



# St Peter's Church of England (VC) Primary School

Friday 29th September 2017

Dear Parents,

## Citizens of the Week

Congratulations to William, Jacob, Liam, Frankie, Isaac, Sophia and Ryan, who have been selected by their class teachers as our citizens of the week! We had a very enjoyable tea party yesterday, as I am sure you can see from the photograph. Well done to all of them for being chosen.



## SPSA Thank you!

I want to thank the members of the SPSA who gave up their time to make last Friday's picnic such a success. We were blessed with good weather and this, coupled with the hard work of the SPSA, made the afternoon a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. I thank them for supporting the school so well.

At every school in which I have worked, the PTFA or its equivalent has always had a small core of volunteers who give up a lot of time in order to organise events. I would ask that even if you can't commit to helping at every event, if you can ever spare some time to help the SPSA in some small way with their events, please let them know. I know that they would appreciate parents helping out whenever it is possible for them to do so.

## Head Girl and Boy

I want to congratulate Ryan and Josie, who have been elected as our Head Boy and Girl for this academic year. All the children who put themselves forward for election had to stand in front of the school during our act of worship this week and read out their statements to their fellow pupils. They were all extremely brave and all of them spoke superbly. We would have been a very fortunate school to have any one of them elected to the position. So, Ryan and Josie should feel particularly proud of their accomplishment in being voted into the positions. I look forward to working with them, and the school council, over the course of the year.



## Class Names

Don't forget that we need your ideas for class names by Monday. If you haven't already done so, but would like to volunteer some ideas for class names, have a think about it this weekend and let your teacher have your suggestions next week.

## Meet the Teacher

I want to thank the teachers for giving up their time to run the recent Meet the Teacher evenings and thank those parents who came along to them. I hope you found them useful. We will run these evenings again next September and we will endeavour to have them in our third week back at school. This time frame gives the teachers a chance to find their feet with their new classes before meeting the parents. I believe that the meetings previously took place in the transition weeks in July. However, it is problematic placing them at the

end of an academic year because if we have new teachers joining our team, they aren't able to participate.

At the Year 2 meeting, we discussed the difficulties parents have in supporting their children at home with subjects such as maths and spelling. The way we teach maths has changed out of all recognition and the letter sounds, or phonemes, which we now use in our phonics teaching are different to those used just ten years ago. In order to help you in this regard, we are very happy to run information sessions for parents in the evening, to explain in detail how we teach these subjects. Doing so will allow you to support your child in a more effective manner.

Mr Eastwood has very kindly volunteered to run an information session on the teaching of mathematics in the first instance. We would do this at 6.30pm one evening, which will give working parents a chance to attend. We need to gauge the interest in this so if you would like to attend such a session can you please contact the school office and let them know. If demand is sufficiently high, we will set a date for this and Mr Eastwood will introduce you to the wonders of primary school mathematics in 2017!

### **School Dinners**

The new trays, plates and bowls have arrived and we have begun using them instead of the flight trays. I will speak to the cook at our production kitchen in the coming weeks and confirm when she is happy to start having parents in for lunch. Once we have set the start date, we will let you have the full details and every parent should then have the opportunity to come in and eat lunch with your child before Christmas.

### **Earrings**

I am altering the school policy on earrings and participation in PE. KCC's policy is quite open and largely leaves the decision to the discretion of the Headteacher. We will have a policy of asking children to remove their earrings prior to a PE activity if they are able to do so, but for those who can't, we will cover the earrings in micro pore tape, which will prevent them being snagged and pulled out of the ear during the lesson.

However, in order to avoid the teachers having to tape up countless numbers of ears, I would ask parents to try to restrict any ear piercing to the early part of the summer holidays, so that the ear has sufficient time to recover by the start of the new academic year. This would hopefully allow the children to remove the earrings themselves prior to a PE lesson.

### **Uniform**

This week, a parent quite rightly pointed out to me that the school website contradicted what I believed to be the stated school policy with regard to bags and coats. In fact the website was out of date on a few regards concerning the uniform requirements. It has subsequently been amended.

When I first began the handover process in June/July I was told unequivocally that the uniform policy included logoed coats and bags. I asked the governors for further clarification when we met on Monday and they confirmed that the uniform included coats and bags. In light of the undoubted contradiction on the school website I will ask the governors to discuss this matter fully at our next meeting and I will then make sure that the website reflects the policy accurately and you will obviously be informed fully of what has been decided.

Best wishes



Jim Holditch  
**Headteacher**