



Established in 1856

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

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Headteacher: Mr Jim Holditch

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Parents,

We are entering the final two terms of this academic year. The time has flown past and it does not seem like 8 months since I first stood at the gate and welcomed you all into the school. I love being at St Peter's and being able to work with the very special group of children we have here. I look forward to playing my part in developing the school to the very optimum over the next ten years or so. I have never worked with a better team than we have here. I can tell you that they love their school and work far beyond their paid hours to do their best for the children. This is mirrored by the school's governing body who are determined to ensure that they develop their practice so that the strategic management of the school is the very best it can be.

I have also enjoyed getting to know an increasing number of you to a greater degree as the year has progressed. It has been a pleasure to chat to you at the gate and at the various events, which you have attended. It is readily apparent that a great many of you made a very conscious decision that you wished your child to attend a small, village school, precisely because of the family atmosphere that exists at schools like St Peter's. It is also very apparent that you care for this school and want to play your part in helping to develop it as fully as possible. I thank you all for that and for the great many positive conversations and examples of help, which you have given to us, from helping with trips and running clubs, to listening to readers. Thank you.

I also fully appreciate that our school has had an almost constant change of Headteachers over the past 5 years. Parents have not been able to develop a real relationship with those who have led the school because to do so requires time, and no one has stayed long enough for that to happen. The governors have also discussed the fact that they have not possibly had as high a profile with the parent body as they might wish. We want to change this, but to do so requires that both parents and the school behave according to a set of values. There must be mutual respect on both sides. For my part, if my staff or I ever make a mistake I will always admit to that, apologise, and work to put right whatever error has occurred. We are human. I can assure you that the staff here are extremely conscientious and skilled, but that does not mean we will not make mistakes at times. If we do, please just tell us, I promise that I will never try to deny something that I know we have done wrong.

On the other side, I ask that if you have a grievance with us, please raise it in an acceptable manner. Talk to us. You have various lines of communication open to you. I am on the playground twice a day and whilst the teachers are understandably busy at the beginning of the school day, they are available to you most days at 3pm. If you prefer, you can telephone, write or email. If you have a problem with anything that has happened at school, please communicate with us. We cannot put something right if you do not make us aware of it. However, I would ask that the tone of communication is acceptable. We are not an enemy. If you have a grievance, talk to us about it in a rational manner. For the good of our children, it is essential that parents and teachers maintain a mutually respectful and productive relationship. If that disappears to any great degree and parents end up in continual conflict with a school, then it is almost untenable for a child to remain there.

Hence, I must ask that you raise issues in an acceptable manner. Just as I will readily admit our error if my staff or I are in the wrong, I will resist parents whom simply wish to upset or undermine my colleagues and act in an unacceptable manner.

I have never before worked in a church school. I made a conscious decision that I wished to do so after experiencing the atmosphere which existed in church schools run by colleagues. Having worked here for 8 months, and having attended a large number of meetings with the education team at the Rochester Diocese, I just wish I had made the move before. The Diocese have the well-being of the child as their core



aim. Their goal of treating children with respect is one that we should share as adults. I would ask that we work together, with mutual respect in all of our communications, to the benefit of all of us.

Below, you will find the ethos and vision which together the staff and governors have devised for St Peter's. It is explicit on our website. I feel that it provides a template for education that we need to mirror in the wider life of the school.

### **Ethos**

The goal of everyone at Saint Peter's Church of England Primary School is to provide our children with a wide and fully rounded education, which enables them to develop not only academically, but also socially, emotionally, morally and spiritually. We want our children to leave us as confident, well rounded and happy individuals, who not only feel valued, but who also value both themselves and others.

### **Our Vision for Education**

The education we aspire to provide to our children, is one which will allow them to become the adults we aspire for them to be.

It is imperative that our children receive a robust academic education, which will allow them to succeed in their chosen fields. However, it is equally important that their education also develops in them the values and character traits which will allow them to succeed as people.

We want to so educate our children that they are able to flourish both whilst at our school and in the years to come. We want to provide them with an education which will prepare them for their future. Jesus said; 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full' John 10:10. We want to educate our children that they may enjoy life in all its fullness.

### **Our School Values**

We have identified six core values which we will promote in order to develop the character of conscience of our children. These values, which are Hope, Respect, Faith, Love, Forgiveness and Perseverance, are not only discussed during lessons in class, but also form the basis for some of our daily acts of worship. In addition, we may discuss these values when addressing instances of poor behaviour or when praising good behaviour. We aim to reinforce and promote these core values during the course of our teaching at St Peter's.

The Church of England have produced a Vision for Education and within it, have identified four strands which they feel should be promoted during the course of a child's education. These are Community, Dignity, Hope and Wisdom. This academic year, we are particularly focussing on Community as we build our school community after a period of change.

Best wishes



Jim Holditch  
**Headteacher**