



St. Peter's C.E.V.A. First School

"working together to achieve our best"

www.st-peterscofe.worcs.sch.uk

2008 / 2009 HEADLINES

July 2009 Issue 4

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Opportunities & Changes

2008/2009 has been a year of big development and further change for the pupils and staff at St. Peter's.

Mrs O'Keeffe-Pullan has continued to implement our programme of school development and has built an able and dedicated senior leadership team to work alongside her in this.

Our new Deputy Head, Lucy Colclough, joined us from Lyppard Grange and has worked tirelessly to manage health and safety, Teaching Assistants, staff absence and supply and the Parent Voice, not to mention teaching a very full curriculum to her Year 3 class.

Miss Simons acted as Temporary Assistant Headteacher in Mrs Long's absence, primarily working on assessment and school data.

We appointed Miss Sutton and Mrs Todd as Phase Leaders with special teaching and learning responsibilities for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and 2.

We will have a full compliment of staff for September following the appointment of Mrs Hermiston to Reception and Miss Anna Jack to Year 1. We are saying goodbye to three excellent teachers who have given a lot to St. Peter's during their time here. However, with a national shortage of teachers coming forward to lead the profession, we are proud that so many of our staff move on to more senior positions and we are committed to their professional development.

Another Year of Good Results

We are pleased to announce that the Spring 2009 results show **another year of good results** for St. Peter's First School!

All pupils are monitored each spring by QCA testing and/or teacher assessment. This process is nationally recognised in **Year 2 (SATs)**.

A Year 2 child is expected to be working at a level 2b according to the National Curriculum levels set by the Government.

Understanding National Curriculum levels is one of the most difficult things for parents. Please see the Parents' Information section on the school website for an explanation of how they work.

See over the page for a more detailed analysis of our results.

St. Peter's First School Setting the Standards

St. Peter's Reception Unit has been visited recently by the local advisor for Early Years and judged to be secure in terms of the Foundation Stage Profile, with many strengths identified in Foundation Stage Practice. Well done to the Early Years team!

Mrs John, our Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator, was invited to speak and to run a workshop at the lead teacher conference for MAGAT in recognition of the good work St. Peter's has been doing in this area of provision. Well done to Mrs John!



Look on our website and you will find our newsletter in colour!

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Foundation Stage

Pupils in Reception have made good progress from Autumn to Summer. Most are performing at or above the expected levels of attainment for children at the end of the Foundation Stage. Some have made significantly more progress than expected in dispositions and attitudes, emotional development, numbers as labels for counting and physical development. The Foundation Stage Curriculum national average overall points score for a Reception child is 78. The average points score of the 08/09 cohort is 83 point score for a Reception child is 78.

Based on teacher assessment:

- 12% achieved on or around the expected level
- 70% achieved above the expected level
- 18% achieved below the expected level

Year One

Pupils in Year 1 have made good progress across reading, writing and mathematics.

The national average level expected of a Year 1 child is level 1b. However, this year, in order to ensure that all pupils are reaching age expected levels as they move through the school, we have set our Year 1 benchmark internally at level 1a which is one sub-level above level 1b. This reflects our whole school commitment to raising targets for expected levels of attainment.

Based on teacher assessment:

- 65% achieved level 1a or above in reading
- 47% achieved level 1a or above in writing
- 54% achieved level 1a or above in mathematics

- 33% achieved level 2 or above in reading
- 21% achieved level 2 or above in writing
- 25% achieved level 2 or above in mathematics

Year Two

Pupils have made good progress overall in Year 2. These are our statutory results and show a sustained improvement. Teacher assessments were judged to be accurate and have been moderated by the local authority. The national average is level 2b.

- 82% achieved level 2b or above in reading
- 74% achieved level 2b or above in writing
- 74% achieved level 2b or above in mathematics

Year Three

Pupils in Year 3 have made good progress overall. The average level for a Year 3 child is a level 3c.

Based on teacher assessment:

- 80% achieved 3c or above in reading
- 66% achieved 3c or above in writing
- 74% achieved 3c or above in mathematics

- 23% achieved level 4 or above in reading
- 1% achieved level 4 or above in writing
- 4% achieved level 4 or above in mathematics

Year Four

Pupils in Year 4 have made good progress overall. The average level for a Year 4 pupil is a level 3b.

