

St Peter's Newsletter

Friday 10th December 2021



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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 24th 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.

Message from Mrs Murphy

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

This Sunday will be the third Sunday of Advent. The third candle that will be lit this weekend symbolises joy. Advent meaning 'coming' in Latin and we all look forward to Christmas and the opportunity to spend time with loved ones. However, it is also a good time to reflect and allow Jesus into our lives. It is also a time of preparation – not just presents and food, but also a time for spiritual nourishment. As John says in Sunday's gospel, "Someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

It has been another busy week at St Peter's. Year 11 had their year book photographs, Drama pupils enjoyed a workshop with The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, 92 Year 10 pupils stayed behind on Wednesday for Duke of Edinburgh, while our Sixth Form 'International Committee' learned all about India with Miss Hill, which happened at the same time as our key stage five Scientists were broadening their knowledge by attending a webinar hosted by the University of York.

Finally, I will end with charity – a duty which, as a Catholic School, is so important to us. Today, staff and Sixth Formers wore Christmas jumpers to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital. While you go shopping this weekend, perhaps you would consider donating to the Irish Association's toy appeal to help those families across the region who are finding it difficult to make ends meet. You can read more about how to donate in this issue.

We look forward to a joyous final week at school. The majority of our Year 11 and Sixth Formers will finish on Thursday and the rest of the school will finish at 12:30 on Friday 17th December.

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 be reminded to take them for a PCR test.



Faith is our Foundation

Support from Kooth

Kooth is a free, anonymous, confidential, safe online wellbeing service offering professional support, information and forums for young people. Kooth will still be available for young people over the holiday period, with reduced hours for online chats/messaging. Latest [Kooth promotional materials](#) are available. Details of [Eventbrite sessions](#) for professionals, parents and young adults are also available.

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 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 |

Christmas Charity Appeal

This year's Christmas charity will be supporting poor and disadvantaged families in Solihull and Birmingham. We are proudly supporting Birmingham Irish's toy appeal. We have a strong association with this organisation: not only do many of our pupils play Gaelic games and partake in Irish dancing, last Easter, we provided 103 carrier bags of food for their food bank.

We are once again appealing to the generosity of our parents, pupils and friends of St Peter's to support this worthy cause. Pupils should bring in new (not second-hand) toys that are still in their boxes and aren't wrapped and drop them off in B1.4 to Mrs Simmons.

Thank you in advance. So many families, that are less fortunate than us, will be so grateful.

Pope's Prayer Intention

December Catechists: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

You can now access the video here <https://youtu.be/A2LMlbajZGI>

Celebrating Success

This week, we want to celebrate the success of these pupils, who have shown great attentiveness and discernment.

Year 7

Finley W
Summer L
Oliver B
Jacob Y
Gabriel C



Year 8

Cohen D
Liv L
Evie O
Viktoria K
Aquiles Q
Monica-Nicole P
Peter M



Year 9

Sophie B
Ava-Maragret C
Libbie G
Grace M
Joshua R
Max R
Lewis S
Ronaldo B
Evelyn P-B

Year 10

Jack R
Ronnie B
Francis E
Jude T
Alfie S
Bethany W
Louis F
Tom M



Year 11

Madeleine B
Sofia G
Ellen G



Form of the week

9 Simon Peter

Star Pupils of the week

Cohen D (Y8)

Sophie B (Y9)



Craig Barton Free Parents Webinar – Mathematics

Following the recent success of their Maths Anxiety webinar (over 1500 showed interest!), Craig Barton and the Eedi Team are offering another free webinar for parents created by Rachel (Maths Author and Educational Psychology Lead at Eedi).

Top Tips On Motivation and Goal Setting with your Child - 15th December at 7:30pm [Sign up link](#)

With the new year approaching, setting goals is important as it helps to give students motivation and vision. It focuses their mind and helps them to organise their time and resources so that they can achieve great things.

In the session, Rachel will discuss hot topics such as intrinsic motivation, whether we should use rewards and sanctions, habit stacking and the dreaded question "When will I ever need this in real life..." The session will be jam-packed with useful takeaways for you to try out at home and hopefully start the new year with a bang!

If you are a parent who is interested please use the link below

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_L6uBw4QkQ7uUsWAGC2X0Ew

Rewards

The following pupils who have been excellent ambassadors for St Peter's throughout Years 10 and 11 so far, met Mrs Murphy for a biscuit and drink: Ethan O, Francis E, Janna A, Grace M, Bradley L, Eve T, Lily-May S, Kerene B, Ronnie B, Alfie S, Maia M, Jack N, James S, Nitalie N, Cheyanne Y, TK H, Ollie M, Mollie H, Ben R and Luke Q-B.



Cygnets Virtual Flyer – Spring 2022

Please see attached for an opportunity for a parenting support programme for parents and carers of children and young people aged 5-18 with autism, written by Barnardos and delivered by Solihull Specialist Inclusion Support Service (SISS) Autism Team Specialist Teachers. Please contact Ms Yanez for more details.

