



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

Mount Pleasant, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BE

# Newsletter

## June 2018

### Year 2 SATs and Year 1 Phonics

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SATs are over! Year 2 have completed their SAT tests and Year 1 their phonics assessments. I want to thank all of the teachers and teaching assistants who have been involved in making sure that all of the tests were administered so fairly, rigorously and professionally this year. Unfortunately some Headteachers do succumb to the quite immense pressure which is placed on them to record the best results possible and this can result in anything from the children themselves being put under quite considerable pressure to perform, to actual instances of the data being manipulated. I have enjoyed working with our team here to ensure that the children have been encouraged to do their absolute best, without being put under any pressure. Well done to all involved and well done to the children.

### Swanage Survived

Year 6 had a fantastic week in Swanage. We were extremely fortunate to have some mild, dry weather, which meant we didn't suffer as we kayaked, climbed trapeze, negotiated low ropes and started camp fires with flints. It was a really good week and the children should be congratulated on how well they coped with all of the different challenges which were thrown at them. However, whilst Year 5 had what I thought were serious water pistols, some of Year 6 had what appeared to be Gatling guns. Kent Fire Brigade couldn't have got me wetter. Thank you to Mrs Woods and Mrs Kubitschek for giving up their week to accompany the children and to Mrs Atkinson for organising the whole stay so efficiently.

### Future Residential Trips

We had already pre-booked the Kingswood centre for Year 5 and Swanage for Year 6 for the coming academic year, so we definitely have residential trips happening for these year groups. However we are also looking at alternative venues to these which might offer the same experiences but with better facilities at cheaper prices. We will keep parents posted on any developments. Year 3 parents should also have had a letter asking whether they are interested in having a residential stay. If you haven't received this, please let us know.

### Sports Day

A reminder that Sports Day is next Thursday morning. Can I ask that the children come to school dressed in their PE kits –which we will send home on Wednesday. **Can they please have sun hats, full water bottles and be liberally coated with sun cream.** The children will be registered at school as usual and we will then walk down to the Rec. We hope to start the activities soon after 9.15am. We aim to finish around 12pm, in time to walk back to school for lunch. Parents are encouraged to come along in the morning to support their children if they can, but once the activities are finished, we will be going back to school for a normal lunchtime and afternoon. There is a flyer coming out with this newsletter which outlines more details for you.

## Green Day

I'd like to thank Mrs Donlon for all of her hard work in organising last week's Green Day. It was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by the children. In addition to organising the Green Day, Mrs Donlon has also run our weekly eco club, and she and the children who attend the club have worked really hard to make the school grounds as attractive as possible. Thank you Mrs Donlon!

## Sweets in School

At the recent parents' forum we had a discussion about the amount of sweets, chocolate etc. that children eat, and the national problem of rising obesity rates amongst children. I can assure you that the government has long set very exacting requirements about the levels of sugar and salt in the school dinners which are provided to the children, and the meals are very healthy. But as a school it is quite right that we should look at how we encourage healthy eating and consequently we are making a couple of changes as from September.

Firstly, for my weekly citizen's tea party, we will continue to have squash to drink but I will replace the usual biscuits with healthier options. They will still be a treat, but McVities won't be doing as well out of me as they are at present.

Secondly, we ask that parents no longer send sweets in for classmates when a child has a birthday. Not everyone does this, but quite a number do and the point was made at our meeting that this isn't to every parents' wishes, but that it is difficult to tell your own child that you don't want them to eat sweets when all of their classmates are doing so. Hence we ask that if you wish to celebrate your child's birthday with classmates, you either send in a healthy option such as a small piece of fruit, or you do what a number of other schools already do and make a gift to the school library of an old, favourite book. The idea is that children may wish to donate a book which they no longer read, but which was previously a favourite. They can inscribe the front leaf with their name and a message about donating it on their birthday.

## Coronation Gardens' Path

We had a very successful day clearing the path in Coronation Gardens. Mr Braese kindly took photographs to record the work, a couple of which are shown below, and far more importantly kept us well supplied with water, potato salad and German sausage. Mr and Mrs Stirling, Mr Dorey and I managed to clear the majority of the path, although it needs some more work at it's very end. However, Mr Stevens has kindly sourced some materials which we can use to both install a handrail and to make the end of the path safe and secure. We hope to finish the path with one more session. This is going to be on Sunday 15th July. Anyone who can come along and help would be very welcome!



## Parish News

Reverend Hall has given us two flyers which were email out this week. They outline what is going on in the parish, so please have a look and get involved if you can. Our choir will be singing in the church this Sunday evening when the service will be conducted by the Bishop of Rochester. Please come along if you are free.