

ST. PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HESWALL

NEWS UPDATE – April 2016

Welcome back to a new term

Welcome back after the spring break, I hope you had an enjoyable holiday and we now look forward to one of our busiest terms ahead, with lots happening in each of the two half terms. All the important dates that you need can be found on the calendar on our website and these will be further updated by the end of the week.

We also welcome Claire Woolley to the staff team who takes up her post as job-share with Mrs Cookson and class 3/4SC. Mrs Woolley will be known to many of you as one of our parents to Skye and Cameron, and we now look forward to her joining our teaching team in a part-time capacity. We also welcome back Mrs Caroline Wood, our teaching assistant in Years 3&4, as she returns from Maternity Leave after the birth of her second daughter.

Exciting news for Miss Jones

I am delighted to share the wonderful news that Miss Lara Jones gave birth to a beautiful baby daughter, Lila during the holidays. Lila came into the world in the early hours on Friday 15th April, with both mum and daughter doing well. We send our love and best wishes to Lara, her partner Daniel and of course to baby Lila and look forward to them paying us a visit in the coming weeks.

During Miss Jones's maternity leave, Mrs Sally Monks will be taking Class 1/2J and joining the Years 1/2 teaching team. Mrs Monks will take up her post from Tuesday 3rd May. A coffee afternoon has been arranged for Thursday 5th May at 2:45pm in the Computer Suite as an opportunity for parents from Class 1/2J to meet Mrs Monks.

Summer Uniform & Summer Sports Kit

As we start the summer term, pupils are now able to wear summer uniform. For boys this is the sky blue polo-shirt and short trousers (long trouser option for Y6), and for girls it is either blue gingham summer dresses or the sky-blue polo shirt and grey skirt. Polo shirts with the school badge can be purchased from Cain of Heswall, our uniform supplier.

We will continue to wear the white polo shirt and school tracksuit on the class PE days, but as the weather warms up pupils will be able to wear royal blue shorts as an alternative to the tracksuit bottoms. Girls are also able to wear a royal blue 'skort' as an alternative to the shorts, an option put forward by the School Council.

Building Work

It won't have escaped your notice that the building project has started in earnest, with good progress in the 'digging out' stage during the two week holiday. As with any building work there is a level of disruption but we have been working closely with the contractors to keep this to a minimum during the school day.

The temporary KS2 toilets are now situated on the playground and will be available for pupils to use during playtime and lunchtime. Alternative arrangements have been put in place during lesson times. The FS2 and KS1 toilets have not been affected. It is hoped that all toilets will be reinstated after half term.

Although part of the playground has been given over to the contractor's compound, the pupils will be able to use the field during dry spells as we would usually do during this term. I will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the project and any other organisational changes. In the meantime, thank you for your patience.

New Menu

The new lunchtime menu is launched this week, following feedback from pupils and parents. Thank you to everyone who visited the tasting session and completed the questionnaire during our two parent/teacher meetings. All of your comments and feedback will be shared with the school cook and kitchen staff as we continue to look to improve our provision at lunchtime. The new four week menu can be found on the school website, where there is also an opportunity to complete the survey for those who haven't already done so.

Y6 and Y5 Residential Trips

In the first week of the new term, our Year 6 pupils are setting off for a five day residential at Manor Adventure, Craven Arms, Shropshire. During the week they will take part in a range of outdoor and adventurous activities that will provide new experiences and challenges, being supported by their peers and members of the Year 6 staff team.

Ten pupils from Year 5 will also be taking part in a brand new residential weekend on Friday 22nd April in conjunction with Y5 pupils from three other Wirral Anglican schools. This is part of a pilot organised by the Christian group 'Ventures' and is supported and endorsed by the Bishop of Birkenhead. The weekend will see the pupils taking part in a range of games and challenges as they work together to solve the mystery whilst also learning about the Christian faith. Mrs Clayton will be the lead teacher representative from St. Peter's. It is hoped that the pilot will be successful and will enable it to be repeated again in future years.

Bring and Buy Sale for Uganda Mission 2016

On Thursday 28th April we will be holding our annual 'Bring & Buy' sale which this year will be raising money for the Rock of Joy and to fund projects that we hope to realise as part of the Adult Mission at the end of May. Some of these include providing outdoor play equipment for the three schools, solar panels to power some of the second-hand laptops that we will be taking out and also an incubator that will help to hatch chicks for a hen project, as well as curriculum text books and reading books for the children.

Children are invited to donate any books, games or toys that are in a good condition and that you no longer need. Donations can be brought into school from Monday 25th April and left at the back of the school hall. Children are then invited to bring in change up to the value of £3 on the Thursday to purchase some of the items.

The team will also be taking out toothbrushes for the children as part of an oral hygiene project and so children are invited to donate a new toothbrush for a Ugandan child. We are aiming to collect 300 and there is a collection point in the school entrance area. Thank you for your support of both of these fundraising initiatives.

Parent Feedback

As identified above, we really value your feedback to help us strengthen what we are doing well, whilst being committed to continual improvement in other areas. In the next couple of weeks, you will be invited to take part in our periodic parent survey, which this year will be solely on-line to make it easier and quicker to give your views. We really hope that you will be able to take the time to complete this short survey so that we have a good cross-section of options and thoughts from across the school and a range of families. I will provide a summary of this survey later in the term.

FS2 Class Assembly

Looking slightly further ahead to the start of May, it is the turn of our two Foundation Classes, Mrs Birmingham's and Mrs Buckle's, to jointly lead our Collective Worship on Wednesday 4th May at 9:15am. FS2 Parents are welcome to join us for this special assembly.

May Day Bank Holiday

And finally, a reminder that school will be closed on Monday 2nd May for the Bank Holiday. Pupils and staff will return to school on Tuesday 3rd May.

Chris Penn
HEADTEACHER