Vacancies

Cover Supervisors

Are you a graduate looking for full time employment? Would you like a job that is interesting, engaging and challenging? Would you enjoy working with teenagers and having a positive impact on their progress and achievement? Then St Peter's is the place for you.

We are looking for good graduates to join our team of cover supervisors from January 2022. Specific job descriptions will be tailored to meet the skills and strengths of individuals, but duties could include: covering lessons for absent colleagues; supervising homework club; offering in-class support to pupils; working with small groups or individuals; displaying pupils' work and supporting the Cover Manager with administrative tasks.

This full-time, term-time only post, offered on a fixed-term basis, would be ideal for individuals who are interested in a career in teaching and would like to gain some experience of working in a school prior to applying for a teacher training course. For more information, please visit the [vacancy page here](#).

Parent Governors

There is currently a vacancy for a parent governor on the governing body. Being a governor can be very rewarding; do not worry if you have no experience in educational matters as full training and support are available from the school and your colleagues on the governing body.

Have you thought about becoming a Parent Governor?

Becoming a Parent Governor offers you the opportunity to make a real contribution to the life and work of our academy. Governors play a key role in the leadership of the school and work together with the Headteacher, staff and other governors to ensure that our school provides a challenging and supportive environment for its pupils.

Who can be a Parent Governor?

All parents and carers of registered pupils are eligible to become Parent Governors. Every parent, whether or not you live with the pupil, is entitled to be nominated as a Parent Governor and to vote in a Parent Governor Election. Someone who has parental responsibility or day-to-day care of a pupil is also eligible to serve and to vote.

Parents/carers who have paid employment in the school for 500 hours per academic year or more or who are elected members of the Local Authority are not eligible to stand in these elections.

How long do Parent Governors serve for?

The usual term of office is four years from the date of appointment with a review meeting after the first year. If you choose to, you can complete your term of office even if your child has since left the school.

How are Parent Governors nominated and elected?

If you would like to put your name forward, please contact Mrs J Pate, Clerk to the Governors on clerk@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk and submit a statement stating why you would like to be a governor (no more than 150 words). If more than one nomination is received, an election will be held and the ballot papers for this will be sent to all parents and carers.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, then contact Mrs Pate. We look forward to hearing from you.

ONLINE SAFETY AT ST PETER'S – December 21

WhatsApp Messenger



WhatsApp is a messaging service that allows you to send messages, pictures and videos for free. You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp.

Group Chats

One of WhatsApp's main features is that it has a group chat function. This is set up by one person (group admin) who can then add anyone they like to the group. This means people do not have to be in your contacts to be messaging you or seeing your messages.

You are able to leave a group chat at any point, so we encourage you to speak with your child and encourage them to leave any chat they feel uncomfortable in.

Privacy Settings

In settings, you can change your child's settings to 'my contacts'. This means that only those in your child's contacts can add them to a group.

Online Bullying and Blocking

There have been plenty of instances where online bullying has occurred on WhatsApp. An example is when a pupil shares images or messages about another pupil, without their permission. Its very important to speak with your child regularly and ensure they know who to tell if they ever become a victim of bullying.

You are able to block and report a contact using the settings section of WhatsApp.

Be Kind

How we behave online should be the same as how we behave face to face. This is a key feature of the St Peter's pupil and through our Catholic ethos we believe that we must treat one another, how we would like to be treated.

Equality - Challenging Stereotypes

1. What is a stereotype?

A **stereotype** is a fixed general image or set of characteristics that a lot of people believe represent a particular type of person or thing.

2. Where do they come from?

Some psychologists believe that although stereotypes can be absorbed at any age, stereotypes are **usually acquired in early childhood under the influence of parents, teachers, peers, and the media.**

As a school we are trying to challenge stereotypes. We are doing this by monitoring the language that we use to make sure we are being inclusive. We will not accept pupils using language or actions that are inappropriate in school or online. It is imperative that as a community we call out those that make others feel like they are not welcome.

WHERE CAN I FIND AGE RATINGS?

Age ratings might seem like an overly cautious way of policing your child's online safety but they are there to be followed. However, we feel it is extremely important to research and If you are unsure of any, here are some places you can find them.

Apps: Shown on the app store. We recommend you check them and try any games to check whether they are suitable.

Films: Each film is rated on its suitability for certain age ranges. Please check on the British Board for Film Classification for more information.

Social Media Sites: All sites have a minimum age rating – please be aware, the majority of social media sites are 13+.

Video Games: PEGI choose the age classifications for games. Please note this score is the age suitability not the difficulty rating. Please be aware user created content (such as on Roblox) and chat facilities are not taken into consideration.

An Example:

Grand Theft Auto (GTA) 

Rated 18 due to its bad language, violence and glamorisation of crime and drugs. **It is not suitable for anyone under this age.**