



# St. Peter's

Catholic Primary School

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Royal Leamington Spa  
CV32 5EL

Headteacher: Miss T. McNamara

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Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

Dear St. Peter's Families,

In February, I received a very important letter regarding our school's performance. The letter was from the Minister of State for School Standards, Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP. I have photocopied this letter onto the back of this letter so that you can have a read.

It has taken a lot of thought and prayer as to whether or not to share this with everyone, hence the delay in doing so! Why would I be reluctant to share such a wonderful letter, you might ask? Well, the truth is that I am immensely proud of our staff and children and all of the work that they contributed to enable us to get such wonderful grades, however, I don't want St. Peter's to be defined purely by its academic successes on a National platform. Whilst important, it is not **the most** important.

In 6 school weeks, our year 6 pupils will sit this year's SATs. They have worked so hard all year; but what does 'working hard' mean? For those who don't have children in this class, you should know that there are some St. Peter's children come into school early to attend revision sessions before school, some children stay in at lunch and some stay after school. This happens every day and this is on an entirely voluntary basis. Mr Rooney dedicates hours of his own time to teach these children to help them to achieve. Not because I have asked him to; because he wants every child to succeed. Mrs VJ and Mrs Giacalone spend hours preparing materials for the children that suit every level. Children take home homework tasks, they may even see a tutor outside of school; they are doing everything that they can to be the best they can be. They themselves are choosing to go the extra mile; to step up to the plate.

This work ethic and desire to be a success is what I want all of our children to leave St. Peter's with. I want them to be strong, confident, creative, independent, kind, honest and compassionate. Our children are showing us already that they possess these qualities in bucket loads. This isn't something that our SATs tests will ever be able to show in graphs or percentages. We can't be compared to other schools for these things. Whilst I'm sure many of you disagree or agree with SATs testing, we must not overlook the opportunity the tests have given our children to show us what they're made of and for this, I am the most proud I could possibly be. Seeing our children apply themselves and ambitiously strive towards successful futures is great; watching them overcome frustration and difficulty so that they can go on to achieve is simply stunning. Mr Gibb doesn't mention this in his letter so I felt that it is essential that I tell you about it in mine.

Please pray for our children and families as we approach the Summer of assessments. Pray that our children don't become overwhelmed or disheartened, but continue to develop strength and resilience which will enable them to ask for help so that they can achieve. Most of all, thank you for supporting your children on their learning journey. Remember, there's no 'right way'; every child is different, but nurturing them and loving what makes them different will see them to success, whatever their 'success' may look like.

Best wishes,

Miss T. McNamara  
Headteacher



**Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister of State for School Standards

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Miss Tess McNamara  
Headteacher  
St Peter's Catholic Primary School  
Augusta Place  
Leamington Spa  
CV32 5EL

7 February 2017

Dear Miss McNamara,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils for the very high standard that pupils in your school have achieved in reading and in mathematics for the 2016 key stage 2 assessments.

Your school's results, as published on 15 December, show that 100 per cent of your pupils attained the expected standard in reading and mathematics at the end of key stage 2. This means that your school is in the top 1% of primary schools in England for attainment in reading and mathematics.

We want to ensure that every child has the necessary fluency in reading and in mathematics to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, and your school has provided this to all your pupils.

Thank you for your hard work and professionalism in producing such high standards and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

**Nick Gibb MP**