Based on teacher assessment:

- 76% achieved level 3b or above in reading
- 68% achieved level 3b or above in writing
- 76% achieved level 3b or above in mathematics

- 56% achieved level 4 in reading
- 39% achieved level 4 in writing
- 26% achieved level 4 in mathematics

Staff have been extremely focused this year on setting challenging targets for all pupils. The Ofsted inspector confirmed at our recent inspection that our work with the more able, gifted and talented has also had a positive impact on standards across the whole school.

St. Peter's is outward looking and forward thinking...

St. Peter's is still involved in the "**World Class Curriculum**" program which aims to develop cross curricular learning in school.

Governors attended a pyramid training session at Westlands to explore the new 21st Century Curriculum. It is clear that the **WCC** initiative is crucial for our children if they are to be happy and successful 21st Century citizens.

Miss Simons and **Mrs Todd** have continued to be 'moderators' for the County on the **APP (Assessing Pupil Progress)** project that has been launched to positively impact upon assessment and attainment in schools. They have also successfully completed the National College of School Leadership "Leadership Pathways" programme of professional development. Well done to them!



St Peter's School Website

Our new website has been extremely popular with pupils and parents alike. It has given us opportunities to show what the children have been up to in words and pictures and to reach a bigger audience for their work. It is a great advert for our school and we know that it has been a factor in attracting potential new children to us.

There is regular up to date information for parents, carers and friends. So if you have missed a newsletter or forgotten a date please use the site to look it up.

Photos of all the staff and governors are there so there is no excuse for not knowing who everyone is!

The website will continue to be kept bang up to date and new material is constantly being added. We know there is nothing more frustrating than a website that is out of date and irrelevant.

We plan to use the website a lot more in the future as a means of communication by posting information and making it more interactive. If you have any suggestions for things you would like to see on the site please let us know.

www.st-peterscofe.worcs.sch.uk

Parent Voice

The Parent Voice has now met three times and as a result has produced newsletters outlining their discussions. A number of issues have been raised and, through working together, we have been able to resolve them in a positive way. The feedback from parents on our recent sports day and picnic day have been very positive with many comments on how much the children enjoyed the events.

In discussion with the Parent Voice, sharing your ideas, we hope to continue promoting these events to enrich our children's education.

Lucy Colclough



Church Links

It has been a pleasure to see the church and school communities working closely together again this year, with an increased number of opportunities for children to visit St. Peter's church for worship and for church members to be involved, as part of Churches Together in Droitwich, in leading assemblies in school. The parish churches have also been trying to make families more aware of what is on offer, on weekdays and Sundays, for both adults and children to support their personal exploration of spirituality alongside the Christian ethos of the school. The church values this privileged partnership and welcomes suggestions and involvement from parents, staff and parishioners alike in developing it further.

Sheila Banyard, Link Governor for Personal, Health and Social Education

Congratulations!

To Miss Simons who has been promoted to Assistant Head at St. Mary and St. Peter, Teddington, London and to Mrs Pettit who leaves to take up a new post at Blackminster Middle School.

Goodbye and good luck to Mrs Levermore who is leaving teaching to pursue further studies.

We will miss you!

In September we will welcome Mrs Hermiston in Reception and Miss Jack in Year 1.

Parent Teacher Association

Since the last Governors' Newsletter the PTA have held a very successful Summer Fayre, Christmas Fayre and quiz nights. We would like to thank all those who have been involved but especially Mary Jaynes who has been acting Chair.

This year the funds raised by the PTA have gone towards:

- Replenishing the bark on the trim trail (this costs £1300 each time)
- Providing the Year 4 leaving presents
- £100 per class for a box of lunchtime play equipment which has gone down a storm with the children
- Special SICO folding tables and chairs for lunchtime in the hall next year (total cost £7700)

This is an awful lot of additional money raised for your children that would not have been available if it were not for the efforts of those involved in organising events and those who supported them. We have always had a strong and successful PTA at St. Peter's and that has been one of our strengths.

