



St Peter's C.E. (VA) Junior School

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7 September 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to all the new families that are joining St. Peter's this academic year, and indeed to all our existing families as we embark on another year of working together. I hope you had an enjoyable break, in spite of the weather not quite meeting predicted expectations!

Staffing news:

Many of you will be aware that Miss Herrett was on maternity leave last term. When Miss Herrett returns to work she will ultimately work as a job share alongside Miss Spotswood who is also currently on maternity leave. Miss Herrett is now due to return just before half term. Therefore for the next few weeks Mrs. Williamson will be teaching Miss Herrett's year five class. Mrs. Williamson has worked very much as part of our team at St. Peter's as many of you will recall she taught one of our year three classes last year. When Miss Herrett returns Mrs. Williamson will continue to work part time alongside her until the end of this term. Miss Spotswood is due to return in December.

I am sorry to say that Miss Blunt has not been well over the last week and is therefore unable to be with us for this first week of term. Miss Box will be teaching Miss Blunt's class for this week.

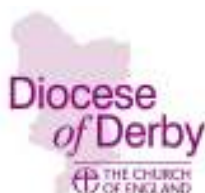
I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Cavanagh and her husband Mr. Cavanagh are expecting their first baby which is due at the end of January. Mrs. Cavanagh will be working with her class as usual for this term.

Brain Awareness week:

As we settle all the children into school, this week we will be doing many activities where children will learn about how their brain works. Over the week children will find their 'hot spots,' 'in which ways they are smart,' plus many interesting facts about how their brain works. This is of course a lot of fun but also enables the children to become more aware of what kind of learners they are....something which should help them with the year ahead of them! On Friday this week staff will send out information relating to the topic work that your child is doing at school this term.

Eid:

For parent's wishing to book time off for Eid, please call into the school office for a form which requests leave for a religious festival. Requests should not be filled out on a general leave of absence form. Following Local Authority guidelines may I respectfully remind parents that leave for religious purposes is **3 days in total** for the whole academic year. Please bear this in mind when making your plans for Eid falling in September and Eid falling in November. Thank-you.



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News from last term:

Thank-you to everyone who returned their questionnaire before the summer break. These were sent to the LA for analysis over the summer and once we have the information returned we will share it with you. For those of you with us last term you may recall that we placed names from all our returned questionnaires into a prize draw. Well done to Ailisa Urfan who was the winner of our £10 prize.

New morning system:

As you will be aware the school gates are opened at 8.40 am each morning. Our system last year meant that children gathered on the playground until the bell rang at 8.50. **As of this week we will be expecting the children to go straight to their classroom from 8.40 am.** Class registers will be taken at 8.50–8.55 am and then all pupils will go to the hall for assembly at 9.00 am. In order to help the start of the day run as smoothly as possible for both pupils and staff please ensure that your child comes to school between 8.40 and 8.50. The gate on Church Street is locked at 8.50 and therefore anyone arriving late will need to come via the pedestrian gate on Thornhill Road and report to the school office. Thank-you in anticipation of your support.

Year six SATs evening:

All school years are important, but as children become Y6 pupils they will be sitting their SATs tests that take place in May. It sounds a long way off at the moment, but it soon comes around! This year we are holding a SATs evening on September 15th at 3.45pm (in Miss Blunt's room) for all the parents in Y6. Please come along and find out the kind of things that you can do to support your child through this process.

Church services:

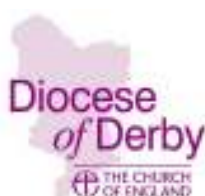
At the beginning and end of each term we hold our assemblies in church. These are led by Reverend Jackie and our pupils. The service lasts for approximately 30 minutes. Parents and carers are invited back to school afterwards for a hot drink, biscuit and informal chat. All children attend the service and no one can be left behind in school as all adults attend these services.

Dinner money autumn term:

Dinner money for this half-term will remain at £1.85 per day, or £9.25 per week, or £64.75 for the half-term. Cheques need to be made payable to Derby City Council. Dinner money will be increasing in November, but we will notify you of this change closer to the time. May I also respectfully remind you that dinner money is due on Monday in advance. Should your child wish to change from dinners to sandwiches, or from sandwiches to dinners we do ask that you give at least two weeks notice so that our kitchen staff can adjust the amount of food they are ordering.

Queries and worries:

If you have any queries please initially have a chat to your child's class teacher. All teachers escort their class onto the playground at the end of the school day and this is the ideal time to have a chat. Other queries can be dealt with by office staff if you are not able to see your teacher. If you would like an appointment with me please enquire via the school office where we will be happy to make an appointment.



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After school clubs

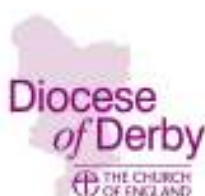
We will be offering a range of after school activities again this year. Details will be distributed as we agree timetables so please keep an eye out for letters from the different clubs. There will be no after school clubs running this week.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 10 th September	Church service at 9.00am
Tuesday 15 th September	SATs parent's evening (Y6 parents only)
Wednesday 23 rd September	Partake Theatre Co. in school for Y5 – morning only
Wednesday 23 rd September	Yamaha drumming in school pm for all children
Friday 25 th September	European day of languages
Friday 2 nd October	Soccerstars activity day – details to follow
Monday 12 th October	Bookfair in school for a week
Monday 12 th October	Cycle training for 2 weeks across Y5 and Y6
Friday 23 rd October	Break-up for half term
Monday 2 nd November	INSET
Tuesday 3 rd November	School re-opens
Wednesday 4 th November	School photographs
Week beginning 9 th November	Parent's evening
Friday 18 th December	Break-up for Christmas
Monday 4 th January	Spring term 2010
Friday 12 th February	Break-up for half term
Monday 22 nd February	School re-opens
Friday 28 th May	INSET and break up for half term
Monday 7 th June	School re-opens
Monday 28 th June	INSET
Friday 23 rd July	Break-up for summer holidays

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. A. Woodhouse
Headteacher



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