

September 2021

Dear Parents

Welcome Back! I hope you have had an enjoyable summer. The children have certainly had lots of exciting stories to share.

Welcome to our new Foundation Stage 2 children and their families who are settling in really well. We wish all our new families a special St.Peter's welcome, and we hope they will continue to enjoy their time at St.Peter's School. We look forward to working with you.

We also welcome our Year 1 class teacher, Miss Reynolds, our Year 5 teacher Mrs Effrim-Botchey and our Year 4 class teacher, Mrs Mills-Robertson. I know you will welcome them to our school community.

We are all busy people, but you must put a routine in place whereby children know they must do their home learning – homework, reading etc... Reading from real books (not electronic) is important for children to develop a love of books. At this time, turn the television/computer off. Use the television/computer as incentives for work done – they will value it more. Online homework will be set every other week.

Please you ensure, that, as parents and carers you put a great value on school and education. Explain to your child that treating everyone with respect, being on time and in school everyday, wearing the correct uniform and working hard in school is important to you. These are also important life skills. The value you place on these will be the value your child holds.

We in school will do everything we can to help your child to do their best. Let us know if we can support you in any way.

Your children are your most important gift from God, treasure them, help them, guide them and support them – this time is crucial so do it now. Start this new term with this commitment. We will be monitoring the homework books/reading records etc... closely.

As you know we are a values school and we endeavour to ensure that all learners show respect for everything (friends, adults, property) and we constantly remind learners of the values that underpin our every action. We as a school will continue to support you in reminding your child to say please, thank you, excuse me and to call a person by their name ie Mr, Mrs etc... also to be patient when adults are talking, to learn to wait, to knock on the door before entering, to stand back for adults if there is no room to pass, to hold the door and to offer to help.

This term we will be letting you know as soon as possible if your child needs reminding about how to treat others fairly. We will be using our 'It's nice to be nice' motto to reinforce our respect agenda. This year we want to further develop the concept of growing in God's love, focussing on the Gospel values of respect, forgiveness, perseverance, love, hope, and honesty. We are also continuing with our phrase 'Good, better, best, never rest until our good gets better, and our better gets best' – this reminds us to do our best every day in every way, and never to give up.

It is lovely to see so many children returning to school, looking so smart in their school uniform. However, to complement this smart appearance, we also expect that children will attend school with suitable haircuts. Extreme haircuts, for example tramlines, patterned styles, Mohican cuts etc... are not permitted in school.

Punctuality

The school day starts at 8.55am and finishes at 3.15pm. I cannot stress enough the importance of being punctual in the morning. Similarly, children must be collected on time, as staff have meetings, training and preparation to attend to, which can only take place once at the end of the school day.

If you are experiencing difficulties with punctuality and would like to talk to us about it, please contact the office. Thank you for your understanding regarding this very important matter.

Child Protection

The Governors, Headteacher and staff of St. Peter's School, through the implementation of the Child Protection Policy (held in the School Office), endeavour to ensure that all child protection issues, or where there are reasonable grounds to suspect an issue, will be dealt with appropriately including reporting to the duty social services officer, who will act on the concern. We are legally bound, in our duty of care, to make referrals. Do let us know, for any reason, if your child is upset or distressed when s/he comes to school.

Hometime Arrangements

All children must be collected on time at the end of the school day, by the designated parent/carer. Please ensure your Junior child is aware of hometime arrangements, ie if they are to wait for an adult to collect them, or they are to go home alone or to go to the after school club. You must also ensure that arrangements are made for the care of your child once they return home. You **MUST** contact the school office if, in an emergency, there is a change, ie another adult will be collecting your child (Infant or Junior) - we will not let your child go home unless we are notified. Please ensure you complete and return the 'hometime arrangement' form that has recently been sent home.

School Uniform

Your child must wear the correct school uniform, with sensible black school shoes (no markings/colours etc...). Please ensure you write your child's name on all uniform and PE kit. The correct PE kit must also be worn – white polo shirt (no sports tops) and plain black/navy bottoms (no markings or brand names). We will strictly be enforcing this.

Food in School

For children who choose to have a packed lunch, please ensure it contains a healthy balance, with no fizzy drinks or chocolate. However, aside from packed lunch, no other food or drink may be brought into school – this includes **party bags or party food items of any description**. This is for health and safety reasons, but especially to safeguard those children who have food allergies.

Mobile/Internet Safety

As your children become more and more reliant on the Internet for both school work and entertainment, we must all, as a community, be more aware for the need to monitor the sites your child visits. In school, through classroom activities and discussion, we highlight positive uses of technology, but also ways in which we can all keep safe through responsible use of the internet, our mobile phones and social media (eg WhatsApp, TikTok, Facebook etc...). At home you can ensure the security systems on your computers, tablets and mobiles are up to date and also, please talk to your child about the dangers of accessing unfamiliar sites, or giving parents' e-mail/Facebook/Twitter etc.... details to strangers.

Behaviour Policy

Please view our Behaviour Policy, which is available on our website – www.stpeters.greenwich.sch.uk .
Please talk to your children regularly about being good ambassadors for their family and school.

School Council

The School Council is made up of two representatives from Classes 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The Council meet regularly to discuss any issues that may be of concern, or that have been brought to their attention by other pupils. These issues are then forwarded to the Headteacher for consideration.

The School Council is very popular with all the pupils, as it gives them a voice in school, and enables the whole school community to work together, and we shall be electing a new School Council for this school year.

Governors

All the Governors at St.Peter's School, work very hard, voluntarily, to ensure St.Peter's school continues to serve the whole school community, at a consistently high level. Governors visit the school on a regular basis, attending meetings, undertaking training, attending interview panels and touring the school, looking at children's work, achievement and progress. We thank the Governors for all their continued hard work and support for the school, and look forward to working together in the forthcoming school year.

As always, I am available most mornings at the front of school to talk to parents. Do let me know what we can do to make St.Peter's school the best it can be. Similarly, teaching staff are always willing to talk to parents about any matters you may have concerning your children. Please phone the school office to make an appointment or phone the Class Teacher

Priorities for School Improvement for 2021-2022:

1. To foster knowledge and understanding of the Gospel values and growing in God's love.
2. To develop the Leadership, Management and Middle Leadership team.
3. To raise the quality of education through teaching, learning and assessment, providing more opportunities to broaden pupil's experiences.
4. To support all pupils to further develop their own personal skills, behaviour and attitudes towards learning.

Dates For Your Diary:

1st September – INSET Day
2nd September – Children return to school
8th September – Feast of Our Lady
20th September – Virtual 'Meet The Teacher' meetings all week
21st October – End of Term 1
22nd October – INSET Day

October is the month of the Rosary

2nd November – Start of Term 2

Finally, thank you for your support, and we look forward to another successful year, for your child, for you and for our whole school community.

Yours sincerely

Miss M Du Bruyn

Headteacher