

# St Peter's Newsletter

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Please follow us on Twitter for  
the latest updates @StPetersSch

## Message from Mrs Murphy

May I wish our pupils, parents and friends of St Peter's a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

The atmosphere around school this week has been lovely. Every year group has attended a celebratory advent service. We are so grateful to our local clergy for their generosity in supporting and promoting our collective worship at school. On Tuesday, we had our advent concert, organised by Miss Lucas. It was the first time in two years we have been able to host this and as I said to a vastly reduced audience and to parents watching at home, 'we've missed it!' Well done to all our talented singers making use of their God given talents. Last and today, our staff wowed pupils with a hilarious pantomime.

Charity is an important duty for us as Catholics. Last Friday, staff and sixth formers raised over £500 for Birmingham Children's Hospital when they wore their Christmas jumpers. They also donated an array of presents to our long standing friends at Anawim, and we have been blown away by the generosity of pupils and parents who have supported the Irish Association's toy appeal. You can see photos of the donations by visiting typing @StPetersSch into Google.

What will 2022 bring? As I said to staff yesterday in briefing, "I wish I had a crystal ball." If you told me this time last year that we would have to erect eight wooden booths in our sports hall and that we wouldn't see the majority of our pupils until March, I wouldn't have believed you. What is certain is that we will test all pupils on their return from Wednesday 5th January, over a three day period. We will offer all pupils the flu vaccine and the second COVID jab to those who received the first dose in the autumn term. The flu consent form has been sent home and information regarding the COVID vaccine will be sent when we receive it.

I hope you enjoy this special time with your family. The Pope has urged us to attend mass over the Christmas period, if you feel safe to do so. Masses require a ticket in the majority of our parishes. You can see the mass times by clicking the links to the right on this page.

*Alaine Murphy*

## COVID-19 Testing

Please continue to test your child using the lateral flow testing kits twice a week. Then report the result to the [NHS](#) and [school](#), using the links provided. If your child shows any symptoms, please take them for a PCR test.

## Year of the Word



"The word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us" John 1:14

## Mass times in our Local Parishes

[St Augustine's Catholic Church](#)

[St Thomas More, Sheldon](#)

[St George & St Teresa Catholic Church  
Olton Friary](#)

[Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic  
Church](#)

**Midnight Mass at St. Chad's**

**Cathedral:** The BBC is broadcasting live from St. Chad's Cathedral from 11.45pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December. Archbishop Bernard will be celebrating the Mass and music is being provided by the Cathedral Choir. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, there is no admission to this Mass but do let those you know who find it difficult to get to Mass that it is taking place.



*Faith is our Foundation*

## E-safety Information

We are aware that as the Christmas holiday approaches, children may be spending more time online. To support your child's safety online, we have looked at a number of weblinks that may help. We have divided the information into common problems and provided resources that can help keep parents informed. The categories include:

- Keeping your child safe online
- Keeping up to date with the latest apps
- Applying parental controls to digital devices, gaming consoles and social media
- Reporting issues to social media sites
- Gaming – what parents need to know

### Keeping your child safe online

Thinkuknow have produced a helpful resource to help keeping your child safe online while they are off school.

### Keeping up to date with the latest apps.

If you're concerned about keeping up-to-date with the latest apps your child has been using, NSPCC's Net Aware provides simple guides for parents to the most popular social networks, apps and games. Simply type in the app you wish to review in the search bar and the website will provide you with useful information to help parents make an informed decision. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>



### Parental Controls

Internet Matters.org have produced excellent resources on setting up parental controls in a step by step format. Simply click on the links below to explore ways in which parents can set up parental controls on digital devices and popular social media apps. Each circular icon that is loaded represents a guide and can be accessed by simply clicking on the icon.

