

# **ST. PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HESWALL**

## **NEWS UPDATE – September 2015**

### **Welcome / Welcome Back**

On behalf of the staff and governors can I welcome you back to what we hope will be another exciting and successful school year. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new families who have joined us in either Foundation 2 or other year groups throughout the school. We look forward to getting to know you and hope that you and your child has a long and happy association with St. Peter's.

### **Staffing News**

This school year we welcome four new members of staff. Mrs Emma Buckle (FS2) and Miss Hannah Rowlands (Y5/6) have joined our teacher team, whilst Mrs Wendy Hill (Y3/4) and Miss Lucy McClelland (FS2) join our Teaching assistant team. Mrs Sara Cookson also takes up her new role as Assistant Headteacher and lead teacher of the Years 3&4 team. I am also delighted to share the lovely news that Mrs. Wood (Teaching Assistant) has given birth to a baby girl called Erin. Congratulations to Caroline, Alan and Mia on their new addition to the family.

There is an opportunity to meet the teachers and teaching assistants in your child's year band as part of our coffee afternoons to be held this month, along with the welcome back barbecue arranged by the Friends of St. Peter's. The details are provided below.

### **Welcome to our new Rector**

Our new Rector, Rev. Martin Cannam, will be inducted this Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September at a special service at 4pm at St. Peter's Church. We extend a warm welcome to Martin, his wife Sarah and their children Tim and Ellen (who both started at St. Peter's this September) to our school and parish.

### **Welcome Back Barbecue**

Friends of St. Peter's have again organised a 'Welcome Back' barbecue after school on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. This popular event is non-ticket and will run between 3.45pm to 5pm. It's a great opportunity to meet new parents as well as old friends and catch up after the summer holiday.

### **'Meet the Team' Coffee Afternoon**

We will be holding a series of coffee afternoons this month to provide an early opportunity to meet myself, the teachers and teaching assistants in the respective teaching teams over cake and a coffee. These informal meetings will take place between 2.45pm and 3.30pm on the following dates:-

FS2 Team	-	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September
Y1/2 Team	-	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September
Y3/4 Team	-	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September
Y5/6 Team	-	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September

## **Parent Governor**

At the start of this school year our Governing Body was reconstituted and this has created a further post of Parent Governor. This is an important and exciting opportunity to be involved in the strategic planning and organisation of the school. Further information relating to this vacancy and an invitation for nominations will be sent out in a separate letter.

## **Healthy Snacks**

As a health promoting school, we encourage our children to make healthy choices both in the activities they choose and also in what they eat. All pupils in Foundation and Years 1&2 receive a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable as a morning snack, whilst pupils in Years 3 to 6 are encouraged to bring a 'healthy snack' for the morning break. We are asking that you support us in this by not sending your child in with a chocolate bar, sweets or any other high sugar snacks. We also ask that children do not bring in sweets or cakes for the class to celebrate their birthday. Thank you for supporting this healthy initiative.

## **School Meals – New Service & New Menus**

The start of this school year has seen a major reorganisation of the meal service previously provided by Metro and Wirral Council. The catering arm has merged with Cheshire West under the new umbrella company called Edsential. A range of new dishes and quality ingredients has seen a significant improvement in the quality of food being offered. Our pupils were consulted on the menus they preferred as part of an on-line survey conducted during the summer term, with the new menus reflecting their preferences. These can be found on the school website.

The quality of provision of our school meals is an area that is currently under review by the Governing Body, and we will be monitoring the quality and satisfaction of pupils and parents over time.

Pupils in FS2 and KS1 will continue to receive a free meal each day as part of the Universal Free School Meal scheme. The cost for KS2 pupils is £2.30 a meal. This can be paid on a daily basis, weekly or for a half term. We plan to explore the possibility of offering on-line payments for pupil related activities as an alternative to cheques and cash, including school meals during the school year. Further details to follow in due course.

## **Harvest Festival & Food Bank**

This year's Harvest Festival will be on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September and will be led by Mrs Clayton's Class 1/2C. We would welcome contributions of non-perishable food items (tins, packets, pasta, etc.) to come into school from the beginning of that week. All donations will be taken down to church for the Harvest Service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September before being distributed to local charities and some of our elderly residents.

Just a further reminder that we continue to support our local 'Food bank' and act as a collection point, coordinated by our parent and Midday Supervisor, Mrs Paula Donnan. Collections take place during the first week of each month, but donations can be left at any time in the box in our Reception Area. Thank you for continuing to support this worthwhile cause.

## Lost Property

Please ensure your child's uniform and school belongings are all **CLEARLY NAMED**. Our pupils are strongly encouraged to take responsibility of 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. At the end of the year, four black sacks of unnamed and unclaimed items were collated. These will be displayed outside on the playground during next week for parents to claim them. Any unnamed items from last year that remain unclaimed will be donated to charity.

## 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.

From the start of this school year, as part of our commitment to Safeguarding, all volunteers who work in school (including parent helpers) will need to complete a 'volunteer agreement' and will receive detailed information relating to the role of being a volunteer at St. Peter's. It may also be necessary to arrange a DBS clearance before you are able to work in school. Parents in FS2 who wish to offer help will be contacted after half term once the children have settled in.

## Are your details correct?

If you have recently moved or changed your contact details over the summer, please inform the school office of your new information. A data collection sheet will be sent out with your child for checking to ensure the information we hold on our system is accurate. This includes any medical needs or conditions your child may have and it is important that our school records reflect this and are both accurate and up to date. **Please can they be checked and returned to school regardless of whether there are changes or not.**

## INSET Days for 2015/16

A further reminder of the INSET days for this academic year. These are the five staff training days that are allocated during the school year when pupils do not attend. Full term dates can be found on the school website. The dates are;-

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016

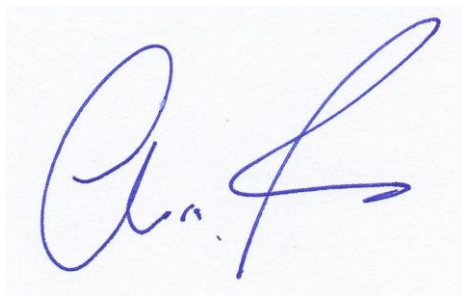
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## **School Website and Calendar**

The school website continues to include information and news about what is happening and what is coming up at our school. It is the best place to find out information about events and school news.

The calendar for the term can be found on the website and includes all the key dates leading up to Christmas with provisional dates set for the whole year, which hopefully enables you to plan ahead. Please refer to this both at the start and during the term to keep a note of what is happening and all the different things coming up.

I hope you are able to make one of our 'welcome events' over the next couple of weeks and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

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

**Chris Penn**  
**HEADTEACHER**