



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

Mount Pleasant, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BE

Newsletter

18th October 2017

Citizens of the Week!

Congratulations to Lexi, Pandora, Jenson, Amelie, Barney, Chloe and Hannah who are this week's Citizens of the week! I wasn't free to have the tea party last Friday, so we met on Monday afternoon for juice and biscuits. We had a very enjoyable discussion on swimming, ballet and how awful it is being made to watch Strictly Come Dancing. It was a fun half hour. Congratulations to all of the children who have been selected as citizens over the course of this half term. You should feel very proud of yourselves.

School News

Celebration Assembly

Last week, Emily in Class 1 showed us her certificate for swimming 100 metres. As someone who isn't a particularly strong swimmer, I am always impressed by those who excel at swimming anyway, but given that Emily is only 5 years old, her achievement is even more impressive. Well done Emily!

House Captains

A few weeks ago, we voted for our House Captains and Vice Captains. I am very pleased to let you know that Oscar H and Neve have been voted into the positions for Cossington House; Jake and Kirsty have been voted in for Medway; Molly and Amelia for Friars, and Eden and Amber for Kewlands. Well done to all of them. We have ordered appropriate badges for them to wear and hopefully they will arrive at the start of next term. The Captains and Vice Captains will take a lead with their houses when we organise intramural competitions.

After half term, we are initiating a house point system in the place of Good to be Green which we used previously. Teachers will award the children house points when they work hard, are kind to one another etc, and we will total them up each week to find a winner. At the end of each term the winning house will get a prize.

School Uniform

The school's Governing Body discussed the uniform policy at their last meeting and confirmed that logoed coats and bags are a required part of the uniform. The school website has been updated to reflect this. I will be sending home a complete uniform list so that there can be no confusion about the requirements.

However, we appreciate that a school bag and coat are an additional expense for parents, on top of what would usually be considered school uniform. I fully support the concept of uniform as it hides any obvious distinctions between the financial circumstances

of our children's families. Uniform means that children aren't wearing 'labels' and comparing clothes. I grew up in a one parent family and am only too aware of what it feels like to know that others have more than you. I don't want there to be any obvious distinctions which identify those children from more straightened circumstances. Consequently, we have altered our policy so that children can not wear coats or have bags without the logo. I don't want some children to have these items whilst others don't.

However, a school bag and coat are an additional expense for parents and consequently we will provide financial support to those of you who are in receipt of free school meals, to ensure that your child is supplied with a coat and bag. Please contact us by email, phone, or pop into the office in person if your child is in receipt of FSM and needs to renew their coat and/or bag, and we will sort this out for you.

In addition, we have an obligation to ensure that our uniform suppliers offer the best value for money to all of our parents. Consequently, we will be completing a further tendering process to ensure that the uniform is supplied to you at the best cost/quality available. This will be completed next term. In the meantime, some parents have told me that there have been issues with our uniform suppliers and that orders have been delayed. We will be speaking to the suppliers to address this.

Writing Wall

During our Act of Worship last week, we all enjoyed listening to a section of an amazing story which had been written by Amber in Year 6. She is a very talented writer and her story had the children gripped as they listened to it. I want everyone to enjoy the experiences of reading good stories and watching good drama. We need to stoke the imaginations of our children to provide them with the creativity required to write stories and poems. If we are going to develop good writers, we need our children to be good speakers. If they can't tell a story, using inflection and a wide vocabulary, then they won't be able to write and in order to develop their creativity in this regard, we have to introduce them to good writing and drama in every form.

Mrs Stone has very kindly prepared a display board at the back of the hall for me. I am going to use it to display the best writing produced by the children. When I read a good piece of writing, I will take a copy and put it up on the display board. Parents, please pop into the hall whenever you can and look at the board. Have a look at the quality of our children's writing. You can't miss the board—it's backed with blue and white hoops.

To fill the board initially, I have asked the teachers to write a piece about their favourite book or film. They are going to do this over the half term and we will put their work up when we come back for term 2. Then, as I read more pieces of the children's work, we will replace the teachers' pieces with theirs.

Community Goal

The Church of England's new framework vision for education identifies four key strands on which we should focus as a school. These are Community, Dignity, Hope and Wisdom. We have decided to focus on Community during this academic year. I know that our school has suffered from a lack of continuity in recent years. At our tea party this week, I was chatting to the children about their experiences of the school and for the oldest of them, I am the fifth Headteacher they have had since joining St Peter's. It goes without saying that it is very difficult to truly build a

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community unless we have stability within our school. But we have that now and I want to build a feeling that we have a community at St Peter's, where we all work together for the good of the children and each other. We are currently drawing up our School Development Plan for this academic year and we will identify what steps we can take to try to develop our community as fully as possible.

French Club

We have a native French speaker who is offering to run a French language club for children in Years R-3, during the lunch break once a week. The club would last for approximately 30 minutes and the children would learn the language through learning nursery rhymes, singing songs etc. Madame Maurez has worked with me before as a Teaching Assistant in my previous school. She is preparing a leaflet which I will send out to you next term. There will be a charge for the club, which I believe will be approximately £3 per session. The club will be limited to a relatively small number, so if you wish your child to take part in the club, please email the office and let us know.

School Dinners

We are going to start having parents in for lunch on the second week of next term. On Thursday 9th November, parents from Year R will have the chance to join us for lunch. Whether your child has packed lunch or school dinner, you can come in, have a school dinner and sit with your child.

If any parents from Year R would like to do this, please let us know by Wednesday 1st November. Our meals are cooked at Ditton Primary School and the cook needs to have sufficient notice to order the correct amount of food for the following week. If you wish to join your child for lunch, let the office know please and if you are vegetarian or have any special dietary requirements, please tell us so that the cook can accommodate your needs.

Parents in Year 1 can join us on Thursday 16th November and each subsequent Thursday will be open to a different year group in ascending order. Parents in Year 1 must tell us whether they would like to come in for lunch by Wednesday 8th November.

Parish News

Sunday Church Service

The Sunday community service was a great success and it was lovely to hear from so many members of the Aylesford community. Reverend Hall did a wonderful job in organising a service which pulled together many different members of the community. Six members of the school choir sang two songs, under the expert guidance of Mr Kitching and they were simply superb. It was a joy to listen to their singing. Thank you to all of the choir, Mr Kitching, Reverend Hall and every member of the Aylesford community who contributed to a wonderful service.

Thought for the week

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

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