

ST. PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HESWALL

NEWS UPDATE – July 2016

Staffing News – Retirement of Mrs Benson

Mrs Nicola Benson, who has been part of our teaching staff at St. Peter's for the past 27 years, will be taking early retirement at the end of this term. Mrs Benson's outstanding length of service, that spans nearly three decades, has been solely as a teacher at our school. During this time, Mrs Benson has taught across the Early Years including Foundation (Reception as it was also known) and Year 1&2. She has had a number of responsibilities during this time, including KS1 Leader and a member of the senior leadership team, playing an influential part in the strategic direction of our school.

Mrs Benson has led a range of subjects, including leading the 'Healthy Schools' initiative which saw the school achieving 'Healthy School' Status and taking on the role as Religious Education leader and overseeing the recent development to this curriculum. I would like to thank Mrs Benson for her hard work and dedicated service to all the St. Peter's children from across the different age groups over the last 27 years and the significant contribution she has made to both them and to our school. "Thank you so much for all that you have done and we send you our best wishes for a very long and happy retirement."

We wish to mark Mrs Benson's long standing contribution to St. Peter's by presenting her with a special gift. If you would like to make a donation towards this please hand it in to the school office marked in an envelope 'Mrs Benson's Retirement Gift'.

Uganda Mission Talk

Thank you for your support and prayers for our recent adult mission to visit our partner school, Rock of Joy Masaka in Uganda, through the school's main charity partner, The Rock of Joy Trust. The adult team, including myself and Miss Holly McKeown, returned on the 11th June after two weeks working with four schools, the children, staff and local communities in two areas of Uganda.

Your kind and generous donation of toothbrushes were well received by all the children and helped to promote the dental hygiene project. Thank you for supporting the fundraising events and collections throughout the year at school and the wider individual projects of the team. Collectively we managed to raise £25,000 (with gift aid) and this has helped to realise a number of substantial projects, which included funding the first brick classroom block at Lady Grace School, the partner school to ROJ Masaka.

The team will be sharing stories and further information about the mission at a special celebration evening on Wednesday 13th July at The Church of the Good Shepherd from 7:30pm. Light refreshments will be served and it will be an opportunity to see photos, film clips and personal accounts from members of the team. You are very welcome to join us.

INSET Day Change

A further reminder that it has been necessary to change one of the published INSET days for the next academic year. The INSET day originally planned for Monday 31st October will now take place on Monday 9th January 2017. Pupils will be in school as normal on the 31st October. This has come about due to external training with another school. Apologies for any inconvenience this has caused.

A full list of the term dates and INSET days for the Academic Year 2016/17 can be found on the school website.

KS2 Sports Afternoon

Our Key Stage 2 Sports Afternoon takes place this Tuesday 5th July at 1.10pm, with the gates opening just after 1pm. The children in Years 3 to 6 will be taking part in a range of traditional races and events on the track and will be competing for points for their respective Houses. Parents and family are welcome to attend and feel free to bring your own rugs and chairs to sit on. If the weather is bad we will send a text and put a note on the school website, making the decision to postpone by 12pm. The reserve day for KS2 sports is on Wednesday 13th July.

FS2/KS1 Sports Afternoon

The children in Foundation 2 and Years 1/2 will be taking part in a carousel of sport and games activities on Friday 8th July, weather permitting. The afternoon will begin at 1.15pm with some Pre-school Races before our children commence their activities and challenges moving around with their designated group. Parents and family members are welcome to watch and encourage their child during the afternoon by walking around the outside of the field with their child's group as they move to the different activity stations. You are welcome to bring your own chair to sit on. If the weather is bad, we will send a text and put a note on the school website, making a decision to postpone by 12pm on the Friday. The reserve day is on Thursday 14th July.

