



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

Mount Pleasant, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BE

### Newsletter

July 2018

#### Year 5 Staff Change

I'm pleased to be able to inform you that Miss Vicky McCrann is returning to our teaching staff. Miss McCrann taught Year 5 here for a number of years but left 3 years ago during Mrs Craig's tenure. In the intervening period, she has married and is now Mrs Francis. When she left us, her place was taken by Mrs Shemilt who has taught Year 5 since then. In a reversal, Mrs Shemilt will be leaving us in July to take up a position in VIAT. We wish her every success in her role and thank her for her hard work during her time at St Peter's. Her SEN duties have already been taken over by Mrs Oag, who joined us some months ago, and we will now have a transition process involving Mrs Francis and Mrs Cavender to ensure that she is fully aware of the needs of the current Year 4 class. The parents of Year 4 will be getting a separate letter outlining this. Good luck in your new venture Mrs Shemilt and welcome back Mrs Francis.

#### Tennis

You may be aware that all schools currently receive additional funding to promote the high quality teaching of sports within the curriculum. The government wants to improve the quality of PE teaching and increase the participation rates of children in all forms of physical activity both in and out of school. As a PE specialist myself I fully support this. It can be difficult for primary school teachers to be sufficiently adept at the specialist areas of the curriculum, such as music, PE, art, and languages to deliver these areas as expertly as would be wanted.

As of September, we will have professional tennis coaches from the Kings Hill Tennis Club coming in every Wednesday to deliver lessons to all of the children from Year 1 upwards. They will also run a short early morning club before school starts and this will be aimed at our younger children, and also develop a school team which will compete locally.

Separately, we are also meeting with the Diocese next week as we wish to develop the main playground as a sports surface, with a new sports tarmac surface if possible and netting to surround the area and prevent balls being hit out of the school grounds. If we are able to finalise the details we hope that the work will be completed this summer. The main tarmacked areas of the school will be re-skimmed in any eventuality and once we return in September we will ask the children what play time games they would like marked on the new surfaces.

#### Creative Homework

A reminder that any children who wish to submit something for our first ever round of creative homework, only have until Tuesday to do it. I am going to ask the teachers to review the homework in their classes on Tuesday afternoon, so if you are putting the finishing touches to something, you only have the weekend to get it finished!

## **Sports Day**

I hope you all enjoyed the new sports day. I want to thank all of the adults who volunteered to help us run the event. A great many governors and part time staff gave up their own time, and some even took time off work to help us to manage the morning. I really appreciate all of their efforts.

I thought the morning was excellent and the children behaved impeccably. I particularly want to single out the Year 6 children, who looked after the younger members of their teams superbly well. The Round Robin element allows you to watch all of your children compete for an extended period, and it also means that those children who absolutely detest playing sports are able to participate without feeling that everyone is watching them in the way which occurs in the flat races. We didn't know how long the competition would take. Next year we will use the additional time to increase the size of the Round Robin element and we will add in one additional voluntary flat race for each class, so that those who wish to race, can do so. Also we'll see if any parent can beat Mrs Larcombe and Mr Mills in the parents' race!

However, next year will also differ in that we will be introducing a 'sports week'. Apart from the changes I have just outlined, our sports day will stay as it is, but during the week we will have intra-mural competitions in netball, tennis, tag rugby and football, so the whole event will be much bigger. The Year 6 house captains will help to manage their teams in these events. Will anyone beat Cossington?

## **Leavers' Service**

A reminder that the Year 6 Leavers Service takes place in the church at 1pm on Tuesday 24th July, the final day of the school year. We are inviting the parents of the Year 6 children to linger at the end of the school day as we will provide some refreshments for you and the Year 6 children. This will be in the school hall. Hopefully this will give you a final chance to chat to people before many of you say goodbye to St Peter's for the final time.

Can I please ask that everyone who comes in to the church remembers that it is a place of worship. After our last school service I had to collect up take away coffee cups and sandwich wrappers which parents had left in there. Whilst it is fine to drink a coffee when waiting for a show to begin in the Village Hall, we really shouldn't be bringing take away food and drink into the church.

## **Residential Stays for 2019**

We are liaising with Carroty Wood about the possibility of moving the Year 6 residential trip there instead of returning to Swanage. Both centres offer very similar experiences, with high ropes, climbing, abseiling, kayaking etc, but obviously Carroty wood is much closer and it would be possible for parents to drop children at the centre on the Monday and collect them on the Friday. This would shave nearly £900 off the overall cost of the trip, which is a considerable saving. We will keep you posted!

It is highly likely that the Year 5 residential will remain at Kingswood next year, in a very similar format to this year. Dates and prices will come out in September.

There wasn't a great deal of interest in the proposal for Year 4 to have a two night stay at Carroty Wood next year, so we will concentrate on the day trip to Hazebrouck.

But, current Year 4, please don't forget that we are camping out in Coronation gardens on Friday. You watch the thunderstorms arrive.

There will be a second newsletter coming out next week.

Best wishes      Jim Holditch