Parental controls on; [Smartphones and other devices](#)

Parental controls on; [Entertainment and search engines](#)

Parental controls on; [Broadband and mobile networks](#)

Parental controls on; [Social media](#)

Parental controls on; [Gaming console](#)

### Reporting to social media sites

At times, pupils may post information they regret. The easiest way to deal with this is for them to delete it from their account immediately. If another user has posted about your child which causes concern or upset, websites and social media sites offer users a way of reporting. If you click on the following link, you will be presented with a comprehensive list of guidance and ways of reporting to sites. It is important to remember that making a report does not always mean the content will be removed.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Reporting-to-social-media-sites/>

#### Step-by-step Guides

Click on the guides for step-by-step instructions to set controls on popular devices.





### Gaming: What's appropriate for your child?

[Find out more](#)

### Gaming: What parents need to know.

Thinkuknow have produced some useful guidelines on online gaming for young people.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

On the right of the weblink above you will also find a section on 'finding appropriate games for your child' with a link to the 'Video

Standards Council Rating Board' website which allows you to search a game to review a breakdown of the content. You can also access this website by clicking on this link: <https://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/>

We hope that these resources will help you to monitor your child's online activities and keep them safe in a digitally changing world.

## Flu vaccinations

Unfortunately, Solihull Immunisation Team had to cancel our original date of Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December for flu vaccinations. This has been rescheduled for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Consent forms should have been received for all pupils.

## Year 7 and 8 January 2022 Assessments

Advance notice: please see below the provisional schedule for the Assessments Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will be sitting in January 2022.

If, as a parent, you have any questions relating to this, please email the school office [office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk) and ask to forward your query for the attention of Mrs Chander.

Year 7 Assessment Schedule		Year 7 Subject	Period
Monday	17 January 2022	Maths	1
Tuesday	18 January 2022	History	1
Wednesday	19 January 2022	English	2
Thursday	20 January 2022	Geography	1
		Year 7 Subject	Period
Monday	24 January 2022	Science	5
Wednesday	26 January 2022	English	4b
Thursday	27 January 2022	RE	4b
Friday	28 January 2022	MFL Reading & Writing	4b

Year 8 Assessment Schedule		Year 8 Subject	Period
Monday	17 January 2022	English	5
Tuesday	18 January 2022	Maths	5
Wednesday	19 January 2022	MFL Reading & Writing	5
Thursday	20 January 2022	Science	4b
Friday	21 January 2022	English	2
		Year 8 Subject	Period
Monday	24 January 2022	History	2
Tuesday	25 January 2022	RE	4b
Wednesday	26 January 2022	Geography	4b

## Careers newsletter

Please find attached the Careers newsletter. There is a link on the front page for you to provide feedback.



## Gender Equality Focus Week 29<sup>th</sup> November – 3<sup>rd</sup> December

As we moved into the season of Advent, we took some time, as a school, to focus on gender equality, particularly the issue of gender stereotypes. The week started with a [video](#) presented by staff from all sections of our special community, to emphasise that St Peter's is taking a stand for equality. During an extended form period and subsequent sessions throughout the week, pupils learnt about different aspects of gender stereotyping, appropriate to their age, including:

- how we are influenced by global marketing campaigns
- societal expectations of gender choices and roles
- gender bias in campaigns about health
- gender inequalities in car safety testing where only crash test dummies based on males are used, with Volvo taking the lead by developing a virtual pregnant crash test dummy
- mental health and male suicide

Each year group had an assembly focusing on gender stereotypes and everyday sexism, titled 'Sexism starts with stereotypes' which suggested ways we can challenge these issues at St Peter's. It ended with this prayer:

*Dear Lord,*

*You created each and every one of us in Your image, so we can know and love as You do.*

*We are called by You to live together in union, despite our differences.*

*Help us to recognise that we are all of equal worth in Your eyes, and treat each other with dignity and respect, as we move into the season of Advent and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ.*

*Amen*

KS3 pupils were asked to come up with a slogan to challenge gender stereotypes, the winner was Summer L in 7 Thomas with the slogan 'Extinction of Archaic Ideologies #Gendersaurus', which will be used on posters to be displayed around school. KS4 and KS5 pupils were invited to write an article for this newsletter titled 'What role do secondary schools play in gender equality?', the KS4 winner was Emma H in 11 Mark and KS5 winner was Ownie F in 12John. Their entries are published in this newsletter. All three winners will receive a £20 Amazon voucher. Gender equality and challenging stereotypes is an important priority for us at St Peter's, every day of every week in the year, but it was important for us to take this opportunity to put the issues in the spotlight for this week.

