



Established in 1856

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

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Headteacher: Mr Jim Holditch

Monday 20th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid Update

Whilst we still have just two confirmed cases of Covid amongst our children, an ever growing number are displaying symptoms. When a child has one of the three accepted symptoms, we ask that you keep them off school and complete a PCR test – not a lateral flow - and we now ask that *you send us or show us the negative result of the PCR test before the child returns to school*. If we send your child home because they are displaying symptoms, please do not send your child back to school without first providing us with proof that they have tested negative on a PCR test.

I know of other primary schools with increasing numbers of positive cases amongst their pupil populations. One school I know of has ten confirmed cases in one class. It is very likely that we have a number of children here who are also positive but displaying no symptoms. As in November of last year, we may not become fully aware of the extent of the transmission until adults contract the virus and display symptoms.

I thank you for complying with my request to wear masks when coming onto the site. I asked that in an attempt to prevent the virus from coming into the school. However, we are now dispensing with this requirement, as the virus is undoubtedly within our school community. We are now accepting that the virus is here and that it will spread within the school. Our focus has switched to planning for that reality rather than on the previous priority of preventing transmission.

Please feel free to wear a mask when on site if you so wish, but it is entirely your choice whether you do so. I would just warn you that it is likely that there will be others on our playground who are carrying the virus. We will continue to update you when we know of other positive cases amongst our pupil body.

Phonics and Maths Sessions

In the dim and distant past, our teachers delivered information sessions for parents, when they explained how we taught phonics and mathematics. Mrs Stone ran an after school session for phonics and Mr Eastwood likewise for maths. It is very difficult for parents to fully support children in these two subject areas when they bring work home, as current teaching is very different to how many of you were taught at school. The sounds of the letters – or phonemes as they are known – have changed entirely, and our maths mastery approach is based on developing understanding as opposed to learning a rote method of solving problems. You may well be confused by what your children are doing in either sounding out words or completing mathematical problems.



If you would like to take part in information sessions, which may be real or via zoom – we haven't yet decided, please contact the school office to let us know. If sufficient numbers of people are interested, we are happy to run 30-50 minute tutorials on how we teach these subject areas.

Open Lessons

We have also discussed re-introducing Open Lessons, when we invite small numbers of parents to visit the classes, to watch English or mathematics being taught. This will give you an appreciation of how we work and consequently how you might best support your child at home. Again, this is particularly relevant in the two core subject areas.

We have no details yet as to how and when we might offer this opportunity, but again, if you are interested in visiting a class to see these subjects taught, please email the office and let us know.

Open Classroom – This Wednesday

Wednesday is Open Afternoon when you can visit your child's classroom. You are able to do so from 3pm until 5pm. Teachers aren't available for a consultation. This is simply a chance for you to come into the classroom to look around and to view your child's work which will be out on their desk. Your children are very welcome to accompany you in order to show you round their room.

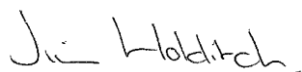
Water Leak

We will be contacting the Water Board again to insist that they take immediate action to address the water leak running down Mount Pleasant. We appreciate that they have to close the road which will affect residents, but obviously this situation can't continue.

Individual/Sibling Photographs

A last reminder that we have photographs being taken tomorrow in school, so buff those children to a high sheen and an extra ten minutes on the hair tomorrow morning.

Best wishes



Jim Holditch