The PTA needs YOUR help for next year. Yes YOU! (not the person next to, in front of or behind you) YOU!
Look out for further information on how you can help in the Autumn term.

Extended schools and wrap around care

At the beginning of the year a questionnaire was sent to parents to identify the need for before and after school care. The response showed a significant demand for such a service. It was clear that parents would prefer to have this on site rather than off site. Since that analysis Mrs O'Keeffe-Pullan, myself and Justine Cosson have consulted with several providers in Droitwich to see what kind of service they could offer to St. Peter's parents. We have identified two providers who can offer external care – Safehand's (whom we currently have links with) and Phoenix Childcare at Gaudet Luce who are offering a new service from September - and a third organisation, Kids First, who currently operate from Chawson First School and are prepared to offer on site care. We have also compiled a list of Registered Childminders who gave their names to us as picking up from St. Peter's. Details of all of these providers are available from the Office.

We hope that parents will now feel that they have a wide choice from which to decide the sort of service they want depending on their requirements.

Our aim is to be able to offer on site care as soon as possible in the Autumn Term. This is dependant upon Kids First obtaining Ofsted registration in relation to the use of our buildings. The application has been made and we await a date for the accreditation visit. In the meantime, we are finalising the letting arrangements with Kids First and registration packs are being prepared by them so that they are good to go as soon as we get the go ahead. We will contact parents when we have any further information but you can be assured that we are as keen as you are for this service to be in place and for it to be a success.

Please note, however, that as a school we are simply signposting you in the direction of various childcare providers on and off site. St. Peter's does not endorse or recommend any one provider in preference to another or guarantee the quality of the childcare. Any arrangements for childcare are made purely between yourselves and the provider you have chosen and St. Peter's takes no responsibility for any agreements entered into.

Keith Norrington, Vice Chair of Governors

"University" Afternoons

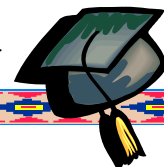
Friday afternoon "University" afternoons have become part of school life at St Peter's. They are an opportunity for the children to take control of their learning by choosing a new skill to learn or practice. They are also an opportunity for staff and helpers to teach a skill or subject that they specialise or have a particular talent or interest in. It's a WIN WIN formula!

Children across the year groups from Reception up to Year 4 work together with those who share similar interests or talents. It is a unique way to enable our older children to mentor and buddy our younger children and it has been heart warming to see them working so supportively.

Through this kind of activity we are able to actively support and encourage our more able, gifted and talented children as we involve a number of challenges to challenge and extend the children in particular areas.

Most importantly, the children look forward to this part of our school week. They are enthused by the fact that they have control over their learning are able to make their own choices. They enjoy working with their siblings and friends from other year groups and classes and they thrive on the variety of activities offered. We are fortunate to have had several enthusiastic and talented helpers this year and I am grateful for their time and skills in running their activities. University afternoons will continue in the next academic year, will be developed even further and will, we hope, become embedded into school life at St. Peter's.

Caroline Sutton.



Thank you to all the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, for all your hard work and contributions to the life of the school. We could not do it without you!



GOVERNING BODY STUFF

What does the Governing Body do?

Every school has a governing body. The Governing Body consists of representatives from the local community including parents, church, school and local authority. Governors do not need any specific qualifications and are welcome from all backgrounds.

The Governing Body acts a bit like a Board of Directors to manage the school.

The Governing Body employs the Headteacher, as a professional, to manage the school and staff on a day to day basis. The Headteacher, Staff and Governors work together to run all aspects of school life including staffing, finance, premises, curriculum, compliance with legislation and policy, forward planning and, most importantly, the standards of education for our children.

Governors are not paid to conduct their duties. Most governors find the experience fulfilling and rewarding. Employers are legally bound to allow employees reasonable release time, with pay, to fulfil governor responsibilities.



What does 'VA' stand for?

Our Voluntary Aided (VA) status is a very important part of making St. Peter's the school that it is, and you can read more about this on our website.

Having VA status also carries with it certain responsibilities, especially in relation to building and maintenance costs. We can access Government funding for repairs, refurbishments and improvements but we are required to contribute 10% towards this.