### **What role do secondary schools play in gender equality?**

Secondary school is an environment encompassing hundreds of young, impressionable minds. It is a place where hundreds of children gain knowledge and recognition of, not only themselves, but others around them. It is crucial for secondary schools to intervene and provide information for these growing minds in order to ensure they are all equally exposed to gender equality. It is important to establish a base of understanding and recognition of the problems in society as a result of gender inequality, before being able to address the problems it causes. Gender equality is not only a concern of establishing education for all, but it is vital to make sure that society retains societal innovation through the persistence of gender innovation. Not all children are exposed to modernised societal standards outside of school, resulting in the acceptance of previous standards for gender roles.

Secondary schools have the responsibility of increasing opportunities for the less female/male dominated sectors in education as this has positive consequences regarding the future, pay gaps and equal chances for everyone regardless of their gender.

Ownie F, 12 John

Secondary schools have a very negative impact on gender equality not because of the actions of the school itself but because of the environment that the teenagers have grown up in. Whether this was within primary school or within their home life. Due to this environment that they have grown used to, they now use gender stereotypes in their everyday life, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to challenge this.

The typical gender stereotypes found within secondary schools are: 'you hit like a girl'; 'that girls shouldn't be good at maths or science' and that 'boys aren't good at English'. Many people break these stereotypes throughout their day, yet they are persecuted by their peers and are called names by those around them. Although the school doesn't contribute to gender inequality and sexism, the school does nothing to stop this from happening. Within the modern-day society that we live in it is imperative to not put people into boxes as it can cause people to not fulfil their full potential.

Throughout this past week we have been going through gender stereotypes within our forms but still people are stereotyping within their lessons and this must stop. Many people do not conform to these norms, and through having people talk like these gender norms are okay, must stop. Due to this many people may try to change themselves to fit inside these boxes and this will lead to health implications including self-harm, eating disorders and someone pushing their self to do too much exercise.

We must be looking after those within are community not forcing them to conform to gender norms. Groups are often labelled based on sex, that they must act a certain way, do a certain job and must 'obey' their partner. People are also stereotyped on their race or ethnicity, that because they believe in a God that this is not 'normal' and that people then believe they are plotting against the rest of the community.

Stereotypes are deeply embedded within social institutions and wider culture because of the history of our country. Throughout history women have been put into a group by men because it was believed and is still mentioned that women should be delicate and dainty while men are strong and brave. Women were made to stay at home to look after the children and the house. It took hundreds of years for women to receive the vote, finally a chance of equality was struck upon in 1928 when women over the age of 21 got the chance to vote; but this was only the tip of the iceberg however, we're still chipping away at this. Still today women do not get paid the same as men throughout the workplace and are treated differently compared.

What can we do to help? Well, we could make it well known of what is happening, as at this point the female-male earnings was 81.9% even though they were doing the same job, and this is still going unnoticed both nationally and internationally. Imagine men and women get paid the same, when would you guess that women's funding gets cut; according to recent statistics women would work around 2 months for free. But we still have equality, right?

Secondary schools need to challenge these gender stereotypes to ensure that this behaviour does not continue with the people to their future career and family life. There is great stigma around these stereotypes as people find it very difficult to change their behaviour but through mentioning these multiple times throughout their day, they will begin to understand the problems that they are causing through stereotyping and will gradually change how they act. It will take years to overcome gender stereotyping but if we start now then it will make a huge difference in our future lives.

Emma H, 11 Mark

## Admission consultation

Every year the admission arrangements for schools and academies are reviewed and determined. There must be a consultation if any significant changes are being proposed or if there has not been a consultation for 7 years.

