



**ST. PETER'S SCHOOL**  
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**Headteacher: Ms Nasima Rashid**  
**Deputy Headteacher: Mr David Cronin**

Tuesday 10 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children are well and truly settled into the school year with lots of wonderful work being produced, and participation in many sporting events and trips. We also continue to develop links with the wider community, so the children develop an understanding of the world beyond the school. This will help develop their understanding of citizenship and community. For example, we have recently had 'Democracy' Week where we ran elections to appoint some new school councillors. We borrowed the official ballot box from the Parish Hall to make it more authentic! The newly elected School Council will meet every fortnight to represent views and create change for their school - so watch this space!

We were also involved in a very important ceremony last week when St. Peter's welcomed a new Rector to the Parish. I was invited to the 'Institution and Induction' ceremony held at St. Peter's Church last Tuesday evening with two Year 6 representatives – Hannah Munro and Tommy Daly – who were both very courteous and respectful. Both had to say some special words of welcome to Reverend Harris who was very excited to be appointed and hopes to visit the school soon. We are so proud of the two children representing our school as it was quite nerve-wracking when speaking in front of not only a church congregation, but also Jersey's Bailiff, Lieutenant-Governor, Chief Minister and Dean!

## **Updates and seasonal competitions & events**

### **Parent Consultations**

We look forward to seeing you at one of our parent consultation evenings, either this Thursday or next Tuesday after school. Separate instructions have been sent out to help you book a slot for these. These short meetings are to give you some information about how your child is settling into the new year. Should you require a longer time to discuss needs or issues, it's best to book another time later in the term to discuss these as the teachers will be on a tight schedule on these evenings.



### **Uniform**

After half term, we move to our winter uniform dress code to ensure children are in appropriate attire for the cooler weather. There have been some queries about flexibility of clothing worn, e.g. continuing to wear polo shirts instead of the short sleeved white shirts. This is perfectly acceptable as does not affect the overall look. Whilst we strive for a smart presentation, we are mindful of practicalities and cost. We will be surveying parents this year about uniform, following on from the Education Minister's announcement last week.

### **Terri the Tortoise**

We're really pleased to have Terri our tortoise come back to us for good. We know many children and families tried to track all the tortoises around the island – there were so many amazing designs! As a well done, we invite any child who located all 115 tortoises to go into a lucky draw to win one of the specially designed tortoise tea towels! Please email proof of this to the office by Monday 16 October if you would like your child to have a chance in the lucky draw.

### **Autumn celebrations**

As the nights draw in, we know summer is coming to an end – although we are still experiencing some lovely warm weather! With Halloween around the corner, we are declaring our last day of this half term as an 'autumn break the rules dress down day' so children are free to wear costumes or come in something snuggly (or loose and light if the weather is still warm!). This will be a PTA fund raising event so another flyer will go out about this.



As a treat, **we have organised for each and every child to receive a real, locally grown pumpkin to take home on Friday 20 October.** This is a present to each child so they can carve out a design over half term! There will be a competition for the best carved pumpkins so children can bring them back in on Monday 31 October.

Although it's still a couple of months away, preparations for Christmas are already underway! This week your child will be bringing home their Christmas card designs so you can order personalised cards to send to your loved ones over the festive period. These are a lovely keepsake and we know you won't be able to resist them so please get your orders in asap so we can have them back in time for all the celebrations. **Orders need to be placed online and the artwork returned to school by Wednesday 18 October. It is essential we receive the artwork back to school to be sent to print.**



### **PTA News**

We are delighted to announce we have elected a new PTA core committee following our AGM last week. We welcome Mrs Goode, Mrs Robertson, Mrs Lee and Mrs Williams. Our teacher Rep. will be Mrs Blake. We are in the process of confirming the class reps so this will be out shortly. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our exiting committee and particularly Mrs Stewart who has been our Chair for many years who has been such a helpful and reassuring presence and support!