At St. Peter's this 10% is raised through donations from the families of children attending the school. We ask each family (regardless of how many children in the family attend the school) to contribute £10 each term, or £30 for the year to the VA fund. For each contribution to £10 we are therefore able to undertake £100 of building work. We have a 5 year rolling programme of building projects that we would like to undertake and of course there is always maintenance to be done and unexpected costs that occur!

This year the contributions to the VA fund have helped us to fund boiler replacement, plan additional security fencing around the school site and tarmac the muddy waiting area under the trees.

At the start of each term we publish a reminder about VA fund contributions in Tune In On Tuesday. Payments can be sent into school in an envelope marked 'St. Peter's VA Fund'. We send out individual reminders as necessary.

We are aware that, from time to time, some families may find it difficult to make this contribution and we ask that you advise us of this so that reminders will not be sent for the period of difficulty.

The VA fund is completely separate from all other school funds and money raised by the school or the Parent Teacher Association.

Steve Penn, governor, Finance Committee

"Thank You"

Thank you to pupils and families for your contributions. Your continued support ensures that St. Peter's is able to provide the best possible facilities for your children.

Read more about our VA status on the website too

!WANTED!

In the Autumn Term we will have a vacancy for a **Parent Governor**. Nomination forms will be sent out at the time and, if there is more than one nomination, elections will be held. We pride ourselves on regularly having several nominations for our parent governor vacancies which shows how committed our parents are to this school and the children. Are you:

- Interested in education and want to make a difference to children's lives
- Tolerant and able to work with others
- Patient
- Enthusiastic
- Willing to learn and spend time getting involved in school life
- Open and democratic?

Then GO ON, apply..... You can do it!

We still have a vacancy for a **Church Governor**. If you are a regular churchgoer and known to the Droitwich Parochial Church Council and would like to be considered, please let our Rector, Sheila, know.





GOVERNOR REPORTS

The “Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development” of our children at St. Peter’s

The “SMSCD” Committee that I Chair is a recently reformed group of staff and governors. We have widened our brief to explore the ways in which we can express and develop all of these aspects of the children’s education but particularly our school’s Christian ethos.

Staff and governors undertook a training day at the start of the year led by Diocesan Board of Education officers and many ideas and suggestions have flowed from that. One of these has been the creation of reflection areas both in the main entrance to school and in each classroom. These provide a focal point for the development of the children’s spirituality through reflection, quiet conversation with others and noting down of prayers or thoughts.

One couple in the corridor were observed to be writing prayers for each other as one of them prepared to emigrate to another country. The conversation went along the lines of “I am writing “I hope you will be happy in your new home...””, “Yes, and I am writing I hope you will have a nice life.”

Other areas are being developed around school, for example in the sensory parts of the Reception outdoor area, where the children have access to items that evoke the senses of seeing, hearing and touching and they can simply “chill out” occasionally away from the bustle and business of school life. Not all children want to play rough and tumble at playtime and they often need somewhere to go to get lost in their own thoughts.

Members of the committee have been out to visit other Church of England schools in the local area to share good practice and we have been visited in turn by colleagues who are keen to see what we do at St. Peter’s and to help us develop this important aspect of children’s lives. Our work encompasses the Personal, Health and Social Education curriculum and we have responsibility for developing cultural and community links with other schools and community groups. We are exploring the way in which we can use those links even better to enrich the curriculum and the life experiences of our children.

Jill Wheeler, Chair of the SMSCD Committee



Eco Schools

At St. Peter’s we are continuing to develop a community that is learning not only to care for itself, but also for the environment on a local and wider scale. Our school Eco Council, guided by Miss. Harwood, has been busy again this year organising a number of activities to raise our awareness of environmental matters. A “Switch It Off!” week in October focussed on saving energy; later in the year all staff were reminded of simple measures that can be taken to reduce our use of power. January’s Eco Week gave all year groups the opportunity to find out more about how to lessen our impact on the environment and to produce a piece of artwork using recycled materials. These are currently on display in the library. The Council ended the week with a visit to Westlands First School to share knowledge and ideas.

