



St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 01 Friday 06/09/24

www.st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk admin@st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk

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

Dear Parents, Guardians, and the St. Peter's Catholic Primary School Community,

It gives me enormous pride to be able to write to you at the end of the first school week of the year as the new Headteacher of St. Peter's Catholic Primary School. It is a great honour to join this wonderful community, and I am excited to embark on this journey with all of you.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received. It has been wonderful meeting you all at the school gates and in the playground, before and after school. I have also had the privilege of spending time in classrooms, on the playground and being around the building with our children. I am truly excited about the future of St. Peter's Catholic Primary School and the opportunity to contribute to its ongoing success. It is never going to be easy to follow in the footsteps of Mrs. Baron but I am confident that we can continue to drive this school forward. With a passion for education and a commitment to fostering a nurturing and inspiring environment, I look forward to working closely with the children, staff and families to continue the tradition of excellence that St. Peter's is known for. My goal is to ensure that each and every child in our care flourishes spiritually, academically and socially.

It will take a few weeks to evaluate the school and identify the next steps forward. However, there will be three core strands to our school improvement work this year:

- Continue to develop the curriculum so that it is ambitious for all children in all subjects and gives them the knowledge they need to be successful
- Extend the extra-curricular and enrichment programme so that all children have additional opportunities to discover and develop their talents and interests
- Improve school attendance so that each of our children can maximise the opportunities provided for them here at St. Peter's

I am a big believer in the power of collaboration and open communication, and I am eager to meet each of you, listen to your thoughts, and work together to support the growth and well-being of our children. I will be holding 'Coffee with the Head' mornings throughout the year. I am inviting parents and carers to join me on Tuesday 10th September at 9.00am or Thursday 12th September at 2.30pm. This will be a short and informal meeting with tea and coffee.

Please do not worry if you cannot make either of those dates. I will offer more meeting dates later in the school year and I am present at the school gates most days if you need to have a quick chat.

Please note that it is not appropriate for children to attend these sessions.

As we begin the new school year, please can I remind parents of the importance of attendance. I appreciate as much as anyone that holidays and trips abroad are cheaper outside of school term. However, due to the current national school attendance crisis we will be unable to authorise any leave of absence or holidays during term time. Guidance and legislation has also changed over the summer holidays. A letter regarding these changes, increased fines and changes in the process of prosecution for school attendance is included in this newsletter. Please note that we will actively be challenging low school attendance and persistent absence.

Effective communication between the Senior Leadership Team and parents and carers is vitally important in any school. I genuinely value the feedback and support parents and carers provide; we will be reviewing how we communicate and engage with the parental community over the course of this academic year. Accordingly, we will now be sharing a newsletter fortnightly rather than weekly. We believe this will ensure that newsletters have more meaningful content.

Finally, I am concerned about the use of mobile phones by parents and carers on site. This could be deemed a safeguarding concern. In order to protect our children, but also the parental community from potential accusations, please can I remind parents and carers that mobile phones should not be used on the school site and should remain out of sight i.e. in pockets and bags. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter and for working with us to make sure that St. Peter's is a safe place for all of our children.

This is both an eventful and exciting time for the school. My primary aim is that we work positively together, as a school community, to ensure that each and every one of our children receives the very best education, pastoral care and enrichment opportunities this school can offer. I look forward to working closely with all of you.

Warmest regards,

Mr Kurt Doyle, Headteacher

CURRICULUM

Plans to further develop the curriculum are underway and we are altering the way we share this with parents and in the coming months this will be published on the school's website.

RE CURRICULUM

EYFS	Learning about the importance of prayers e.g the sign of the cross and our school prayers
Y1	Creation and Covenant
Y2	Creation—How the world began
Y3	Creation and Psalms
Y4	Understand the background of the story of Abraham
Y5	Understand the background of the story of Abraham
Y6	Understand the background of the story of Abraham

OUR NEW INCLUSION LEAD

Mr Ewan Johnson joined our school as our new Inclusion Lead. Ewan is passionate about helping every child fulfil their potential, and will be working with children and parents to ensure everyone in our school can find what makes them special and achieve all they are capable of. If you wish to contact Mr Johnson he will be in school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays until half term, and then full time, or can be emailed on senco@st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk



Ewan has been teaching for 11 years in Gloucestershire schools, having previously worked in higher education. He has three children of his own: two teenagers and a Year 4 child. He enjoys History, cycling and camping and lives in quiet hope Cheltenham Town will one day reach the Premiership.

***** VACANIES *****



***** We have a vacancy for an OPAL Play *****
***** Team member and a cleaner. If you *****
***** are interested in finding out more, *****
***** please visit the school website for *****
***** more information and how to apply. *****

Universal Infant Free School Meals

You may know that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are automatically entitled to a free school meal, and this is called Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). You can see the options for lunch each week at the bottom of this newsletter.

This does not mean that your child has to have a meal through school, as they can bring a packed lunch. However, as a school we would strongly recommend it as children will receive a hot meal that is nutritionally balanced. It is also an important part of the school day as they practise their table manners and improve their social skills.

Free School Meals

UIFSM is not the same as being eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), which can run throughout your child's time in school. You may be eligible if you are in receipt of certain benefits - please see below. When your child is on the FSM register, the school is given extra funding, and this is called Pupil Premium. Pupil Premium can be used by the school in lots of ways to help support your child, and this can extend to funding 'extras' such as your child's trips or music lessons. Your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, also called 'Ever 6' for six years after they are no longer on the Free School Meal register. This will more than likely mean that your child will continue to benefit in secondary school.

The application process is really simple, and can be done online here: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

You only need your NI number and email address, and will get an instant response.

Your child might be able to get **free school meals** if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday, 23rd September	Whole school	Little Way Week	
Wednesday, 25th September	Whole school	Day of Many Colours	Non uniform—50p
Friday, 4th October	Whole school	Harvest Festival	9.15am—All welcome
Friday, 25th October	Whole school	INSET DAY	
Monday, 28th October	Whole school	HALF TERM	
Monday, 4th November	Whole school	Start of the new term	

DINNER MENU – w/c 9th September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Summer Vegetable Risotto	Pork Sausage in a Bun	Roast Turkey	Chicken Korma with Rice	Fish Fingers with Chips
Cheese & Tomato Pinwheel	Mexican Five Bean Rice	Vegetable Wellington	Wholemeal Vegetable Pasta Bake	Vegan Sausage with Chips
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato

DINNER MENU – w/c 16h September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Vegetable Fajitas with wedges	Spaghetti Bolognese	Roast Gammon	Chicken Paella	Fish Fingers & Chips
BBQ Quorn with Rice	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Vegan Quorn	Spinach & Cheese Whirl	Cheese & Bean Pasty
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato