



# St Peter's Catholic School



National Teaching School  
designated by  
National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

## *Faith is our Foundation*

Headteacher: Mrs M.E. Murphy



St. Peter's Catholic School  
Whitefields Road, Solihull B91 3NZ  
Tel: 0121 705 3988  
E-mail: [office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk)  
[www.st-peters.solihull.sch.uk](http://www.st-peters.solihull.sch.uk)

Archdiocese of Birmingham  
Metropolitan Borough of Solihull

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### **End of Autumn Term Update**

Dear Parent / Carer

As we reach the end of the term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your continued support. This letter was due to be a general update, but I find myself in the unfortunate position of having to write to you, so near to the end of term, to notify you about changes to the arrangements for the beginning of the spring term. I am sorry if this leaves families with difficult situations to manage in the New Year.

#### **Arrangements for the start of the Spring Term**

You may already be aware that the DfE made two significant announcements yesterday:

- Schools have been asked to switch to remote learning for the week beginning 4th January for all pupils apart from years 11 and 13 and for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils.
- Mass testing of pupils and staff will be rolled out in January in all schools to reduce transmission of the virus and the disruption this causes to education.

You can find a press release written by the DfE about the staggered start to the new term and the intended roll out of testing in schools [here](#). The DfE have also published a blog answering some of the most frequently asked questions already emerging about testing [here](#).

Yesterday, we received a handbook outlining the arrangements we need to put in place for testing staff and pupils and we will use this over the Christmas break to aid our planning. We are also expecting more technical guidance to be issued next week. We will now need to use the 4th January as an additional INSET day, as suggested by the Department for Education, to understand the latest detailed arrangements for mass testing and to begin to put the arrangements for this in place. This will include communicating more details to you and requesting your permissions and also to ensure that teachers are prepared for teaching many of their classes remotely. Remote teaching will begin on Tuesday 5th January for years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, pupils will be following their normal timetables. More information about accessing our remote provision can be found [here](#).

Years 11 and 13 should attend school as normal from Tuesday 5th January.



We will be working to identify the children of key workers and vulnerable children who will need to attend school during Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021. If you consider that you should be accessing the provision on site, then please email [office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk) before 10am on the 4th January at the latest, so that we know precise numbers to expect. We will email you to confirm that your child will be able to attend and to confirm arrangements. Please follow the instructions in the email.

### **Uniform**

Please can parents ensure that children do not come to school in January with fresh piercings or extreme haircuts.

Trainers are not permitted as a replacement for school shoes.

### **Punctuality**

Please can parents ensure their child is in a position to be on time to school each morning. As a reminder, the staggered starts will continue in January. From January, our Attendance Officer will be addressing pupils who are persistently late with formal letters. Thank you to all those pupils who are punctual in the morning, it really helps the school day run smoothly.

### **Solihull Connect**

In response to the challenges the pandemic is causing for many families, Solihull Council is extending its support to families over the Christmas and New Year period.

This is intended to provide additional help and support to households with food, utility bills and other essentials up to the end of March 2021.

Call Solihull Connect on 0121 704 8100, for information and advice on how to access local community support, food or financial assistance. Solihull Connect can also refer and connect families to local food networks, as well as to the Council's Discretionary Crisis Fund (DCF). The DCF can provide financial and fuel assistance to any household experiencing severe financial hardship. This includes access to food, fuel top-ups and, if needed, essential white goods.

For more information, please contact Solihull Connect on 0121 704 8100.

### **Arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays**

If your child develops symptoms at any time before 4pm on Sunday 20th December (48 hours after last attending school) **and** they test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), you must report this to our dedicated email address [covid@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:covid@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk) as soon as possible so that we can identify close contacts as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

Where a student tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (after 4pm on Sunday 20th December), parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. You do not need to contact the school for these cases.

### **A Christmas Message from Archbishop Bernard**

His Grace has recorded a short Christmas message for schools to be shared with the children, staff and all their families. It is a lovely, simple message that even the youngest children in our schools will be able to understand. The YouTube link is here <https://youtu.be/IYVkJU9cYa38>.

### **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](#)

### **Keeping e-safe over the Christmas holidays**

At St. Peter's, we view e-safety as an important aspect of our safeguarding and educate our pupils, parents and staff on the current issues surrounding this subject. We have a committed e-safety committee who promote the safe and appropriate practice whilst using digital technology.

As the Christmas holidays approach, we are aware that pupils may spend more time on their digital devices. We urge parents to monitor the usage of their children's digital devices so they are aware of what their children are playing and who they are interacting with on digital social platforms. We wish to remind our parents of the advantages of the screen time information. Screen time can be easily located in the settings icon and by then clicking on the 'screen time' icon. The digital device will provide an overview of the day's screen time on that device and also offer options of limiting app time usage and creating downtime on the device. These can all be explored by clicking on these options and locking them into place with a passcode. We encourage parents to be aware of how much time their children are using their devices and on what categories e.g. social media, reading and references etc. Parents can further explore what times these are being used at by clicking on any of the categories stated.

Should any parent have a concern, we have dedicated pages on our school website with further guidance on a range of popular apps should you wish to seek any support on e-safety over the Christmas holidays. There are also organisations who you can speak to for further information and support. All of this information can be found on the school website <https://www.st-peters.solihull.sch.uk/e-safety/>

We also suggest using the NSPCC's Net Aware website for parental information should you wish to find out any further information on a range of apps or games.

We wish all of our pupils an e-safe Christmas!

Once again, I am sorry to have written to you with changes to our arrangements so late before the Christmas break. I assure you that we will continue to do our very best to deal with the dynamic situation we are in, and I am so grateful to you for your constant support during a very difficult time.

If you have any specific questions that you want us to address, then please email on [office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk). Please note that this email address will not be monitored between 24<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> January inclusive (or over weekends).

In the new year, we will continue to strive for the very best for your child; in the meantime, I do hope that you are able to stay safe and enjoy rest and peace during the break. I wish you a happy and blessed Christmas with your family.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs M. E. Murphy  
Headteacher