

ST. PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HESWALL

NEWS UPDATE – October 2014

Thank you to our Rector

We pass on our thanks and best wishes to our Rector and Chair of Governors, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Gibbs who steps down from both posts this month to take up his new position as Bishop of Huddersfield. Jonathan will be consecrated as Bishop in a service at York Minster on Friday 17th October. We will be making a presentation to Jonathan and Toni to mark their time and association with St. Peter's School at our Harvest Festival on Friday 3rd October.

New Chair of Governors

Mrs Jill Street has been elected as our new Chair of Governors, following Jonathan Gibb's promotion to Bishop. Mrs Street has been on our Governing Body for six years and was previously the Deputy Headteacher at Oxton St. Saviours before her retirement. Jill will bring a wealth of educational knowledge and experience to the role. Mr Dan Thompson, Foundation Governor and current parent, will step up to Vice-Chair.

Staffing News

It was recently announced that Mrs Sue Dainty, our Deputy Headteacher, will be retiring at the end of this term. Mrs Dainty has been part of the teaching profession for nearly four decades and has been the Deputy at St. Peter's for the last 8 years. Staff, pupils and parents will be sad to see Mrs Dainty leave, as I know she will be to say good-bye. We will be marking her long and successful career in Education, as well as acknowledging her significant contribution to St Peter's, towards the end of term. The Governors have already begun the process of recruiting Mrs Dainty's successor.

Midday Supervisor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on our midday team to supervise the pupils during the lunchtime. The job involves supporting the children in the dining room, whilst they are eating their lunch, and also supervising their play outside on the playground. If you are interested in the post, or know someone who might be interested, please contact the school office for more information.

Winter Uniform & Individual Photographs

It has been lovely to have had such a warm and dry opening month of the school year for a change! Now as we enter October, please could you ensure that pupils are wearing their winter uniform. This also coincides with our photographer coming into school on Thursday 9th October for individual and family photographs.

Defibrillator to be installed

This month will see school take receipt of a defibrillator as part of our First Aid provision. Each primary school in Wirral has received a grant from the Local Authority to purchase this potentially life-saving equipment that includes training for up to 12 members of staff. Our school First Aiders will receive the training in the next couple of weeks.

School Meal Update

Following the introduction of the new Universal Free School Meal scheme for pupils in FS2 and KS1 in September, we have had a number of unforeseen challenges that has caused some disruption to our provision in the early weeks of term. This has included the absence of our school Cook and the failure of some of our kitchen equipment. Most of these problems have now been resolved and I am hopeful that we will see an improvement and a more consistent service this month. Thank you for bearing with us.

Parent & Teacher Meetings

Our Parent Meetings will take place this half term on Thursday 16th October and Monday 20th October. We hope to be able to offer a small number of appointments at the start of the school day as well as after school between 4pm and 7pm. Following the successful trial last year, we plan to use the on-line booking to enable parents to select their appointment times. We would, however, request that once appointments are made they are not changed or swapped as this did cause some disruption and confusion last time around. Details of how to book your appointment will be sent out to families with siblings first, followed by pupils with only one child in the school. This is expected to be in the next few days.

Information on the New Curriculum at St. Peter's

As I explained in the September Update, we have begun to implement the new National Curriculum from the start of this year. Parents should now have received a copy of the relevant Yearbook, detailing the subject content for this term, along with useful information relating to your child's specific year group. In addition to this we have posted an overview of the curriculum on the website, which includes a summary of the different themes to be taught over our two year cycle, as well as the key objectives for each subject.

Parent Workshop

We will be running a workshop for parents on Wednesday 19th November when we will provide a general presentation of the key changes, followed by the chance to visit the respective year bands for a brief workshop relevant to the curriculum for that age group. Further details will be sent out after half term. This school year also sees some significant changes to assessment and the removal of the National Curriculum Levels for years 1,3,4 and 5. Pupils in years 2 and 6 will continue to be assessed against the old levels for a further year. We will be running further workshops for parents later in the year to explain these changes.

New SEND Code of Practice

Information relating to Special Educational Needs at St. Peter's has recently been published on our website with details of our SEN provision and a 'frequently asked questions' document that is aimed at providing clear information to parents. This follows the introduction of a new Code of Practice for SEN pupils from this September.

Lost Property

Pupils are strongly encourage to take responsibility for looking after their belongings, but from time to time items are mislaid and end up in 'Lost Property.' When such items are clearly named it enables them to be quickly reunited with their owner. Unfortunately, far too often items are not named or the name has faded making it impossible to return them.

We have recently changed the way in which we manage the Lost Property in school. From this month, all named items will continue to be collected and stored in the foyer of the KS2 pupil entrance, whilst unnamed items will be kept separately in the outside cage area.

Please can you ensure all of your child's belongings are clearly named – Thank you.

Parent Helpers

We always really appreciate the additional help and support from parents and grandparents, who are able to spare a few hours during the week to help in school, whether it be to hear readers, work with a small group or provide general support in the classroom. We welcome help for all year groups and so if you are free to help in school, please send a note in to the class teacher. It may be necessary to arrange a CRB check or DBS clearance before you are able to work in school, but we will let you know. Parents in FS2 will be contacted after half term once the children have settled in.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Penn', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chris Penn
HEADTEACHER