



Governor News

December 2020 Issue

St Peter's is a warm, caring and inclusive school where everyone feels valued and can grow in confidence and faith. In this supportive community, children are encouraged to develop enquiring minds, a lifelong love of learning and a respect for other people and cultures. We are led by our core Christian Values of Community, Compassion, Truth, Trust, Friendship and Endurance

Be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble 1 Peter 3:8

Dear parents and carers,

What a year 2020 has been for all of us. I can honestly say I have never experienced anything like it in school or life. I am completely blown away by how the staff, children and parents have responded to this incredibly challenging time, and on behalf of the board, I would like thank you from the bottom of my heart. The resilience and determination you have shown in ensuring that we all remain safe and look after each other throughout this pandemic is incredible. I pray that 2021 is a safer and happier year for everyone.

Mrs Anderson has done an outstanding job in taking on the Interim Head Teacher role. She has successfully identified the school priorities in the current challenging environment, along with successfully stabilising the school. She continues to have 100% support from all the staff, Governors, the Local Authority, the Diocese of York and the leadership consultant Sue Brooks and equally as important, the parents. The drive, the time commitment, her belief in the school and all the children and her passion for staff and pupil wellbeing along with pupil catchup and learning, has been inspirational. She and the staff certainly deserve their Christmas break!

Mrs Holmes and all the staff in Helperbees have also been very busy. Young ones have been welcomed again this term and along with the existing children, they have all had a great start to the year. Father Christmas bags have been made, cards have been coloured and lots of fun has been had by all!

During this term, there has been lots going on in main school too. In addition to forest school, football and multi-sports clubs and all the other extra curricular activities the staff manage to fit into the school day, they have also been assessing the children, so that a catch up in any gaps that are identified as a result of the school closure in the summer can rapidly take place. I have to say again, the children have been truly amazing. As an expression of our thanks, they will be bringing a little something home on the last day of term from the Governors. You should all be very proud parents indeed.

As usual, the PTA have been very busy this term. They have arranged a fun quiz, a pumpkin event for Halloween, and a fabulous Christmas cake stall. They have also kindly arranged for the virtual Christmas pantomime for all the children, including icecream! and a virtual viking experience for Class 2. A massive thank you to the PTA and all who help them, the school is very lucky to have such a great team to support us.

During this half term, we welcomed a new supply class 3 teacher Mrs Sutcliffe, who has been sharing the teaching responsibility of year 5 and 6 with Mrs Anderson. I would like to congratulate Mrs Sutcliffe, as she has been successfully appointed for the position of teacher in class 3 until August 2021. She will continue to share the teaching with Mrs Anderson for 3 days a week and we would like to offer her a very warm welcome to the team. The Governors at St Peter's would also like to express a warm welcome to our newly elected foundation Governor Mike Dennett. Mike is a Maths teacher at Queen Ethelburga's School and is living in the village of Helperby and is also the secretary for Helperby Cricket Club. We look forward to working with him, he will have a Governor link role of Safeguarding and PSHCE within our school.

Christmas is not Christmas at St Peters, without our wonderful Christingle service. Unfortunately, because of the current covid situation, this cannot take place in our lovely Church this year. However, this will take place in school on Wednesday 16th December at 10am and everyone is welcome to join the children and staff virtually. An invite will be sent via email to all parents and carers. See you there!

Finally, myself and the rest of the Governors would like to wish all the children, parents and families of St Peters a very Merry Christmas, and let us all hope and pray that 2021 will be a safer year for us all. Stay safe, and above all, stay healthy,

Best Wishes,

Shirley Sowray
Chair of Governors



