



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

Mount Pleasant, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BE

Newsletter

February 2018

Mrs Baker

I am very sorry to have to say that Mrs Baker is leaving us at the end of next week. She has been at this school for over 20 years and has worked tirelessly to support the needs of the many hundreds of pupils who have passed through her care. Her gentle and encouraging manner will be sorely missed and it is a loss that no more of our pupils will benefit from working with her.

Mrs Baker is leaving us to begin a new chapter of her life with a long anticipated move to Suffolk. The machinations of such a large change in her life have finally fallen into place and she can look forward to enjoying a well earned retirement in a new location. However, she has agreed to come into school for the final day of this term so that we can say goodbye to her properly and thank her in an apt manner. If you wish to send her any farewell cards, please feel free to do so, via the school office and we will do all that we can to make sure her send off is fitting for someone who has given so much to the school.

Forthcoming Written Reports and Parents' Evenings

We are altering the timing of our main written reports. Traditionally, schools send the main report to parents at the end of the school year. However, I have always felt that this negates the usefulness of them. There is no real value in waiting until June to provide you with the most detailed breakdown of what your child can do, where they struggle and, most importantly, what they need to work on in order to improve further. The year is over and the report is a dead document so to speak. Consequently, I am moving the main report to this term.

We will send you the main report on Friday 9th March. The teachers will detail what your child has achieved so far this academic year and identify what your child needs to do to maximise progress across the remainder of the year. Doing so at this juncture provides us with two full terms to work together to try to maximise the children's progress as much as possible. At the end of the year, you will receive a simple report outlining the levels of attainment which the children have achieved.

You will be able to discuss this mid year report with your child's class teacher, at the parent consultations which will be held during the last week of this term. Next week we will let you know the exact dates and times of the parents' evenings. There will also be a book viewing on Thursday 15th March. You will be able to come into your child's classroom between 3-6pm to look at your child's work, which will be laid out on their desks.

Parental Lunches

I hope that those of you who have been able to join us for lunch over the past few months have enjoyed the experience. We've been all the way through the year groups now and we will begin again after the Easter break, when the caterers change to their new menu. Some parents weren't able to participate because they worked on a Thursday, hence we will now hold the parent lunches every Wednesday. We will start with Year R on Wednesday 18th April and proceed through the year groups on a weekly basis. If you wish to sign up for lunch, please let the office know.

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Unlocking the gates to lifelong learning'

SPSA and the School Library

The SPSA have been hard at work, supporting the school in every way possible. They have managed to raise a great deal of money so far this year and, having discussed with the staff how that money might best be spent, we are going to reinstall libraries within the school. I think it is a sad fact that not every school has a library in these current times. There is little more important in education than taking every opportunity to promote a love of reading within children.

We will be installing one library on the second floor of the Lodge Building. The room is currently used for small group lessons. We will install a library in such a way that the space can still be used for teaching purposes when it is needed. This library will serve the Key Stage One children and Year 6.

In the Mount Pleasant Building, we will reinstate a library into what is currently known as the Rainbow room. Again, we will do so in such a way that the room can still be used for small group removal work. We hope to start this process in the summer term so that it is finished for the start of the next academic year. Good news as we approach World Book day!

Brexit? Not at St Peter's

I have enjoyed a long standing link with two schools in Hazebrouck, Northern France. For the past 20 years I have been involved in taking children across to Hazebrouck for day trips, as well as welcoming children from the town to my own schools.

I am very glad to say that the link is continuing now with St Peter's. On the 20th April, Year 3 children from St Anne School in Hazebrouck will be visiting our own Year 3 class. The English and French children will spend the day together, getting to know one another and learning together in both French and English. I know that our children will love making friends with the French pupils.

In September we will organise the first of many day trips to Hazebrouck for our pupils. This will obviously be voluntary. I appreciate that trips overseas scare a great many parents, but we will be offering this opportunity to our younger KS2 pupils for those who wish to participate.

Residential Stays

The residential stays for Years 5 and 6 are approaching. There is a meeting in our hall at 7pm on Thursday 22nd March for the parents of those Year 5 children who are off to Kingswood. Please come along so that we can outline details of the trip to you. There is a similar meeting at 7pm on Thursday 19th April for the parents of the Year 6 children who are going to Swanage. Again, please make every effort to come along to what is an important meeting.

We have booked similar residential trips for next year and the details of these will be coming out to parents in Year 4 and 5.

Coronation Gardens

Thank you to the great many parents who have offered their services in helping to reinstate a path down the bank for Coronation Gardens. I've been inundated with offers of help, which is great. I wasn't sure how many people would be willing to give up their time to do this, so thank you to all who have offered. There have been so many people offer that can I please ask you to pass your details to the school office if you haven't already done so, or if you haven't emailed me about helping. We can then compile a list of volunteers and contact everyone to organise a date for completing the work.

New Laptops for Pupils

We are purchasing new laptops for the children to use. The current ones are old and the children's IT lessons will benefit greatly from the introduction of brand new machines. They have been ordered and should be with us and configured ready for term 5!

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Reminders!

Phonics Session—Mrs Hutchings is holding a session outlining how we teach phonics in school. This is taking place at 3.15 on Wednesday 7th March. If you would like to come along, let the office know.

Book day—The children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on World Book Day, which is Thursday 1st March. The staff are joining in too (heaven help me).

Inset days—Four inset days have been set for next year—Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September, and Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th October. There is one still to set.

Parish News



Come 4 Coffee Chat + Communion

At St Peter and St Paul's Church, Aylesford

Wednesdays from 8.45am

(starting Wednesday 21st February)

After the school run...

Why not enjoy a coffee, croissant and a chat
followed by a "Thought for the Day"
and a simple Communion Service for those who wish to stay

Friendly and relaxed

With colouring activities for younger children

All Welcome

