



Established in 1856

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

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Headteacher: Mr Jim Holditch

Friday 8th September 2017

Dear Parents,

After a very full first week at St Peter's I wanted to write and formally introduce myself. I have enjoyed slowly getting to know some of you and your children, over the course of this week and I am very excited to be here and to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful school. Please forgive me if I have to ask your names three, four or five times, as it is going to take me a little while to get to know everyone. However, I hope to know the majority of the children by the time we reach Christmas.

When prospective parents visit a school of which I am Headteacher, as part of the process of selecting a school for their child to join in the Reception intake, I always advise them to visit every single school in which they are possibly interested. I make the point that schools are very different and that each has its own approach and feel. I explain that even if you know nothing about education, in just five minutes of wandering around a school, you will pick up on whether it is happy, friendly and whether there is a good relationship between staff and between staff and pupils. You just know whether a school feels right.

I visited St Peter's, after the Headteacher vacancy was first advertised last Spring. I knew within minutes that I really wanted to join you and become the school's Headteacher. There is a magic to this school. Increasingly schools are growing in size and many, unfortunately, are becoming educational factories. St Peter's still feels like a family where children are valued and safe and where the staff work hard to protect the special ethos which exists here. I promise that I will do all that I can to lead the school over the next ten years or so, and build on the many strengths which already exist at this school, whilst protecting the magic which St Peter's has.

I will be writing to you quite regularly over the course of this first term, as I tweak things about the school and inform you of such. I want to try to keep you as informed as possible about what is happening in our school. But if you wish to ask me anything, please do so. Apart from when I am in meetings, I will be at the gate every morning and every afternoon. If you wish to discuss anything with me, please do, and if either Wasps or QPR have won at the weekend, you will probably find me with a large smile on my face.

Year 6 Meeting

Parents in Year 6 should have received a message that I am holding an information session for them on Thursday 21st September at 6.30. I will go through the procedure by which you apply for a place at secondary school, so that you understand exactly how to complete the Common Application Form (CAF). Please come along if you feel it would be of benefit to you.

Citizens' Tea Party

In the coming weeks, we will start a citizen of the week tea party. The teachers will each pick one child to be a citizen of the week. They might be selected because they have been kind, they have worked hard, or for any reason. The children will come to my room on a Friday afternoon and we will have biscuits and squash, and each child will get a special sticker. This will give me a chance to get to know each of the children and it is another way for us to celebrate what they have achieved.

Conkers

We are now approaching conker season. I will be on the playground during break times, with my own specially selected conkers. I promise that there is no vinegar involved! If any child wants to play conkers in the coming weeks, either against me or with their friends, get your conkers, have someone at home thread a string through for you, and bring them in.

I will write to you all again next week, with information about how we plan to develop our school and build on the superb work which the staff and governors have already done here.

Best wishes

Jim Holditch
Headteacher