We will continue to plan and organise community events this year to increase our fundraising efforts so that our various projects can be supported. Much focus will be on developing the outside areas. In the first instance, the PTA have kindly agreed to support the replenishment of playground equipment. Therefore, after half term, we ask that children stop bringing in any balls etc. to school as these will all be provided by us, courtesy of the PTA.

You can see this is already underway with fantastic climbing equipment and new sandpit for the Early Years. This was supported by a donation from the Parish, helpfully assisted by our parish Connétable, Richard Vibert. We have had further generous funding from the 'Tenants of the Marsh', a long-established community group who have historical links to St. Peter's. We are absolutely thrilled with their generosity. More information will be shared in future newsletters about what their incredibly kind donation will help develop.

We are also thrilled to finally have all the wonderful big wall art murals to reflect our core values created by the children, affixed to the exterior walls facing outwards in the playground and around the front entrance to the school. Mr Le Cornec has been working diligently and methodically to get everything up over the last couple of weeks. Please do have a look with your child the next time you're in the playground if you haven't had the chance yet.

### **Review of opening and closing times for main perimeter gates**

Over this half term, we have been reviewing playground usage. Our outdoor spaces have multiple uses. In order to maximise on this, we have revised the times that the main gates will open and close at the beginning and end of each day. **The changes laid out will be in effect from Monday 31 October.**

The Early Years' gate will be open at 7.30am to 8am for access to breakfast club after which it will close again until 8.25am. If your child needs to attend the club and arrives after 8am, they will need to go through the main office.

**The playground is not supervised by our staff in the mornings until 8.30am, therefore the gates will not open until 8.25am. To support a prompt start to the day, the gates will close at 8.45am so anyone arriving after that will have to enter school through the main school entrance.**



At the end of the day, **the gates will not open until 2.50pm** to allow for outdoor PE/curriculum work to be completed outside. This opening time will also apply for nursery collections. We would also politely ask that parents who arrive at Years One to Six before 3pm, supervise younger children so they are not peering into/tapping at classroom windows as this can be a distraction to older children as they finalise their school day. We would ask parents to wait along the wooden fencing. Please would you kindly pass this information onto grandparents and childminders too if they are part of this routine.

## Health and safety reminders

### Outdoors

Earlier requests to observe the following rules in our playground to help maintain the safety of all your children, are greatly appreciated. As a reminder, these are as follows:

- No bikes or scooters on the playground – children need to push these along – **scooters should be parked alongside the bikes, not hanging off the fence**
- No ball games of any kind – children should not be bringing in any possessions after half term as **we will provide all playground equipment**
- No dogs
- No use of climbing frames in the main or Early Years'

### Food

As a school, **we operate a nut-free zone**. Therefore, no foods containing nuts should be brought into school as part of children's packed lunches or snacks. Please also bear this in mind when providing treats for birthdays as these will not be given out.

We are in the process of reviewing our snack and lunch policy following on from our 'Food Dudes' programme. We would urge all parents to ensure that snacks and lunches contain healthy options and avoid chocolate, crisps and sugary drinks. This will support the transition towards our healthy food status which will be in place before the end of the academic year.

### Other Quick Reminders:

We try very hard to give you enough notice to cancel hot meals when trips are planned. Please remember, you need to give Caring Cooks a notice period of 7 days to cancel your child's meal. This applies when booking ahead too.

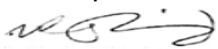
Your children looked super smart for photographs last week! Last Friday access cards were sent home with a unique code for each child. Please follow the instructions on the card to register, once the images have been processed you will be notified by email to view and purchase your photos online.

As always, we are constantly striving to ensure we respond and action any general concerns or queries you may have, so do please approach your class teacher or Key Stage Phase leader in the first instance who are:

- Foundation Stage: Mrs McKay
- Key Stage 1: Mrs Brown
- Key Stage 2: Mrs Blake

I am usually available on the playground in the mornings and as much as possible after school, should you want to speak briefly. However, should you wish to discuss any matters in greater detail, please make an appointment by contacting me through the main office.

With very best wishes,



Ms N Rashid  
Headteacher