



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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have finished our second week at school and the children are settling well, including our Nursery group who joined us this week. Thank you for such a warm reception at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening last Wednesday, it was great to have such a big turnout - we hope you had very informative sessions with the teachers of your children as they shared lots of important detail about all the exciting work planned over the coming months. Newsletters from each teacher are now on our website, diary dates will also be added to the calendar on our website.

During the first part of the evening, I shared some information to introduce myself which I would like to share more widely for parents who were unable to be at the evening.

I have been married for 24 years and have three children. I have been a teacher and Senior Leader in schools for 28 years in London ranging from Acting Deputy Head, Acting Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher) and then in Jersey for 10 years including the Education Department. My most recent post being Deputy Head, then Head of School at La Moye Primary, also in the western part of Jersey. My association with Jersey goes back 26 years and then settling in Jersey a decade ago as my husband is a Jerseyman.

Prior to that, I attended London University as an undergraduate (Goldsmith's College) and also completed a Master's Degree at London University (Institute of Education - UCL). I have also completed the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers (NPQH), so look forward to using my experience and knowledge to help St. Peter's Primary School continue its journey of success and progress.

I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to take over the leadership of a school with such a wonderful reputation. So many people have commented on what a fantastic community this is and I'm already seeing that! I am very excited to continue to work to make St. Peter's an even better place alongside Mr Cronin and this great teaching team to ensure your child is safe, happy and achieving well whilst they are at school.

I do believe strongly in the power of diversity and the innate potential of every child. I value inclusion and actively seek to discover the unique voice of each child as they develop through education.

Through education, we have the gift of inspiring love of learning; creativity and the courage to make positive choices to build the future. We need to put learning first and shape our teaching to bring out the best and most productive learning in the children. For me, whichever school I have been part of, I always set the bar by asking myself: is the quality of education good enough for my own children?

As with all human endeavours, schools are places of constant renewal and development and this year we will be focusing on 3 key areas: refreshing the core values and 2 new projects alongside our existing plans. Firstly, we are developing 'Peer Mediation' which will support your child to resolve disagreements and issues they may face in the playground in a positive way, promoting many important social skills such as teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking and their abilities as leaders. The focus will be on the Year 5 and 6 children who will be participating in two whole days of workshops next Thursday and Friday. Information on this has gone out to the parents of Years 5 and 6. The second whole school project will focus on the development of our oracy skills - this will be supported by 'Voice 21' which is the UK oracy education charity and works with hundreds of schools and is essentially looking at ways to increase the confidence and skill of children's verbal contributions in many different settings and types of talk. It will complement and enhance all the work children are engaged in whilst at school. We are sure as the year goes on, your children will share what they are doing in class.

As I start my role, I have seized on the opportunity to revisit the core values of the school to ensure we have clarity about the vision of the school. What does St. Peter's represent?

I have set about asking the staff and children how accurately they reflect St. Peter's school. A values-led education can be transformative - it unites us as a community and propels us to make even greater progress. I would like you to take part in this to ensure we have a truly community meaning. During the process of re-shaping our school core values, I want us to consider how they:

- Describe the school we have and the school we want in the future
- Are clear and consistent and understood by all
- Guide the attitudes, skills and behaviours of the children, and indeed our whole community
- Guide and underpin our school development

As you will be aware there are currently a number of statements that the school has used to do this, including:

- A 7-word motto: Together We Hold The Keys To Success
- 4 Core Values
- Proud Cloud Awards
- 4 houses

I believe it is vital as we develop for us all to be clear about our vision, values and purpose and so rather than having multiple messages, I would like one set of words that encompass all that we are about and all that we are trying to achieve. This should ensure greater shared understanding, greater shared clarity and a consistency across the school. If we have more than a few words, they will become meaningless because no one will remember them, and their meaning will become unclear.

This is something that staff have already started working on during the training day at the beginning of term, and something the children been thinking about this week. In the initial assembly I did, I have been showing the children a short video clip that illustrates the Core Values of the Olympic and Paralympic movement to help them understand what we mean. If you wish to see this at home, the URL is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFZrkGQ09zc>

I want to ensure the values we come up with represent the collective views of the whole school community, and so I really want you to have your chance to input your ideas.

Over the next week or so, we will be collating all of the ideas, looking for the main themes and making some decisions about exactly what the values of St Peter should be. This process, whilst needing a lot of careful thought, is only the start! After this we need to work on these values in some detail to create a shared understanding of what they mean to children from Nursery to Year 6, to staff and to parents.

This is your chance to shape the values that will underpin St Peter's School for the next few years - and if we get them right, perhaps forever! In the future, these values will form part of our behaviour policy and our teaching and learning policy, shape our curriculum, and underpin the way every classroom works. So they are really very important to get right.

We would be really grateful if you would take a few minutes to reflect on the questions and below then send it back into school.

- What skills and attitudes should St Peter's children have by the time they leave us?
- What do our children need to be able to do and be like to succeed in a rapidly changing and often uncertain world?

We are looking for your 'headline' words - so no need to write an essay! We would like the replies in by Monday 26th September so that we can start collating them all and get to work right away.

Please submit these by email direct to the office team, admin@stpeter.sch.je, titled Core Values.

We really appreciate your support with this - we do know you are super busy- it is vital we get this right to support our future school development.

Ultimately, I want us to be inspired by this refreshed vision and my personal leadership vision is to extend this principle of community further; to realise that by learning and living together with respect, each one of us within the community becomes greater in terms of actualising our individual potential. We become a community of great individuals operating with success and each making our unique respectful contribution to improve the whole community.

My overall aim is to discover the unique voice within each child through education. This is the voice that each child will spend their lifetime honing and developing so that they make their contribution to our planet and the global community.

To do this, I will continue seeking ways to value and support our staff and give them the opportunities to be their best so that they can work in partnership with you as parents and carers to give each one of our St. Peter's children, the very best platform of foundational primary education to take them forward so that they can live their best lives.

With very best wishes,

Ms Nasima Rashid
Headteacher