2.30pm as we close for the summer break.

My final words

It has been a huge privilege and honour to have been Headteacher at this wonderful school, the school where I began my teaching career back in 1996. I was so grateful to have been given the opportunity to lead the school as Headteacher some 11 years later. There have been so many special and happy memories over the last ten years, far too many to single out although our partnership with the Rock of Joy School, Uganda has been a real highlight.

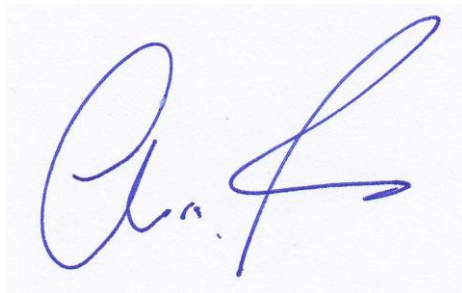
Together we have achieved so much. The fantastic commitment and professional dedication of the staff team has been a major factor in the progress and improvements that have been made at St. Peter's over the last ten years. The governing body have been such a reassuring and supportive partner. The children at St. Peter's are quite simply amazing; I will miss them greatly and of course, the really strong partnership that exists with you our parents is a real strength of the school. I am so grateful for the wonderful support that I have received from you all over the years. As a collective group - staff, governors, pupils and parents - we have achieved so much.

And so now this is the time where I step aside. I am reassured in the knowledge that I am leaving the school both in good shape and in good hands, as it now looks ahead to a new chapter in the life of St. Peter's School and with a new leader at the helm.

Thank you for believing in me and supporting me. I will always remember my time at St. Peter's School with great fondness, and the people who make it such a special school, with great affection. I wish you and your families much happiness and joy in the years ahead.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Penn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Penn
HEADTEACHER