Having carried out an environmental audit, the Eco Council are now involved in drawing up an action plan to further reduce the amount of energy and water we use in school. Once these are in place, their impact will be monitored, hopefully giving us the evidence we need to complete our application for the bronze Eco Award.

Over the past year children have continued to be able to develop their understanding of, and respect for, the natural world. All children in Foundation Stage and Year 2 visit the Forest School; this was also offered to all as a University afternoon option in the second half of the summer term. Foundation Stage children have also been thrilled by the opening of their new outdoor area, which enables them to take their learning outside on a regular basis. Thanks and congratulations must go to Miss. Harwood for her hard work in bringing this project to life.

We have also been encouraged to think about the environment outside the school gate. During a Food and Farming week in the autumn, Year 4 learnt about sustainable farming and Fair Trade products, while Year 3 considered recyclable and eco-friendly packaging. Leaving the car behind on Feel-good Fridays offers a sustainable way to travel to school and increase our personal well-being.

In these different ways, sustainability is becoming part of every day life at St. Peter’s as we aim to learn to care for ourselves, each other and the world around us.

Fiona Rouse, Eco Link Governor



School Grounds and Buildings

The Premises Committee that I Chair has responsibility for health, safety, welfare, child protection, and all things related to the school property. It is the dumping ground for much of the boring but necessary legal, regulatory and statutory requirements imposed on schools.

What have we done this year?

- Pupils and staff returned to school after last year's summer break to find the Hall completely refurbished. It is now a much brighter, pleasant place to be. We even installed a new sound system. This was the final part of an internal environmental improvement plan that has seen classrooms and other areas repainted, new carpets/floor coverings and new facilities to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, over the last few years.
- Following a spate of thefts and vandalism all valuable portable items i.e. computers, cameras etc have been marked with SmartWater. This is a colourless liquid solution that is dabbed onto the uneven surfaces of our valuables. Each bottle of SmartWater contains a unique chemical 'code' which is registered to St. Peter's School. It cannot be easily seen by the naked eye and is almost impossible to remove from items and from skin. The liquid glows under ultraviolet light making it easy for the Police to detect the culprits and prove that stolen items came from St. Peter's School.
- After years of parents and children wearing out the grass between the playground and the field, creating health and safety hazards with exposed tree roots and matting, we took the decision to extend this area into the playground with a layer of tarmac. This provides a better hardstanding for waiting parents and an extra area for the children to use when the field is out of use. In response to those who expressed concern recently about the tree roots, a rescue programme is in hand as the contractor laid the tarmac too close to them.
- We have experienced difficulties in recent years in obtaining spare parts for our ancient boilers and pumps and they are at the end of their economic and serviceable lives. To keep our children warm this winter, they are currently being replaced at considerable cost, unfortunately.
- We have taken delivery of some lovely new playhouses which can be seen around the school grounds to replace some that were damaged by vandals or rotten.
- We have relocated the bike racks to a more accessible place by the gazebo and it is good to see so many bikes and scooters in it. It is more tempting for the children to play on them where they are now and they will break if they are damaged. Please deter your children from playing on them so that we can use them for a long time yet.

What's next?

- During this summer break the Sico mobile folding tables will be delivered for use in the Hall so that children can eat their lunch away from the classroom. The seats are attached to the tables, which eliminates the noise of chairs moving around and banging together. They can be set up very quickly. Mrs O'Keeffe-Pullan test drove them herself and staff will, of course, have to have special handling training!! Classrooms should remain cleaner, more hygienic and less smelly as a result and the children will have more social interaction and a change of environment at this important break in the day.
- In terms of Safeguarding and Child Protection we constantly review the school's physical boundaries and we hope to improve site security with additional fencing where it is needed. This, like everything else, is, however, always dependant upon sufficient funds being available.
- School maintenance and redecoration is a bit like the "Forth Bridge". Having completed our rolling programme of refurbishment with the Hall, it's time to start again with another on going schedule of internal redecoration.



I hope that you have viewed the improvements over the last few years as a positive contribution to your child's experience at St. Peter's. Their safety and well being is paramount to us and their learning environment is as much a part of their education as the pencils and books they use to read and write.

Iain Williams, Chair of Premises Committee

Science

The highlight of the year for the Science curriculum was the whole school science morning.