The following schools are carrying out a consultation:

Bentley Heath CE Primary School  
Bishop Wilson CE Primary School  
Lady Katherine Leveson CE Primary School  
Light Hall School  
Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary School  
Smith's Wood Primary Academy  
St Alphege CE Infant & Junior Schools  
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School  
St George & St Teresa Catholic Primary School  
St Margaret's CE Primary School  
St Mary & St Margaret's CE Primary School  
St Patrick's CE Primary School

The consultation period is from 20 December 2021 to 31 January 2022. You can view the proposed admission arrangements on each school's website or on the Solihull Council website:

School admission arrangements ([solihull.gov.uk](https://www.solihull.gov.uk))<<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Schools-and-learning/Admissions-arrangements>>

Comments or views regarding the proposed arrangements should be sent to the relevant school or academy by 5pm on 31 January 2022. Admission arrangements for all other schools and academies in Solihull will not be changed.

## Uniform

The standard of uniform worn by the majority of pupils at St Peter's is excellent and the support of parents is greatly appreciated in ensuring this continues. To maintain high standards, there are consequences in place for pupils who do not follow the school rules regarding uniform. All uniform will be checked on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Please make sure that pupils are ready for the new term in the correct attire. A note from a parent to explain a uniform issue is most welcome but is taken as an explanation not an excuse and sanctions may still continue. A few reminders:

- No jewellery is not permitted at all including earrings, rings and bracelets etc.
- Piercings are not permitted including nose piercings, etc.
- Nail varnish or false nails are not permitted at St Peter's.
- Footwear must be plain black and sensible. Trainers, pumps or boots are not allowed. Any footwear which looks like a trainer or has a sports logo is considered incorrect.
- A school tie must be worn with a white shirt. All pupils must wear the white shirt and tie during the Spring term.
- All pupils must wear a blazer to school.
- Only grey school trousers are permitted. Tight or skinny fitted trousers or leggings are not permitted.

# Punctuality

All pupils are expected to be in school at 8.40am ready to commence form time at 8.45am sharp. Please make sure that plenty of time is allowed when using public transport and parents who drop their children to school by car are asked to remember that traffic around school is always busy and should aim to drop children to school well before 8.40am. While the vast majority of pupils always arrive on time, there are sanctions in place for students who arrive late. Any pupils who are late to their form period or Assembly will receive a break time detention on the same day. A member of staff is on duty each morning recording any pupils whom arrive late. Notes of explanation are welcome but generally don't excuse the sanction. Any pupils who arrive after 9am and so miss their form period will be issued a 20 minute detention after school the following day. This would apply to students who fail to attend a break detention. Parents will be informed by email.

We have introduced some bells to remind us all when it is: Time to Move; Time to Learn and Time to Pray. Lead Tutors will be monitoring pupils each week, making sure they are read to learn at the right time to make sure that we optimise all learning minutes.

## Pause.

ForwardThinking  
Birmingham 

**Need someone to talk to?  
Struggling to cope with feelings?  
We're here for you.**

**Pause can help, we listen and help you find solutions – no referrals or long waits, you choose when and how to use our service. Pause supports anyone under the age of 25 with a Birmingham GP via phone, video call or face to face session.**

**To find out more and register for support, visit:  
<https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause>  
or call our Registration Line **0207 841 4470**  
(please note local call charges do apply).**

**Drop-in sessions will be offered around the Birmingham area, not just in City Centre. For up to date locations, visit our website for more information.**

**Pause can offer:**

- **A non-judgemental listening ear.**
- **Self-help strategies, skills for managing difficult situations and feelings.**
- **Detail of other support services that can help.**

**Each session last around 20-30 minutes which focuses on ways forward.**

**Our Service Operates:**

- **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Fridays - 10am-6pm**
- **Tuesdays 12pm-8pm**
- **Saturdays 10am-5pm**
- **We are Closed Sundays & Bank Holidays.**



The  
Children's  
Society