

*St Peter's CE Primary School
Heswall, Wirral*

*50th
Anniversary
Celebration*



1961 - 2011



Foreword from the Headteacher

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the staff and governors of the school to welcome you back to St. Peter's as we celebrate our 50th anniversary of the current school building.

So much has happened in the life of St. Peter's C of E Primary School over the last 50 years and both the pupils and staff have thoroughly enjoyed delving into the archives and learning about the history of our wonderful school. What has been clear, as we have talked to members of our school community from the last five decades and heard memories of their time here, is that this is a very special school that means so much to so many people.

It is a great privilege and honour to be the current Headteacher, following in the footsteps of Mrs. Russell (Miss Cocker), and Mr. Morris and Mr. Cocker before her, and as we celebrate our 50th anniversary we give thanks to everyone who has contributed to the life of our school and made it what it is today.

Best Wishes,



Chris Penn

Leaders of our school, Past and Present



Mr J Cocker



Mr B Morris



Mrs J Russell



Mr C Penn

How the Current Building Began

Bombs rained down on the small village of Heswall and, to everyone's horror, at 10.30am on 1st June 1941, St Peter's School premises (at that time located on School Hill) was struck by a direct hit; resulting in extensive and irreparable damage. In addition to the school building, the schoolmaster's residence was demolished; the headmaster's daughter and her fiancé : Miss Lillian H. Mills and Mr Joseph Lancelotte were killed—it was, of course, fortunate that disaster struck on a Sunday when the children were not in attendance at school or the death toll could have been much higher!

As a temporary arrangement, school was relocated to the Parish Church Hall, where all pupils and staff were forced to work in one room, with the Infants attending from 9am—12.30 and juniors from 1pm—4.30. A long 20 years later, in 1961, the current premises opened its doors to the 304 children that were on roll to much excitement.



School Hill, 1940



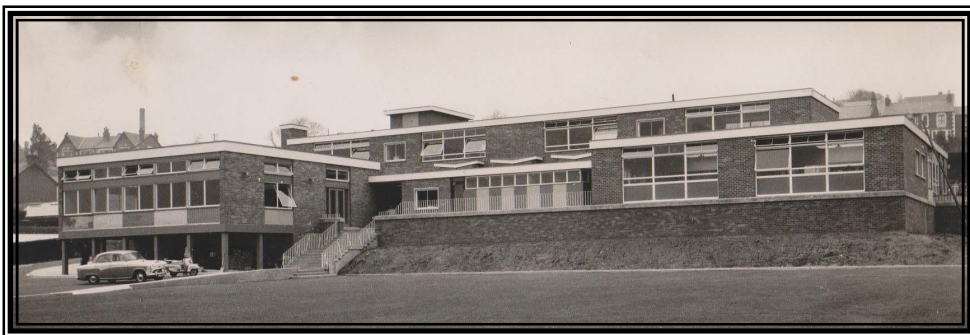
New site takes shape, 1960

Written by Freya Losvik and Harri Cornford, Year 5 pupils

How our school has changed over the years

If you were a pupil or teacher at St Peter's in the early days, you will find that the building has changed immeasurably since it first opened in 1961. As well as obvious improvements such as our new playground equipment and the addition of the outside classroom and ICT suite (completed in 2003 on the site of the original infants playground), the school has been extended and improved in various ways: The current Y5/6 (top junior) classrooms are all new additions at the top of a new corridor, which leads off the main corridor.

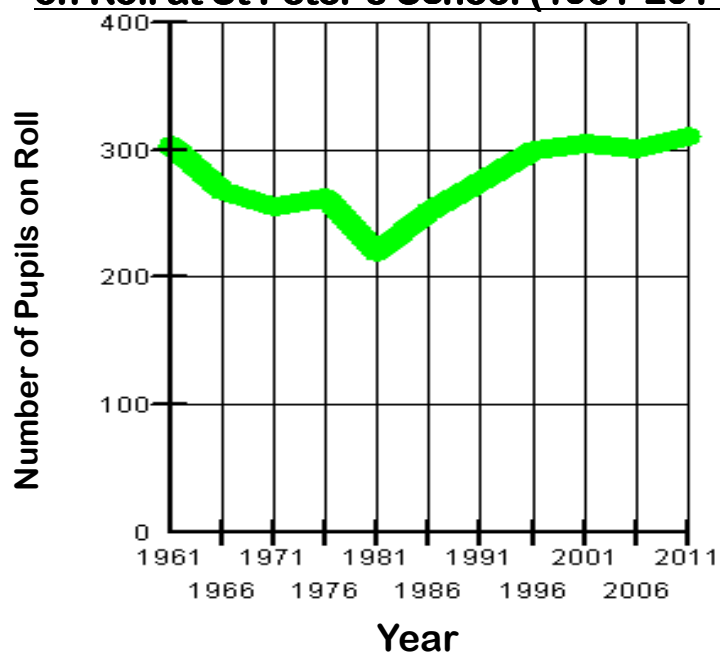
Upstairs, the original classrooms have been converted to now house one large classroom for Y3/4 (lower juniors) and resource area in the middle of the corridor with the other two Y3/4 classroom being located at either end of the upstairs corridor. A new F2 (Reception) classroom was built in 1995, onto which has more recently been built a designated outdoor area for our youngest children to access as part of their curriculum.



