

St Peter's Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2020



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Message from Mrs Murphy

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

As you will now be aware, we had our third and fourth confirmed Covid case this week. We have actually been very lucky in terms of numbers of cases, compared to neighbouring schools. May I thank isolating pupils for their maturity, parents for their flexibility and for the staff for their support in identifying affected children, supervising them and escorting them to their parents yesterday. We have a very robust digital contingency plan which can [found here](#). May I reassure parents and pupils, that staff will do their best to teach children in the classroom and those self-isolating simultaneously. On the topic of Covid measures, may I remind all parents and pupils that wearing a face covering in communal areas is mandatory. Jesus taught us to think of others, so it is very important that we look after each other. Any pupil who doesn't follow this rule will be given a detention on Friday for 40 minutes after school.

Two good news stories this week: firstly, I am very proud to say the other attachment is the first issue of our new pupil newspaper entitled 'Our Voices'. May I thank Caitlin, Lizzie and Annabel for all their hard work, creativity and insight into a very important issue in our society. Secondly, last week, I talked about the pride we have for St John Henry Newman. For different reasons, the news that Carlo Acutis, a 15 year old Italian, will soon be canonised should bring great joy to the children of St Peter's. They will soon have a saint that is their age, who lived in this century and who used the power of the internet for good, a theme that Mr Palin touches on overleaf. Carlo can be an inspiration for us all.

Mrs Murphy

Year of the Word



"In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God" John 1:1

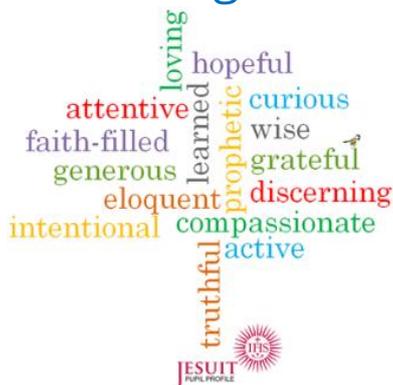
Charity update



Shelter

Before lockdown, Year 7 (now Year 8) took part in a sponsored 'Readathon' to raise money for a charity called Shelter. Shelter provide care for young people who find themselves homeless. A massive thank you to everyone that took part. We managed to raise a massive £1,066.20 for the charity.

Discerning about ourselves



This week, as part of our Catholic Pupil Profile values of being Attentive and Discerning, Mr Palin delivered an assembly focused on the theme of being 'Discerning about Ourselves'. In this assembly, we explored the role that social media can have on society, especially young people. As staff, we have a number of concerns in this area and would encourage families to heed this advice which comes from colleagues with many years of experience in dealing with this:

- The amount of time that some pupils are spending on platforms like WhatsApp or Instagram or other forms of Social Media is truly alarming – 9 hours a day has not been uncommon. We would encourage all parents to insist that electronic devices are turned off at no later than 9pm and they should not be taken to bedrooms.
- Some pupils, face to face, would never dream of being unkind or rude to another human being, are much braver behind a keypad and can send messages that can be hurtful or cause great upset when in some cases they did not realise or appreciate the impact that their words might have. We encourage parents to check their children's devices regularly and make expectations of good manners and basic human kindness very clear.
- Chatrooms can quickly escalate, and pupils can sometimes be involved in group chats with dozens or hundreds of people they may or may not know. This is unhealthy in the time it takes to keep up with such a high volume of messages and experience has shown that little of value comes out. We would encourage parents to insist that this does not happen.
- Sending any personal pictures is completely discouraged. Most importantly, families should be aware that should a pupil send pictures that are inappropriate, then this will become a police matter. Again, parents are advised to monitor phones and photo albums on phones regularly.

As a school, we try and ensure that all pupils in our care remain happy, safe and secure. We will always try to educate pupils regarding social media, friendships and behaviour. However, we must stress that should your child choose to engage in social media platforms outside of school time, while under the responsibility of parents, then parents should be aware that the responsibility lies with them and school do not have capacity to arbitrate and police such conversations. We would urge parents to monitor and limit any use of social media and shut down any platform that is causing anxiety and upset in their child.



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](#)

Parents' Evenings

As we are currently unable to run face-to-face meetings with parents, we are exploring alternative ways to conduct parents' evenings this year. Therefore, we have enrolled with a company called School Cloud who provide a platform for virtual parents' evenings. We have the opportunity to trial the system. Therefore, we have scheduled a Year 13 parents' evening on **Thursday 12th November** where parents will have the opportunity to have 10 minute online meetings with class teachers. All Year 13 parents will be emailed a link which will allow them to book the appointments online and attend the virtual meetings on the evening itself.

If this system proves to be user-friendly and effective, then we roll it out to the other year groups, and all other year groups will have a virtual parents' evening scheduled during this academic year.

Good luck

We would like to wish our Year 9 Football Team all the best in the upcoming National Final against Emerson Park school from Essex. The boys will travel to Lilleshall National Sports Centre in Shropshire on Monday to play the final. It is a wonderful achievement for the boys to get this far with over 7,500 teams entering competition. They have been on a wonderful journey so far and are looking to go one step further. The boys have scored 50 goals so far this year with Charlie W and Luke E scoring 17 each.



Although no spectators can attend the game, we would love to see you supporting the boys from home, as the game will be streamed live on www.youtube.com/esfatv. Coverage will also include a live 'player of the match' vote, which will be held via the ESFA's Twitter channel (@schoolsfootball), where a shortlist of 'players of the match' will be announced prior to the end of the match.