



Newsletter 01



Autumn Term 2011

Events Diary

Thursday 8th September – Messy Church
Monday 24th – Friday 28th October Half-Term
Monday 31st October – Inset Day
Monday 31st October – Year 5 & 6 London Trip

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year and a special welcome to the new families that have joined the St Peter's family this September. I am pleased to report that the first few days have gone very well and all is calm and productive.

Your children might have mentioned that the **daily collective worship** has been moved to the afternoon in order to free up time for learning in the mornings when the children are fresh and alert. The Rev Ann Charlton will now lead worship every other Friday afternoon at the school. For this half term the main themes for worship are new beginnings, Harvest-time and being responsible

I should like to **thank you** for the excellent way your children came to school last Monday. They appeared very smart in their uniforms and looked keen and eager.

As you know **Mrs Roberts** tendered her resignation as Headteacher at the end of last term and we shall be giving everybody the opportunity soon to contribute to a leaving gift. In the meantime, Mrs Roberts has volunteered to give some help in the early years classes as a helper.

Attached to this newsletter is the revised **Home-learning Policy** and I should be grateful if you would read it and sign the return slip to the class teacher. The first written home-learning will be issued on Wednesday 14th September and then every Wednesday of each week. Completed home-learning will be returned on the following Monday of each week. Reading at Home will start as soon as possible. Please use the guidance for parents set out in the policy when supporting the learning of your child.

There will be a **family service** at St Peter's this coming Sunday at 9.30am and then every second Sunday in the month. Mr Perkins and I will be at the service and any children that are not accompanied by family members can come and sit with us. I hope that families will make a special effort once a month to join and support this service at St Peter's church.

Termly Reminders

- Please make sure that all new clothing is labelled clearly.
- We ask that all children wear the correct school uniform which includes black or brown shoes and not trainers. If there are special circumstances please let your class teacher or Mr Elliott know.
- We do not authorise any holidays in May or September **or** if your child has under 95% attendance. This is clearly stated in our attendance policy and on the back of the holiday form.

- Medical information – any child who has been sick should be regarded as infectious and kept away from school until vomiting or any diarrhoea has stopped for at least 24 hours i.e. if a child has been sent home from school please keep them home for the next day.
 - can we please remind you that we can only administer medicines prescribed by the doctor and in their original packaging. You will need to fill in a green form from Mrs Trapnell in the office or Mrs Wilkinson in Nursery.
 - it is essential that pupils with asthma have easy access to their reliever inhalers when they need them. Children in KS2 are expected to manage their own inhalers (clearly labelled) and ensure they are in school at all times (especially school trips and cross-country days). Children in KS1 usually store their inhalers in the Medical Cupboard (Foundation Stage) so a member of staff can help them to use them appropriately. However if you feel your child can manage this themselves please come and discuss this with Mrs Wilkinson after school or if you have any other medical query.
- Please can we remind you that children should not come on to the school premises until 8.45am unless some prior arrangement has been made.
- Please ensure that the school office has your up to date e-mail address, so that a copy of this newsletter and future weekly newsletters, can be e-mailed to you.

Please could all parents/carers make sure that all cheques are made payable to Devon County Council and NOT to St. Peter's School.

NON - PUPIL DAY

There is a Local Area Schools Inset Training Day on Monday 31st October 2011. This date is an addition to the previous school calendar.

Messy Church

A reminder that Messy Church is every 2nd Thursday of the month from 3.30pm to 5.30pm at The Peter Hall, St. Peter's Church, Budleigh Salterton.

Music Lessons

If your child is interested in beginning a musical instrument lesson this term, please see Mr Perkins for a registration form. We are also hoping to offer singing lessons through Devon Music at St. Peter's this year either as individual or group lessons, please see Mr Perkins for a registration form if you are interested.

Lost P.E. Kit

Please can you check at home for a P.E. kit that went missing end of last term. The P.E. kit is named (first name Anthony).

Clubs Sign Up

We will be sending out a Clubs List on Friday for you to discuss with your child. Children will have the opportunity to sign up for clubs next week in the hall. Clubs will start in the 3rd week of term week commencing Monday 19th September.

