



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

Mount Pleasant, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BE

Newsletter

March 2018

Mrs Baker

Mrs Baker came back into school today to say goodbye to the children. It is an emotional day for her, leaving St Peter's after 20 years of dedicated service. However, her long anticipated house move has come to fruition and she will soon leave Kent to start the next chapter of her life. We wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs Shemilt

Mrs Shemilt took over the SENCo duties when Miss Henning relinquished them in March 2017. She has worked extremely hard to complete what is an increasingly onerous task in any primary school. The SENCo role has grown to the point that it is impossible for a class teacher to adequately complete the myriad of tasks required, without allowing it to impinge on their class commitments and their teaching.

Mrs Shemilt and I discussed this some weeks ago and she asked to relinquish the SENCo role here in order to focus solely on being the Year 5 class teacher. Hence we have completed a recruitment process and I am pleased to say that Mrs Victoria Oag will be joining St Peter's, to work part time one day a week, solely as our SENCo. Mrs Shemilt will remain as the Year 5 teacher and Mrs Oag will take over the SENCo duties. Mrs Oag is an experienced SENCo and already completes this specialist role part time in Bidborough Primary School. She will continue to work there, as well as joining us.

Mrs Oag will take up her post at the start of term 5. She will be writing to the parents of our SEN children as a way of introducing herself and outlining how we will now operate, having a part-time SENCo. I know that her priority will be to get to know our SEN children, their needs and how they are being met, and to meet the parents of these children in order to foster a relationship with them. I would like to welcome her to the staff team here. I also want to thank Mrs Shemilt for all of her considerable hard work in completing the 'dual roles' of class teacher and part time SENCo for the past year, which is a considerable work load.

School Library

The staff have debated how best to reinstate the school library and we have decided to abandon the idea of having two separate libraries, one in each of the buildings, as we didn't feel this would give us what we really needed. Space is always at a premium at St Peter's and we are continually having to find ways of making sure that we can deliver the best possible education to our children within the confines of such a small school. Hence, we have decided to convert the rainbow room into the school library. This is obviously a bigger room and it will allow us to have an extensive library at St Peter's, as should be the case in every primary school.

The After School Club use the room at present, but we will relocate them to the school hall. From September, a large part of their activities will take place in the school hall although they will still use the nursery facility as well.

English and the promotion of reading and writing will be a focus for us as we begin the new academic year in September. Having a large library is fundamental in my view, if we are to promote the importance of literature to our children.

We intend to have a theme in the library and to decorate it accordingly. If any parents are, or know of a suitably talented artist, who can turn their hand to murals, then please get in touch with us. My vote is for a pirate ship with accompanying desert island scenery, but Mrs Cavender, who coordinates English at St Peter's, may have other ideas! Again, I want to thank the SPSA for funding this development. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated group of parents who support the school in such an important way.

Playground

Next term we also have three contractors visiting the school to discuss how we can improve the playground. They will put their ideas to us and members of the school council so that we can consider them and decide what we would like to have installed. We will renew the markings, but we have sufficient money saved to be able to install some suitable exciting activity areas on the lower playground—although the water slide which the school council have asked for may be a step too far.

We have saved money by altering how we spend our Sports Allocation. This is money we receive from the government which is aimed at increasing the physical activity of pupils. We aren't employing the cycling trainers in Year 5 this year, and this has saved quite a considerable amount of money which we can use to redevelop the playground.

However, Year 5 will have cycling training this year as we have booked bikeability to come in at the end of term 6 to run their course for us. This is far better value for money but will also teach the children how to stay safe on the roads.

Whole School Easter Homework

We are inviting all the children to design their ideal playground. Their ideas will be presented to companies who will be coming to view the playground and help to develop it. Ideas can be drawings/plans/3D models, anything they like. This links in with Unicef, Article 31, Leisure, play and culture.

France

On 20th April, Year 3 will welcome their visitors from l'école Saint Anne in Hazebrouck. Year 3 children from Saint Anne Primary will travel across the Channel to join us for the day. This is a link which I have brought with me from my previous school. I have no doubt that our children will have a very exciting time, getting to know their new French friends.

Parents of our Year 3 children will be getting a letter early next term, because Saint Anne have asked whether we would like to visit them in June. This exchange of visits is something which I have done for the past 20 years and hence I know just how much the children get out of the day. I will write with the details next term.

Dinners—Changes

I would like to welcome one of our parents, Mrs Butler, to our dinner service team! Mrs Butler joined the school a few weeks ago, after our existing serving staff left. Mrs Butler is taking a lead in serving the children at lunchtime, assisted by one of Caterlink's existing members of staff, Mrs Daniels. We welcome her to the school and thank her for the smile she is bringing to the children's faces as they collect their lunch.