



| Local Parish Mass Times | St Peter's | English Martyrs | St Augustine's |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Saturday | 6pm | | 6.30pm |
| Sunday | 9am 10.30am 5.30pm | 9am | 11am |

THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS ON A SUNDAY DOES NOT APPLY IN THIS TIME OF THE PANDEMIC

Dear parents/carers, I have copied this from Mgr Liam's weekly Newsletter: May I remind you that the obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday does not apply in this time of pandemic. All Masses are now live streamed and can be accessed on www.churchservices.tv/gloucester Anyone who has any symptoms of coronavirus or who is feeling unwell MUST NOT attend Mass at this time. Those who choose to come to Mass are reminded of the need to wear a face covering and to wear it properly. It is also necessary that those attending mass must not mingle with anyone outside of their household. We may find this difficult and it goes against our instinctive social nature, but the responsibility we have for our own health and safety and that of others is of greater importance at this time. While the normal schedule of masses in this church will continue as normal, this will be kept under constant review. Please keep a regular check on the parish website for updates

HAPPY NEW YEAR

On behalf of all our staff and governors, I would like to wish everyone in our school family a very happy and healthy new year. Despite being in Tier 4 over the Christmas holidays, I hope you all managed to have some wonderful quality time as a family and that you were able to celebrate with your extended family via phone calls, social media and online platforms.

LOCKDOWN

Being plunged into Lockdown at 8pm on Monday 4th January, the huge sense of despair with the realisation that it needed to happen, has overwhelmed many of us. The concern about the fast-spreading new variant means that many more lives will be lost and with the daily death toll hitting 1,300+ deaths our sincerest sympathies go out to all those who are grieving at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are also with those who are seriously ill with coronavirus in hospital and for all those who are waiting essential treatments/operations which are then subsequently delayed because of the pandemic. We continue to keep all hospital staff in our prayers at this time, especially those who are frontline workers on the Covid wards. Their compassion, humility, sensitivity and selflessness in looking after these patients is unparalleled. We uphold them with the greatest respect and continue to keep them in our prayers. We MUST show them our respect for them by following the rules:

- Stay at home Protect the NHS Save lives
- HANDS FACE SPACE

Remember: Leaving your home because you're at risk of domestic abuse is a valid reason for breaking lockdown regulations.

HELP DURING LOCKDOWN

The current lockdown restrictions are tough on everyone, some more than others. Livelihoods and businesses are under threat, families are feeling the strain and many individuals are suffering both physically and mentally. Please remember that we, your school family, are able to help you in any way we can. Please email help@st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk and we will do all we can to help you and your family. This help could be direct from us or could take the form of signposting you to another agency who offer specific support. These emails are only accessed by Mrs Desando and myself and are treated sensitively and in confidence.

HOPE

Our Core Value this term is HOPE. I hope you were able to access the link to my HOPE assembly on Tuesday, <https://youtu.be/YDE4YlaVUs4> in which we reflected on the rainbow as a symbol of hope for a new beginning with God and of course with its most recent use since March 2020, as a symbol of hope during the pandemic. We reflected on our 'candle of hope' which burns on our school altar 24/7 (even during the holidays) and how we as a faith community can be a 'light of hope' to those in need. Since the pandemic forced us into our first lockdown we have prayed in hope for a vaccine to protect us from coronavirus, and on 8th December 2020 that hope became a reality when Margaret Keenan became the first recipient of the Pfizer vaccine. Since then the vaccination programme is being rolled out across the nation and the world. This is giving us all hope for a better future. In the words of

Desmund Tutu, "HOPE is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness." And so we rejoice in this light (the vaccination programme) despite the darkness (the pandemic) and we give thanks to God for the scientists, researchers and all those involved in trials for bringing us a vaccine in an incredibly short space of time.

LEARNING & MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

WOW! What a start to the new year! First of all, huge thanks to you, our parents/carers, for all you are doing to support your child/ren in their learning every day. We know that it isn't easy! The teachers are delighted with the number of families that are engaging and are phoning you if your child isn't engaging in their learning. This phone call is to offer any help with passwords, navigating DB Primary, how to log on to the Zoom meetings and to offer paper copies for your child's learning if this is easier for you. If you are experiencing any difficulties at all please contact us at school and we will do all we can to help.

During this lockdown it is really important that everyone is supported with their mental health and wellbeing. The timetables for each year group include PE, Art and the other activities linked to the 5 ways to wellbeing. Teachers are pre-recording lessons so children can see them every day and we are also offering class small group and whole class Zoom sessions to check-in with you and your children and to support learning. In addition to these sessions, teachers and TAs are also offering booster sessions via Zoom – you will be contacted separately about these sessions.

DEVICES

Remote learning is accessed via a device but if you haven't got a device, please let the teacher know and we will provide you with paper copies. If you have a device and need worksheets photocopied PI Accountancy have very kindly offered to print and deliver worksheets for parents with children at our school (details are on the school fb page). The DfE has assigned our school 17 devices to be given to parents during lockdown. Primary schools could only apply for these if more than one bubble had to isolate. As we weren't in this position we were not allowed to claim our 17 devices until Tuesday of this week when the DfE opened access to this. We also have some old devices that people in the community have donated. These will be wiped by our IT company and we will be able to distribute to families who need devices to access remote learning. Please note that if your child needs a device to access remote learning you can request this by completing the 'Access To Learning' survey which we are sending out today. The deadline for return of this form is Wednesday 20th January 2021. Thank you.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS 10 DAY HAMPERS

You will have been aware this week of the media reporting inadequate hampers being provided to families in receipt of Free School Meals during lock down. We would like to acknowledge that the hampers we are giving to our families are an excellent provision and do give more than adequate items. They are provided by Caterlink, the company that cook and feed our children and children in other schools daily in the Gloucestershire area. The hampers are designed to give one child their lunch for 10 days.

We thank Caterlink for their hard work in putting the hampers together and making sure that our families are provided and cared for during this challenging time.

When we went into lockdown last week we had to use the hampers because our catering company were offering them. However, the DfE has now stated that all schools can offer the vouchers, therefore if your child is entitled to FSM we will automatically sign you up for the vouchers.

Finally, thank you to all our parents for your words of support and encouragement, you have been 'lights of hope' to us all in school. Thank you.

Mrs Desando wrote this beautiful prayer for our staff and is happy for me to share it with you. I hope you will be able to take a few minutes to say this prayer together as a family:

Dear Father

We pray for all those suffering with illness.

We ask that you bring comfort, healing and strength to them.

Give them your hope and help them to face every day with you by their side.

Calm their fears, hold them in your love and surround them with your peace.

Amen

Holding you all in love and prayer,

Mrs Baron
Headteacher