Caroline Sutton, Science Co-ordinator, prepared an assembly for the whole school based on Charles Darwin. No mean feat, considering the age ranges and abilities. Each age group had a problem to discuss, to experiment with solutions and draw conclusions. All the work was recorded in large workbooks that were later displayed in the library. Problems ranged from which type of gloves were best for gardening to which materials to use to make a boat for a gingerbread man to float in! The children were all very interested in each other's work and in all aspects of the morning. They enjoyed the break from normal routine whilst learning a scientific approach to problem solving.

Margaret Harle,
Link Governor for Science



Early Years

What an exciting and full year our Reception children have had. When they started last September, they seemed too little to be at school, but how quickly they have matured and grown and settled in to life at St. Peter's and how much they have learnt. I have been lucky enough, as Early Years Link Governor, to watch the children performing in their first Christmas play and their class assemblies. I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the new Reception outdoor area by the Mayor of Droitwich in May. It was a delight to see the children proudly showing their parents around and for the parents to work together with the children and be actively involved in their learning. The children are learning how to take care of their environment and at the same time look after themselves by growing vegetables, herbs and plants. The area has also been used for the Year 4 after school gardening club who have grown radish and spinach amongst other things. As a frequent visitor to the Reception area, it is clear that the children are having so many wonderful experiences in a bright, stimulating and caring environment and that through their learning they are growing in confidence and independence.

Mel Radford, Early Years Link Governor

Monitoring the Curriculum and School Development

Do you know who monitors the Curriculum and school development at St. Peter's? Alongside the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team, one of the main roles of the Governing Body is to monitor the progress of each of the curriculum areas and of the key development priorities at St. Peter's. A named governor is assigned to a specific subject area, such as History, Mathematics and PE, or to a development area such as Extended Schools and More Able Gifted and Talented. Each Governor is then responsible for monitoring their particular area of the Curriculum or of school development.

What does this mean?

Each teacher at St. Peter's leads a subject or curriculum area and is responsible for its management. This includes leading the whole staff in training and delivery of the subject, monitoring and raising standards within that subject and resourcing equipment. Groups of staff are also responsible for development areas. It is the responsibility of the named governor and individual teacher or groups of staff to meet regularly throughout the year to monitor how the subject or development area is progressing. This often happens during school hours so that the governor can see the subject or project in action. Each visit has a specific purpose and must have a link with the school development plan. Governors do not act as inspectors during the visit. They observe in order to ascertain if the objectives set for the curriculum or for school development are reflected in what is going on in school.

After each visit, a report is written which is fed back to the Head and the Chair of Governors and then to the whole Governing Body. This ensures that any issues or actions arising out of the visit are duly noted and acted upon.

Nicky Todd, Link Governor for Governor monitoring visits

PE is growing in strength

This year has seen PE being lead by Claire Taylor-Smith for the first time. She has been involved with the Worcester City and Droitwich School Sport Partnership which offers support for both curriculum and out of school hours provision. It enables training for the staff to raise the standards in PE and to work toward the government led targets for pupils aged between 5-16 years of 2hours PE in the curriculum and a further hour available after school or at lunchtime.

As a governor, I have been happy to be involved in many PE activities this year which have included a Multi-skills festival for Yr2 Pupils and the new and revamped Sports Day. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. It was great to see our children working so well together and being gracious competitors.

Last week some of our pupils performed at the prestigious county dance showcase - 'Voices and Visions' in Malvern which is a real achievement for the school and the staff involved in PE at St Peters.

PE is a real passion of mine and I know many of you will join me in recognising the benefits to our children of being involved in PE and Sport.

This subject has been a real growth area for the school this year and a big thank you should go to Mrs Taylor-Smith for her hard work and commitment to her role and to Mrs O'Keeffe-Pullan and the rest of the staff for supporting her in that role.

Sarah Richards, Link Governor for Physical Education

Admissions

Our Admissions Policy and application details are published in the Information for Parents Booklet each year and on our website.

Please note that we have changed our admissions criteria for 2010/11.

The Governors are very interested in the reasons why parent chose to send their children to St. Peter's and why other parents select other schools. Any feedback that you can give us on this will be greatly appreciated.

