



Established in 1856

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

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Headteacher: Mr Jim Holditch

Tuesday 12th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Most of you probably aren't aware that some of our parents nominated Mrs Stone for consideration in this year's Kent Messenger Teacher Awards. I don't quite know who was behind this, but they quite rightly wanted Mrs Stone's efforts to be recognised formally.

As is her way, Mrs Stone played down her nomination when the KM contacted her about it. I consider Mrs Stone to be a friend and so I am free to tell you that apart from being a truly superb teacher and wonderful person, she is also absolutely infuriating. She finds it impossible to accept praise. I have never known a better or more committed teacher than her in any of the five schools in which I have worked, and yet, every time I or anyone else tells her just how superb she is, she dismisses it immediately.

Well she can't dismiss the fact that her excellence was recognised by the KM panel who consider the nominations, because she has won the top award. At the awards ceremony on Friday, Mrs Stone was recognised as the Best Primary School Teacher in Kent.

We only discovered this fact late on Sunday evening, because she didn't tell anyone that she had won. We hastily organised an assembly for her yesterday when we celebrated her achievement. I obviously wished to share this news with you as well, and I particularly want to thank those parents who were involved in nominating Dee.

No one deserves this award more than her. You will all be aware of her skills as a teacher. Those of you who have watched her teach phonics will have seen her natural ability to have the children in the palm of her hand. What you won't be aware of, are the hours of additional work that she gives to her children. The staff at St Peter's are the most committed group I have ever had the good fortune to work with. They give hours of their own time to their work and most weekends you will find one or more of them here, completing some additional task. So it is saying something that within such a hard working group of people, Dee still stands out. She spends hours of her own time working in or for the school, completing whatever tasks are required in order to best support her children.

She deserves this award more than anyone else I know. I am sure that you will wish to join me in congratulating her on this wonderful achievement.

Best wishes

Jim Holditch

