



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

Mount Pleasant, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BE

### Newsletter

May 2018

#### SATs

I want to congratulate all of the Year 6 children, who have now completed their SATs exams! They did it with a smile on their faces and I am pleased to say there were no tears or fears. I think Mr Eastwood and Mrs Goemans deserve a great deal of credit for their hard work in that department. There was a party atmosphere at breakfast each morning and the idea of daubing war paint on the children's faces as they went into the tests was superb. I thank them for making the whole thing as relaxed as possible for the children, and also thank Mrs Roberts and Mrs Etherington for giving up their time to help produce the breakfasts for Year 6.

#### Thank you Kingswood

Year 5 enjoyed a superb two night stay at Kingswood last week. Their behaviour was good and it was a pleasure to be with them. I wish you could have seen how brave they were as they climbed 60 feet up onto balance boards and jumped off parachute trainers. For some of the children, this was really frightening and yet they all at least had a go. They were extremely brave and some of them actually stood on top of 60 foot structures - and danced! If you've got to floss, you've got to floss. Luckily Mrs Shemilt and I just had to cheer them on from below and didn't have to emulate them. I thank Mrs Shemilt for giving up her time to lead the trip and Mrs Atkinson in the office for making it all run smoothly.

#### Swanage awaits!

When we return from the half term break, Year 6 will be winging their way to Swanage for their week long residential. I, Mrs Wood and one of our governors, Mrs Kubitschek, will be going along with them. I will let you know how we get along on our return. But if the Year 5 residential taught me anything, it's that water pistol technology has moved along considerably since I last purchased mine. I will be trading up in that department and looking forward to a water fight.

#### Lateness

I was a little shocked when Mrs Moisan told me that we had 40 children who were regularly late for school (not in class by the time the register closes). I discussed this with both her and with the teachers, and we have realised that in addition to having a considerable number of children who arrive after the gates close at 8.40am, we also have a number who make it onto the site just as we close the gate. However, they then dawdle to class, sometimes taking an age to hang their coats and bags up. Hence, they also miss the register.

This is a considerable problem in terms of safety. If the children are on site at just gone 8.40 but not registered, and we then have a fire, we won't have an accurate record of which children need to be accounted for. **Please realise that school starts at 8.40am.** Hence, you really need your child to be coming through our gate with 3-4 minutes to spare in order to get to class and hang their bags up. The teachers have an open register and the children are marked as present as they turn up in the mornings. Teachers call the final register at 8.40 when the school day starts. The children then line up at their doors to go to the hall for the act of worship, which commences promptly at 8:45am. We need to have the children in their classes and ready by 8.40am.

We are introducing a new system as from the beginning of term 6. We will close the gate very promptly at 8.40am. Any children who make it onto the site just before 8.40 will be hurried to get to class. Those who arrive as we close the gate, and obviously those who arrive after 8.40, will be recorded as late. We will have a TA at the gate taking the names of the children who are late.

At present, those children who arrive late then come into the hall, often after the act of worship has started. This is very disruptive, particularly as we start with a moment of prayer and reflection. Hence, as from term 6, those children who arrive at or after 8.40am will go straight to the library/Rainbow room, where they will be supervised whilst they complete bible studies which relate to the act of worship going on in the hall. This will mean they still start the day with a period of calm reflection without having to disturb the act of worship once it has started.

### **Bikeability**

Year 5's Bikeability course will take place the week of 16th July. Parents should have received the permission forms to complete in order for your child to take part. Please return these to the school office.

### **Sports day**

We are currently drawing up the details for our sports day. It will involve two separate halves, with the first being a round robin type affair which will allow parents to watch their children complete in 6 different activities. We will put siblings together as much as is possible, so that parents don't have to be in two places at once. The second half will involve the traditional flat races. Hopefully this format will allow greater participation on the part of the children and allow you to see them compete in more events. We will give you the details early next term.

### **Library**

We have taken delivery of many hundreds of new books which will go into the library, and we are in the process of ordering book cases and furniture for the room. We are also commissioning an artist to decorate at least one of the large walls with a suitable mural. The After School Club will be moving into the hall over the course of term 6 and the library will then be installed in the Rainbow room at the very end of the academic year, and no doubt, over the summer holiday. We will have a formal opening when we return in September and I will ask members of the SPSA to do the honours as they who have raised the money for this much needed addition to our school.

### **Reverend Hall**

You may already know that Reverend Hall is leaving us in July. This is sad news and we will all be very sorry to see him go. He will be around as we approach the end of our school year, but unfortunately he will already have left by the time we have our Year 6 Leaver's service in the church on the 24th July. It is a shame he won't be there on this final day, but we will make sure that we give him a fond farewell at school in his final weeks.

### **Value for term 6—Perseverance**

As we end term 5, we leave the value of forgiveness and focus on that of perseverance instead. If you wish to discuss the meaning of perseverance with your child over the coming weeks, that would be most useful; and remember that the homework project for term 6 focusses on perseverance—in whichever way you choose!

### **Thought for the Week**

Some of our older children may like to research the words shown below, to find out where they come from and to decide how they relate to perseverance.

To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.