



St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 03 Friday 04/10/24

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

RE CURRICULUM

EYFS	To understand that God made our families
Y1	Creation and Covenant
Y2	RE learning for Year 2 is Laudato Si and Stewardship
Y3	Catholic Social Teaching. Black Saints Week
Y4	Reflect on the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love
Y5	Reflect on the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love
Y6	Reflect on the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love

Dear parents and carers,

May I start this newsletter by thanking Mrs Young for Deputising for me for a few days over the last few weeks. I had the pleasure to visit St Francis de Sales school in Liverpool this week where a friend of mine is the Headteacher. St Francis is a Catholic Primary School which is graded as double Outstanding. It was an excellent visit and a good opportunity to share good practice; a link will continue between the schools now a relationship has been established and staff from both schools will benefit from spending time in each other's setting. Relationships like this will be an important contributing factor in further improving this wonderful school in the coming years.

It has been another positive and action-packed few weeks here at St. Peter's. Please note that the newsletter is now operating on a fortnightly basis. This reduces administration time for the leadership team meaning we can spend more time focusing on the quality of education.

We have been celebrating Little Way Week, this week. As proud founding members of the Little Way Catholic Educational Trust (LWCET), it is now an important part of our annual calendar. We have been spending some time reflecting on the incredible life and actions of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. Saint Thérèse dedicated her life to helping others and prided herself on her approach of offering small acts of kindness. As a result, she is widely referred to as *The Little Flower of Jesus*. We have explored her life and selfless approach to supporting others in our collective worship and in our classrooms this week. Children contributed work to a whole school display which Mrs. MacDonald has kindly coordinated. Saint Thérèse's lessons in demonstrable love and faith will serve us well as a school community as we seek to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

It was great to celebrate the Harvest festival this morning. This is my first Harvest festival at St. Peter's, and it was [a truly wonderful](#) experience. The children were magnificent throughout the celebration. It was an enormously proud moment as Headteacher. [Well](#) done to [all of](#) the children and staff involved in organising and performing this!

The time is already upon us to advertise our wonderful school to prospective parents of the next Reception class intake for September 2025. We will be offering three events for prospective parents this year: Tuesday 22nd October at 10am; Thursday 14th November at 2pm; Wednesday 20th November 5pm. If you have children due to start school in September or know of families due to start school in September, then we would be grateful if you could share this information with them.

We are delighted to have shared the first offer for extra-curricular clubs and wider opportunities starting from next term. This is the first step in broadening additional opportunities for personal development across the school and we have ambitious plans to grow this offer further over the course of this year. Our vision is to provide excellent opportunities for all children so they can discover and develop their passions and talents. The deadline to register interest for extra-curricular clubs is 11th October. A link to apply for clubs has been shared with parents via School Ping. Please note that spaces are limited. We will do our best to accommodate as many children as possible.

Thank you for your support in improving school attendance. This is a school improvement priority this year. We are pleased to share that attendance is beginning to improve and is currently in line with the national average for primary schools in England. School attendance is something I am passionate about as the research clearly demonstrates a direct correlation between school attendance and pupil achievement. Please continue to work with us as we aim to move above the national average target as a school.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to parents and carers for your support with the ban on mobile phone usage on site. Unfortunately, I am still having to speak with a very small number of parents about this. We will consider banning repeat offenders from entering the school grounds if this reasonable request is ignored. This decision has been made for safeguarding reasons. Thank you to all of those who have been so supportive of this.

I do have to share a concern with you as a parental community. I appreciate this does not apply to most, it is relevant only to a small number of parents and those parents may not receive this message well. However, I must share that I am alarmed by the amount of wasted learning and leadership time as a direct result of dealing with minor and, often persistent, parental demands or low-level concerns. This is not normal. I have not experienced this in any school and it cannot continue.

We are losing a significant amount of time dealing with minor issues and this is not sustainable. It is having a direct negative impact on staff wellbeing and taking up valuable learning time. If we lose a conservative average of 15 minutes per day this equates to 47.5 hours of learning time per year. This is roughly the same amount of time spent on teaching the science curriculum in each year group.

