



Established in 1856

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

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Headteacher: Mr Jim Holditch

Thursday 23rd September 2021

Dear Parents

Covid Update

We have no further cases of Covid amongst pupils or parents as far as we are aware. I do know of other local schools where the number of cases is rising very dramatically. So, we seem very fortunate at the moment and we can only hope that we make it to the half term break without a significant outbreak here.

Recovery Plan

As I reported to you last year, the DfE have tasked schools with finding quite individual solutions to ensure that our children make up for the learning lost during the pandemic. The DfE have directed schools to address any gaps in learning whilst also delivering a broad curriculum.

We obviously wish to bring the children's attainment levels in English and mathematics back up to the standard which would be expected for them. Our goal is to do so by the end of this current academic year. This is obviously dependent on there being no further school closures or disruption.

We can't magic extra hours into the day, nor weeks into the year. Hence, we need to devote more of our existing time to the delivery of these core subjects. Consequently we are going to trim our curriculum in order to deliver additional lessons in English and mathematics over the course of each week.

The teachers will allot additional time as they see fit. We can't so overburden the children with English and maths that they become bored of school. Hence the teachers will trim time from the other subjects as they see fit, and use it to deliver targeted lessons to cover whatever areas of the core curriculum either haven't been delivered, or where we find the children have gaps in their understanding. In some cases, this may involve only certain children having additional lessons in English and mathematics. We will employ a targeted approach to the additional provision if needed.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Another aspect of our catch up plan will be the targeted use of extra-curricular clubs. We won't deliver any of our usual sport/art clubs until the Spring. We will use these next five months or so to deliver focussed additional provision in English and maths, to particular ability groups of children. This will complement what we are delivering during lesson time.



We are now reviewing our data, to identify pupils of similar ability, or who have similar gaps in their learning, whom we can support outside of school to complement the targeted provision which is taking place in lesson time. Generally the booster clubs will run once a week, after school, although some teachers are going to timetable catch up sessions before school starts and these may occur more than once a week. Between now and Christmas, our focus will be English. After Christmas, we will deliver mathematics.

Teachers will shortly be contacting some of you to invite your child to participate in these booster clubs. Numbers will be limited obviously. We hope that the booster groups, combined with our work in class, will allow us to achieve our aim of returning all of the children to the attainment levels which would have been expected for them.

Their progress and attainment is always closely monitored. We will have formal assessments at the end of term 2, as normal. The result of these assessments will be shared with you. We will use them to reflect on the success of what we have delivered in terms 1 and 2, and to review our plans for the Spring terms.

Erasmus Absence

I will be absent from school next week as I have to attend meetings with our EU partners to re-plan our Erasmus project. Despite the UK leaving the EU, we are able to complete this last, unfinished Erasmus project; we simply won't be able to participate in any further projects.

Our project should have been completed by now, but was de-railed by the pandemic. All of the partners must now discuss what we can complete in the time still available to us. I am pleased to say that 6 of our older pupils will be offered the opportunity of flying to Spain for a week long exchange, and another 6 will be able to fly to Romania. We will also host our partner schools from Spain, Romania, Poland and Belgium for a week here in Aylesford.

Next week I will have dates and details for the remaining visits and will begin to plan those.

Water Leak

The water board will be closing Mount Pleasant at some stage next week to repair the water leak. I can't tell you how long the closure will last. You will still be able to walk up to our gate as normal, but those of you who drive down Mount Pleasant obviously won't be able to for the duration of the repair.

Best wishes



Jim Holditch