Steve Penn, Admissions

Special Educational Needs

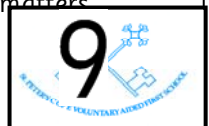
As a new governor with responsibility for children with special educational needs I have been very interested and impressed to discover the various ways all children are supported to develop their full potential. Children learn in a wide variety of ways and enjoy doing different things. For a variety of reasons some children will need particular support at times to ensure that they can enjoy and achieve through learning.

At St Peter's, the Special Educational Needs Designated teacher and Co-ordinator, Judith Moran, co-ordinates the individually planned provision of support for each of these children with the active involvement of teachers, teacher assistants, parents and, if appropriate, specialists from other agencies. Provision mapping ensures that the learning needs of each child are set out and a plan of how those needs will be met during the year is developed. This is then monitored and evaluated regularly. For most children much of their learning will take place within their class group, sometimes within smaller focused groups and sometimes one-to-one. Special innovative techniques may be used like the START programme of early morning exercises to help children improve their co-ordination skills and a Speech and Language Project involving Teaching Assistants, parents, children and Speech and Language Therapists.

You may not be aware that children who are **more able, gifted and talented** also come within the remit of Special Educational Needs. These children have their own planned programme of identification, support and assessment. At St. Peter's the Co-ordinator for this particular area is Liz John.

With around a fifth of children in most schools having some special educational need, this is a key area of the work of all schools which, like St Peter's, want to ensure that the school is inclusive and, most of all, that every child matters.

Liz Ross, SEN link governor





WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT US THIS YEAR

"the school has demonstrated that it is providing a good standard of education and is secure in all areas"

School Improvement Partner - July 2009

"Thank you so much for having me in your school and giving me the opportunity to work with such lovely children and staff."

"St. Peter's is a fantastic school."

Student teachers - 2009

"Dear Miss Harwood, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that whilst working on site the children were very pleasant and extremely interested in the progress of the works and full of questions.

Not any of them used bad language and none of them were cheeky or rude which in this day and age is quite something and all compliments to the school and teachers."

K Everett, Creative Landscapes
- March 2009



"We are very fortunate in Worcestershire to have schools like yours which have seized the gifted and talented agenda, which are making significant strides to improve their provision and upon which we can call to exemplify effective practice. Keep up the good work!"

Nigel Kent, Education Information Advisor - June 2009

"Just a note to say how impressed I was again to meet another outstanding pupil."

A Reception Parent - April 2009

"The Headteacher, with other members of the Senior Leadership Team, continues to focus, rightly, on improving rates and levels of progress to impact on overall standards."

School Improvement Partner - July 2009

"The school is focussing in the right way to improve the (MAGAT) agenda and standards generally."

Peter Limm, HMI Ofsted - July 2009



WHAT YOU SAID



Governors' Annual Questionnaire - the results are in!

This year's response represented just over **25%** of the pupil population and I would like to thank those parents for spending their time completing the questionnaire and adding their comments. **This is a bigger response rate than last year!** Your feedback gives us valuable insight and input into how the school is developing.

The first 6 questions were tracking questions to compare our progress with previous years. The results show progress is being made in many areas across school but that there is, as always, room for improvement. A full analysis of your answers is available on the school website.

With regard to additional comments, the following key themes were noted:

Communication: communication from school in general was praised, with Tune in on Tuesday being highly regarded and the annual calendar of events much appreciated. Areas for further improvement were cited as understanding the curriculum and assessment, homework expectations, feedback on individual children's progress, access for working parents, timetabling of events and advance notice.

Standards: the overwhelming feedback was a desire to maintain the direction and momentum of school improvement, to continue to raise the bar for all children and to maintain a stable teaching staff.

Expectations: there were many positive comments about the changes that have taken place this year, most obviously the outdoor areas and the creation of the Parent Voice. Several of you commented again on the good care and attention given to the children and that the emphasis for the future should be to maintain the balance between academic achievement and a happy and caring school.