Summer Fair

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Summer Fair on the 25th June. We were lucky with the weather and, despite the building works on the playground, the Friends were still able to put on a wonderful fair with a great range of food, drink, activities and challenges. Congratulations to the members of the social committee and all of the parents and friends who helped on the day and throughout the school year. We really appreciate the time, energy and enthusiasm you put in to raising important funds for the school and for the benefit of all of our children. I would particularly like to thank Daryl Bertram, who has chaired the Fundraising team for the last three years and who is stepping down at the end of this year. We are currently looking for a new chairperson for September.

Transition Morning & New Classes

On Wednesday 6th July, the children will be spending the morning with their new classes and, for those moving into a new year-band, their new class teacher. A great deal of time and consideration is afforded by the teachers when determining the groupings for next year. The transition morning has proved to be hugely beneficial to our children, particularly those moving to a new class as they come to spend the morning with their new teacher, which helps to prevent the anxiety and stress that can sometimes occur for a very small minority of children.

Building Project – New Extension

The front elevation extension is progressing well and is expected to be completed on schedule. The staffroom will move to the new build at the front of school. In addition to this, a new sports storage area has been created below, providing direct access onto the playground. The new staircase adjacent to the new build provides a pupil only access through the KS2 doors at the front of school. The staircase will provide access from the playground and will be in use from September.

The new staffroom has enabled us to convert the existing staffroom into a multi-use learning hub in the centre of school. It will provide a flexible space with a dividing wall, creating two smaller areas for group and intervention work, as well as one large space that can be used as a small classroom. It will also provide a much needed room for meetings with professionals, staff and parents. In the autumn term, I plan to run a weekly coffee and chat at drop off for different year groups throughout the year, providing a further opportunity to strengthen our engagement with parents.

New Library Project 2017

We are hoping to re-establish a small library in the new learning hub. The school has been without a library area since 2007, when the previous library area was needed for cloakroom space in Years 1&2. We are looking for donations of new or second-hand non-fiction books in good condition, initially to begin to grow this new project. Over time we hope it will grow into a useful and worthwhile resource that the whole school can benefit from. We plan to approach Heswall Library and the Wirral Library Service to see if they can offer help and support in setting up this new area. If you are able to help in any way please get in touch.

Parent Pay – Electronic Payment System

It is our intention to launch the new ParentPay payment system for all home to school transactions from the 1st September. To ensure that everything runs smoothly, we are asking parents to complete the registration process and log in to their account before the start of the new term. We plan to send out the registration details for the new system in the next couple of weeks.

Leavers Service

The annual Leavers' Service for our Year 6 pupils will take place at St. Peter's Church on Monday 18th July at 7pm. The service will be led by the staff team, including singing from Concordia and the pupils in Year 5. You are welcome to attend this special service to support our Year 6 as they prepare to leave St. Peter's and move on to their secondary schools.

Final Day – Leavers’ Assembly

The final day of term is on Thursday 21st July. There will be a special Leavers’ Assembly led by our Year 6 pupils to which their parents and family will be able to attend.

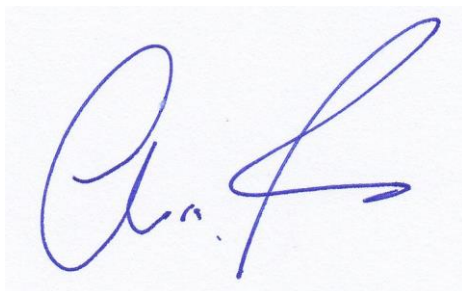
The school day will finish at 2.30pm as we close for the summer break.

As the school year draws to its finale, can I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the life of our school over the past twelve months in so many different ways. There have been many highlights and successes to celebrate and we very much look forward to all the exciting opportunities and plans that lie ahead for the new school year 2016/17.

I would like to thank the children, parents and their families from Year 6 and other year groups, who are moving on from St. Peter’s at the end of term and leaving the St. Peter’s School Family. We have appreciated your contribution and support during your association with our school.

Finally, I would particularly like to thank our dedicated and hard-working staff team, teachers, teaching assistants, admin and support staff for your professionalism, support and commitment during the school year.

Best wishes to you all for a very enjoyable and restful summer and I look forward to working with you all again in September.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Penn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Penn
HEADTEACHER