



Established in 1856

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

Mount Pleasant, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BE

Telephone: (01622) 717335

Email: office@stpetersaylesford.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.stpetersaylesford.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Jim Holditch

Newsletter!

Monday 6th September 2021

Dear Parents

I have sent out a Covid update separate to this general newsletter. So, I can keep this missive free from any further mention of Covid!

Welcome and Welcome Back

I hope that you all managed to enjoy the Summer break, particularly the glorious English weather. No doubt this week will be in the mid 20s just to spite us. I hope that everyone managed to relax a little after such a stressful year.

It was wonderful to see the new Year R children walk onto the playground this morning. I love welcoming them on their first day of school. They looked so proud and excited as they came in, and a little anxious as well in some cases. It is a pleasure to welcome them all to St Peter's and I feel very excited to be able to share the next 7 years with them as they enjoy their primary school life.

I would also like to welcome Olly who has joined our Year 3 class and Richmond who has joined Year 5. I know that everyone will make sure that they settle in well and that they enjoy their time at St Peter's, despite Richmond being a Man City fan.

Year 6 Camp Out

At the other end of the scale, we held a Leavers' Service and Camp Out for our Year 6 children in the penultimate week of the holiday. You may remember that their bubble was suspended at the end of term, and hence they didn't get to leave the school in the way they should. It was a superb and emotional day. The camp out went as you might expect, and after battling into the early hours to quieten down the tent which contained 8 girls, I, Mr Eastwood and Mrs Wenborn were particularly grateful for the masses of bacon rolls which Mr House donated as breakfast for all of us.

Meet the Teacher

Our Meet the Teacher sessions are scheduled for Thursday 16th September. This is when teachers speak to parents en masse and go through every relevant detail about the year ahead – how the classroom is organised, what homework is set, dates for that, supporting learning at home, discipline and rewards etc.

Prior to Covid, these sessions were held in the classrooms themselves. We will discuss whether we can safely reinstate this practice or whether we need to maintain virtual meetings for now, and will let you know what is decided.



Year 5 and 6 Residential

This year's Year 5/6 residential is to Hardelot in France, and takes place from Monday 27th-Thursday 30th June. Hardelot is the KCC activity centre. I have visited it many times previously, with my other schools. It's a wonderful 4 days. We have obviously had to cancel the previous two years residentials. Hopefully this one will survive and we will once more get to enjoy a week away together.

I will be holding a meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 28th September to outline every detail of the trip for parents of Year 5/6 children. If you are interested, please come along. You can then decide whether you would like your child to be involved. At this stage, I don't know whether the meeting will be in the hall or via zoom. I will let you know closer to the time.

Erasmus Project

Our last Erasmus project is also re-starting after being suspended during the Covid crisis. We still have trips to Spain and Romania. Once details have been agreed, I will write to parents of our Year 5 and 6 children to see who might like to be involved in these trips. I remind you that they are fully funded by the EU and hence there is no cost to parents if your child does participate in the week long stays.

Mrs Paget

The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed the slightest signs that Mrs Paget is pregnant! We all congratulate her on this wonderful news. She would like to continue teaching the class until the end of term 2 in December and to begin her maternity leave in January. However, we are currently investigating the most up to date guidance, as it may be that she has to stand down from the class teacher role at the end of term 1 in October, to comply with the guidelines relating to only working in a classroom up to 28 weeks of pregnancy. We will keep you informed.

In either respect, Mrs Beacher will take over the class when Mrs Paget has to stand down. Mrs Beacher covered that class for PPA for the last 2 terms of last academic year, and continues to do so now. Hence she knows the children well and will provide a seamless transition when she takes over. We will soon be advertising to cover the role which Mrs Beacher will vacate when takes over the class full time.

Mrs Maryline Maurez will now be teaching French to the children in KS1, to supplement the Spanish which Mrs Paget teaches to the children in KS2. When Mrs Paget does begin her maternity leave, Mrs Maurez will extend her hours to teach French to the KS2 children as well, so they will continue to learn a foreign language.

Building Project

The building project is proceeding at some pace and is definitely in line to be completed in November as was planned. We are now liaising with KCC over a second stage of development which will complete the final minor works required to ensure that the Lodge is exactly as we would wish it, and to radically transform the Mount Pleasant building. I will keep you informed of progress on that front.

PE Lessons

PE lessons begin this week. You may remember that Chloe Ayling is now on our staff as a PE teacher. She will teach tennis to the children at some stage over the year, but she will also

teach other sports. She and Hannah Price will deliver the full curriculum between them, over Wednesdays when Chloe is in, and our usual creative Thursdays when Hannah will be teaching. In addition to this, Adrian Crust will again be teaching cricket to the KS2 children over the course of term 1. This will also take place on a Thursday. So, the children in Years 1-6 can come to school in PE kit on both Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Uniform

As we now hopefully return to a greater degree of normality, I would ask that parents take steps to ensure that their children have the correct school uniform. I appreciate that there are issues with supplies arriving on time, and please just let me know if this is the case. However, please order what is required for your child. And could that especially be the case with regard to PE kit? We had some rather lurid colours being worn at the end of last year. There is a school PE uniform requirement, so please adhere to it as closely as you can.

I am sure that we are all hoping for a normal year, free from any major disruptions to our school and to the children's learning. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for that. However, early indicators for a normal year aren't good, as QPR are yet to be beaten and are in fact laying third in the Championship. Strange things are happening in our world.

Best wishes



Jim Holditch