Kitchen News

I am pleased to announce that our school kitchen has received the highest possible food hygiene rating under a new National Food Rating Scheme. This follows a recent inspection and our certificate is displayed on the kitchen door. Also, congratulations to our Catering Assistant Sara, who has been awarded her NVQ Level 2 Catering qualification. Thank you, Juliette Smith (BSc Hons Food & Nutrition). Kitchen Manager

Mr Malcolm Elliott

Acting Headteacher



Rationale

There is a mandatory requirement for maintained primary schools to give home learning tasks because:

- It provides opportunity for families to be partners in their child's learning.
- It raises attainment (standards) in children's learning and allows each child to make more progress.
- It promotes the notion that learning takes place in other aspects of life and not just in school and is part of life-long learning.
- It extends, builds and reinforces class learning.
- It promotes the attitude that learning is important and is valued by parents.
- It establishes good learning habits and adds value to school learning tasks.

Purposes

An effective home-learning policy will ensure:

- Attainment is raised and pupils are enabled to make individual progress.
- Learners are encouraged to be organised and to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Further opportunities for school and home to work together for the child's benefit.

Guidance to setting Home-learning for Staff

- Home-learning needs to be strongly linked with relevant class learning.
- Home-learning needs to be differentiated for ability, age and stage. Pupils with SEN should have Home-learning set that relates to IEPs (individual educational plans) or intervention learning programmes which should be organized by the intervention staff.
- Home-learning should be motivational.
- Home-learning needs to be communicated explicitly to both child and parent. There should be opportunity given for parental and pupil feed-back.
- Home learning needs to be managed by the school to give sufficient time for it to be completed so as not to impact negatively on family life and other pursuits that the child pursues. (Refer to section - Year group Home-learning guidelines)
- Teachers will have a responsibility to plan, organize and mark Home-learning for their class or learning group and give feed-back that is in line with the agreed professional standards.

Guidance for Parents (A booklet will be produced expanding on the points for guidance and given out with the policy at the beginning of each new academic year) A meeting with parents will also be offered in September.

- Parents have a responsibility to handle home-learning positively and sensitively.
- Pupils will need support from their families to organise their home-learning in order for it to be given the time in the family schedule.
- Parents will need to show they value Home-learning.
- Parents need to provide the school with written/verbal feedback that is tactful and constructive.
- Parents need to adhere to the suggested time limits for home-learning completion and not go over the time limit unless the child wants to do more.
- Parents should not attempt home-learning when the child is tired, upset and unwell or when the family is under pressure.
- Parents need to keep calm and constructive when helping their child and not be judgemental of the child. Keep comments strictly for the learning. Being positive and good humoured is key to motivation.

Year group Home-learning Guidelines

Written work and mathematics to be given out on Wednesdays and returned by Monday mornings ready for marking/ planning of the next

Reception

- It is **vital** that a book is shared for 5 minutes (approx) on a nightly basis
- Bring in an object - show and tell
- An activity to share

Year One

- Reading practice and sharing books for 10 minutes each night
- Mental Maths game or activity supported by parent or carer (weekly)
- Key words to learn to read and spell weekly

Year Two

- Reading practice and sharing books - 15 minutes
- For the Autumn term an alternative weekly piece of Mathematics / English.
- Mathematics weekly activity 20 minutes from January of the academic year.
- English weekly activity 20 minutes from January of the academic year.
- Spellings - weekly

Year Three

- Reading each night - 15 minutes
- Maths weekly home-learning incorporating mental maths game or activity and some written maths - 25 minutes)
- English weekly home-learning 25 minutes
- Spellings - weekly

Year Four

- Reading each night - 20 minutes
- Maths weekly home-learning incorporating mental maths game or activity and some written maths - 30 minutes)
- English weekly homelearning 30 minutes
- Spellings - weekly

Year Five

- Sustained, independent, silent reading - daily 25 minutes
- Maths weekly homelearning incorporating mental maths game or activity and some written maths - 35 minutes)
- English weekly homelearning 35 minutes
- Spellings - weekly

Year Six

- Sustained, independent, silent reading – daily 30 minutes
- Maths weekly homelearning incorporating mental maths game or activity and some written maths – 40 minutes)
- English weekly homelearning 40 minutes
- Spellings - weekly

Monitoring and Review

The Homelearning policy and provision will be closely and continually monitored through the following procedures:

- Communication between teacher and parents about homework through explanations and feedback comments
- Discussion at Staff Meetings
- Audits by the Senior Leadership Team
- Feedback at parent's forum meetings
- Periodical Parent Evening meetings

The Homelearning Policy will be on the annual Policy review cycle by Teaching and Learning Committee of school Governors.

On receipt of the policy parents and carers should complete and return the attached form

Name of children in the school.....

Year group of the children.....

I acknowledge that I have received the Home-learning policy and I have read it. I will encourage my child with Home-learning following the guidance in the policy and will give regular written feed-back to the teachers informing them of how the home-learning task was implemented.

Signed by parent/carer.....

Printed name of parent/carer.....