



St. Peter's
Catholic Primary School



Thursday 8th January 2016,

Dear families of St. Peter's School,

Welcome back to a new year, I hope you had lovely Christmases and an excellent start to the New Year. I have a few notices to bring to your attention at the start of this new term.

Thank yous!

First and most importantly, the staff and I would like to extend a massive thank you to all of you parents for your kind words and generous gifts at the end of term. I was quite overwhelmed with the lovely gifts that were given to me; the staff have also asked me to pass on their sincere thanks too. They worked really hard last term and it is heart-warming that their efforts were appreciated by parents and children. Such tokens and kind comments are never expected but are most certainly always appreciated.

Pupil Premium funding

I regularly ask parents to consider any changes to their personal family circumstances that may entitle their child to receive a free school meal and also financial support so that they have an equal opportunity to access the curriculum. This means free provision for musical instrument lessons, afterschool clubs and trips all paid during their time at Primary School. It also helps us to pay for whole school resources that benefit all children; for example TA support and Accelerated Reader. Information is held confidentially and we ensure that we do not publicly identify the children who receive these benefits. If you would like further information or think you are eligible to apply for this funding, please visit:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

Writing

One of the key priorities that I shared with you at the start of this year was that we aimed to improve writing through providing our children with experiential learning opportunities and engaging texts. We are really moving forward with this aim this term and Mr. Rooney has led our staff in planning our whole school 'Discovery' topic. This started with an exciting day yesterday, discovering wild and exciting animals in our school! Please take this time as a chance to really encourage your children to develop their writing at home through keeping discovery diaries, writing about things that interest them and excite them and allowing them to share their writing with other people at home and school.

Handwriting

As part of our drive to improve writing, we have noticed that the children's handwriting has started to 'slip'! We are sending home an example alphabet so that you can practice handwriting with your children but also know what it is we are looking for and what makes 'neat handwriting'. Good pencil grip is recommended and we are trying to encourage joined up as soon as possible. We acknowledge individual styles so please don't get too worried about it matching our example; our aim is that all children write neatly, legibly and quickly.



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Water bottles

School will no longer be providing a water bottle for each child. The water bottles were not being washed out regularly and we are concerned that children may not be drinking fresh water. If you would like your child to remain hydrated throughout lesson time, please provide them with a labelled water bottle and ask that they bring it home each day so that it can be cleaned and re-filled.

Times tables

You will have heard a lot in the news about times tables being assessed in year 6. I would like to assure you that tables are taught and assessed in each class every week across the school. Our National curriculum requires that by the end of year 4, pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table and show precision and fluency in their work. We feel that the children need to be able to perform beyond a set of tables that they learn that week and should know them deeply and thoroughly so that they may show the precision and fluency in a range of contexts, not just a test that they have prepared for. We will put some activities on the maths section of our website so that you can help your child to learn their tables at home each week.

Our Vision for 2016

I am excited to be hosting a meeting for parents so that myself and Michael O'Riley (our Chair of Governors) can talk to parents about developments at school and how we are improving the school for the benefit of our children and families. We won't be doing 'question and answers' but if there is anything you would like to ask, please indicate below and we will try to cover as much as possible in the hour's meeting. I'm sure many of you would like to attend so we will present on Tuesday 19th January at 6pm and again on Wednesday 20th at 9am so that we can ensure as many parents are able to join us as possible. Please return the slip below to confirm you would like to join us so that we can ensure the capacity of the hall is not exceeded.

Kind regards,

Miss McNamara
Headteacher

I would like to attend the '**Vision for 2016**' meeting on _____ (identify date).

I would like to hear more about _____

Name: _____