Progress towards key priorities: the response here indicated a lack of awareness of or understanding of how to measure progress towards the school's key priorities which we communicated to you at the beginning of the year (other than the Parent Voice which has been well publicised). We understand that this is a difficult one but, as it is crucial to the success of the school, the Governing Body will be looking at how we can communicate progress towards these priorities more clearly during the year perhaps by using the school website as well as continuing with information evenings.

All of these points and any others raised by your feedback have already been discussed by Mrs O'Keeffe-Pullan and the Governing Body in preparation for next year's school development priorities and beyond.

Keith Norrington, Vice Chair of Governors



NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Peter's,

Life in school is never dull and this year has been as busy and varied as ever. I hope that this newsletter shows the very positive way in which the Head, Staff, Governors, Parents and Pupils are moving school forward and truly "working together to achieve our best".

You can see from their reports that we make good use of the skills and experience of our governors. They are very active in school, strongly upholding the drive towards improvement and development by challenging but at the same time supporting the school's aims and objectives.

We are still focused on the need for high standards of academic achievement. Our improvements in this area over the past few years can clearly be seen in this year's end of year results. Our School Improvement Partner confirmed at the Summer visit that the school has a stable and established Senior Leadership Team in place, that the SLT have very clear views on the current direction for the school and that the capacity for improvement is good.

A lot of work has been done this year to improve communication, procedures and the school environment both inside and out. We have a new Prospectus bringing our school information up to date and showing what we have to offer. This compliments our excellent website which is kept up to date and relevant. Financial Management of Schools enabled us to improve our accounting practices, reflection areas have taken shape and we have stimulating and well cared for grounds and outdoor space. University afternoons have revolutionised Fridays



and we have made good progress towards wrap around care. Miss Colclough has been a great asset to school with her excellent organisational skills and we now have a proper channel of communication in the form of the Parent Voice through which parents can input and feedback on matters affecting their children. In the midst of all of this, improvements in teaching and learning are becoming embedded and the children continue to be involved in all sorts of exiting and enriching events and activities.

As Head and Governors we have had to make some tough decisions. We have taken a strict approach to requests for holiday absence of more than 10 days in the school year, knowing that this may affect our attendance figures but that it will benefit the children. We agreed to amalgamate the Year 2 classes into 2 classes as the children move into Year 3, the reason being that smaller class sizes, although attractive, have a huge impact on funding and the provision of education to all of the pupils in the school and are simply not sustainable. Running a school is like trying to fit together pieces of a jigsaw puzzle that are constantly moving around whilst juggling balls in the air. Every decision must be made with the interests of all of the children in mind and can only be made by those who are in possession of all of the facts at any one time. At a time when many schools in the County are struggling to recruit heads and quality staff, we are very lucky that we have a capable and dedicated head and a caring and committed teaching staff. It is clear that the children are at the heart of what they do. On behalf of the Governors, I would like to thank Mrs O'Keeffe-Pullan and all the staff for their continued hard work and commitment to school which very often goes the extra mile for our children. Thank you also to the PTA and the Governors for the time and effort they put into school for the benefit, again, of the children.

The safety and well being of the children is paramount at St. Peter's, as well as ensuring that they receive a broad and balanced curriculum and opportunities to get involved in the local, national and international community. We all want St. Peter's to be a thriving, successful, happy and caring school where the children have the best possible experiences and outcomes. I hope you will continue to work with school in a positive and constructive way to enable us to achieve this.

Justine Cosson

Chair of Governors



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The Governing Body is as follows:

Chair of Governors	Justine Cosson (PCC)
Vice Chair of Governors /LA Governor	Keith Norrington (LEA)
Head Teacher	Tracey O'Keeffe-Pullan (Staff Governor)
Foundation Governors	Reverend Canon Sheila Banyard (Ex-officio DBE) Steve Penn (DBE) Iain Williams (DBE) Melanie Radford (DBE) Liz Ross (DBE) Margaret Harle (DBE) Jill Wheeler (PCC)
Parent Governors	David Bishop Sarah Richards Simon Richards
Staff Governors	Fiona Rouse Nicky Todd
Associate Governor	Lucy Colclough
Clerk to Governors	Janet Dale



Parents and carers can contact the Chair of Governors and Clerk to the Governors through the school office.