The school building when it was first completed in 1961

Written by Ria Ince and Yasmin Kearney, Year 5 pupils

**Line Graph to Show Number of Pupils
on Roll at St Peter's School (1961-2011)**



Created by Gregory Wilkinson—Year 5



**1960's pupils
enjoying Scientific discovery.**



**2009, current pupils
doing the same!**

The school through the decades

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, staff and children have spent time researching the events that took place in our school during each decade since it opened:

1960's - Contributions by Year 3/4 pupils

In 1961, St Peter's School was finally reopened. All pupils could now attend St. Peter's School as one school. An open day was held for children to show their parents the new building. There weren't any year 5-6 classrooms then because they hadn't been built, neither were Mrs Creedon's room and the I.C.T suite! The rooms looked all pretty and shiny and everyone was happy to be in the same school as their friends and family.

The children were so happy to be able to be one school once again! The parents were as pleased with the school as the children, and that's very, very pleased! The children settled very well and that is why our school is as brilliant as it is now!



Some of the first pupils



One of the first open days

Written by Kirsten Peters (Y4 pupil)

1970's - Contributions by Year 5/6 pupils

Through investigating the school's log book which was kept by the Headteacher of the school, Year 5/6 found out about some of the major event which took place in the life of our school during the 1970's:

On the 15th February 1971, the then-headteacher recorded that *'Today is Decimal D Day—all the children brought their dinner money in in new money!'* we learned about the decimalisation of our currency, moving from the old system of pounds, shillings and pence to the system we have in place today.



In December of 1974, the school Christmas holidays were extended to be almost 5 weeks long due to the fuel crisis which was taking place across Britain at that time.



Although extra school holidays doesn't sound like too much of a crisis to some of us, we have learned that the fuel crisis was a real time of concern throughout the country as many homes went without power for days at a time and schools and businesses also suffered greatly.

Written by various pupils from 5/6B

1980's - Contributions by Year 1/2 pupils

Last term Mrs. Blades and Mr. and Mrs Cambridge came in to talk to the pupils in Key Stage 1 about St. Peter's School in the past.

We found out that a long time ago the boys and girls played in different areas of the playground. Also if someone was naughty the teacher told them to go and stand in the bushes or they got hit with a ruler! Mr. Cambridge said he had escaped from school when he was sent to the bushes! The children had to walk outside to the toilet! Some of the school buildings were not built then, so the school was a lot smaller.

Mrs. Blades said there used to be a old rocking horse in school for children to play on. Sometimes when children were sad they were allowed to go and ride on it. Also, there used to be a dressing up box in the quiet area for children to use! When it was the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana the whole celebrated with a picnic! Each child was given a special plate to remember the occasion, but unfortunately the inscription was wrong and it said St. Peter's County Primary rather than St. Peter's C E Primary!



Above, some artefacts from the 1980's

Left, a talk from Jill Blades

By Fleur (1 / 2 C), Andrew (1 / 2 B) and Kitty (1 / 2 R).

1990's - Contribution by Year F2 pupils

In the 1990's the Foundation Stage 2 classroom was built. Mrs Benson (currently a Y1/2 teacher) said the pupils were able to watch the classroom being built right from when the foundations were put in the ground up to when the doors and windows were fitted—she said it was very exciting!

By Kitty (F2P)



The back of the F2 classroom in the final stages of construction, 1995

The staff team, 1996—1997



Staff

Throughout the years many teachers have come and gone, although it is a testament to the school that so many of its teachers choose to remain in post for many years. As recently as 2006, we bade farewell to Judith Russell (formerly Miss Cocker), who spent all of her teaching career (some 37 years) at St Peter's - beginning as a trainee teacher and retiring as Head Teacher of the school!

In the years following this, two more long-serving staff members retired after a long teaching career at St Peter's: Mrs Christine Fisher (teacher at St Peter's from 1980 - 2008) and Mr John Kirkpatrick (1989 to 2009.)

Another, very important, member of our school community is remembered every half term when we present Olly's Caring Cup to a pupil in the school who we believe has demonstrated true compassion or caring throughout the school year so far. Olly was the school's crossing assistant for many years. She was awarded an BEM (British Empire Medal) by the Queen for 25 years service.



Mr Kirkpatrick



Mrs. Olive 'Olly' Hughes BEM

Written by Ewan Mehra and Gregory Wilkinson, Year 5 pupils

Interview with a past member of staff

In March of this year, Mrs Fisher came to visit our Year 5 children as part of their work in preparing for our anniversary celebrations. Among the many stories she shared with us about her time at our school, one really stuck out:

As the lucky teacher of a Year 6 class, Mrs Fisher had the opportunity to take her class swimming; it must have been towards the end of term as her class were in a state of excitement about their imminent move to secondary school.

Things were running smoothly as usual on the poolside at Calday Baths when all of a sudden, Mrs Fisher (who was standing on the side of the pool) felt herself pushed into the water, clothes and all! When she emerged, spluttering and shocked from the depths of the pool, her class were not looking so innocent—did she jump or was she pushed? I think we all know the answer to that one!



Mrs Fisher

Written by Ethan Carley and Rachel Owen, Year 5 pupils

1960's



1970's

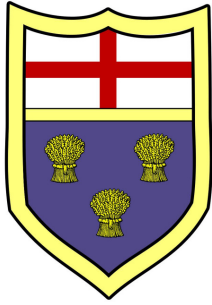


1980's



1990's





Thank you for being part of this special occasion; we hope you enjoyed sharing in our celebrations.



50th Anniversary Mosaic designed by St. Peter's pupils

***Have you completed a form to
add your personal contribution to the
St Peter's Memories / Comments
Commemorative Book?***