As a school community we will always strive to be available and to be supportive; but I must remind everyone that our core business is to provide outstanding education.

With immediate effect, I politely remind parents and carers to not enter the school building during school hours unless they have an agreed meeting or are attending morning drop off sessions. Teachers are focused on beginning the day's education in the morning and have a professional responsibility to thirty children. They do not usually have time to discuss concerns. This is not because they do not wish to engage with parents, it is simply that we believe this time is better spent focusing on learning and making sure our children are being monitored safely. Very brief messages will be accepted at morning drop off but if there is a genuine issue which requires discussion then please organise to meet with the class teacher at the end of the school day. This can be done easily by contacting the school office by telephone.

Messages about lost uniform, disagreements about behavioural sanctions issued by staff, minor friendship issues between children, and other similar level items are examples of the above. I am instructing teachers to ignore messages about these items moving forward. We simply do not have the time to deliver a high-quality education under such demands. This will allow us to address serious concerns appropriately and to focus on teaching and learning.

This is in the best educational interests of all our children; your support in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Since my arrival at St. Peter's a few weeks ago, I have been working hard to meet with stakeholders and to begin to review the performance of the school. It is clear that this is a good school with many strengths. Part of my focus is exploring how we can further build on this with an ambitious aim of being an outstanding school. Many stakeholders have raised pupil behaviour a concern. My experience inside the building is that pupils' conduct is generally good, especially when compared to other similar schools. However, it is important that we review this area as part of our school improvement plan this year. I have asked two of our very experienced teachers and middle leaders (Mrs Devereux and Mr Dowling) to lead a whole school behaviour review in the coming weeks. This will include collecting responses from all stakeholder groups, a literature evidence review, and comparison to effective models for managing pupil behaviour at other schools. This feedback will then inform us of future changes to the school's behaviour policy. Under my leadership, the school is committed to a restorative and relational approach to behaviour which is underpinned by love, fairness and consistency. This includes clear expectations, boundaries, consequences and rewards. We believe that a wide-ranging and transparent review could provide further points for improvement as we seek to move towards this aim. Your engagement in this process is warmly welcomed.

Finally, and most importantly, I wanted to share some positive highlights amongst the excellent learning across the school over the past few weeks. Children in Years 4,5 and 6 were able to attend the Cheltenham Literature Festival today and have attended an interactive workshop with a prominent and well-known children's author; children in Year 3 used their recent learning in History to role play as hunters and gatherers from the stone age, this week; I thoroughly enjoyed reading some really impressive historical diary writing in Year 6 in recent weeks; Reception classes have started their Forest School lessons in recent week and have loved being outside and learning about nature; and, all of our children have attended special workshops organised by Mrs Carr on Black History Month. These workshops provided our children with a huge range of stories, history and culture as we celebrate the incredible contribution of our black communities – locally, nationally and internationally. The workshops were great and feedback from the children has been very positive.

Thank you for your continued support and positive feedback regarding some of the recent changes we have made. We are passionate about providing the very best educational and pastoral experiences and are committed to working with you as we travel on this journey.

Yours in education,

Mr. Kurt Doyle

Headteacher

Harvest Festival



Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us today. It was lovely to see all the year groups so involved and sharing Harvest in so many different ways. All donations will now be delivered to Gloucester Foodbank. Thank you again for your support.



Day of Many Colours

On Wednesday 25th September we launched our Mission Together Country with an informative Collective Worship linking Catholic Social Teaching to our cause.

This year we are raising money for the children of Cameroon. We are hoping that our fundraising will help to provide children with the resources that are needed in their newly built community school. In solidarity everyone should have the right to an education.

We have raised £225 as a starting point through wearing our 'rainbow' clothes, which is a fabulous start!





St. Peter's World Mental Health Day



Start the day with a healthy mind!

Everyone is welcome

To our **WHOLE SCHOOL** breakfast

On Friday 11th October @ 8:15-8:45am

We respectfully ask that you do not park in the school car park, as staff will use it at this time.

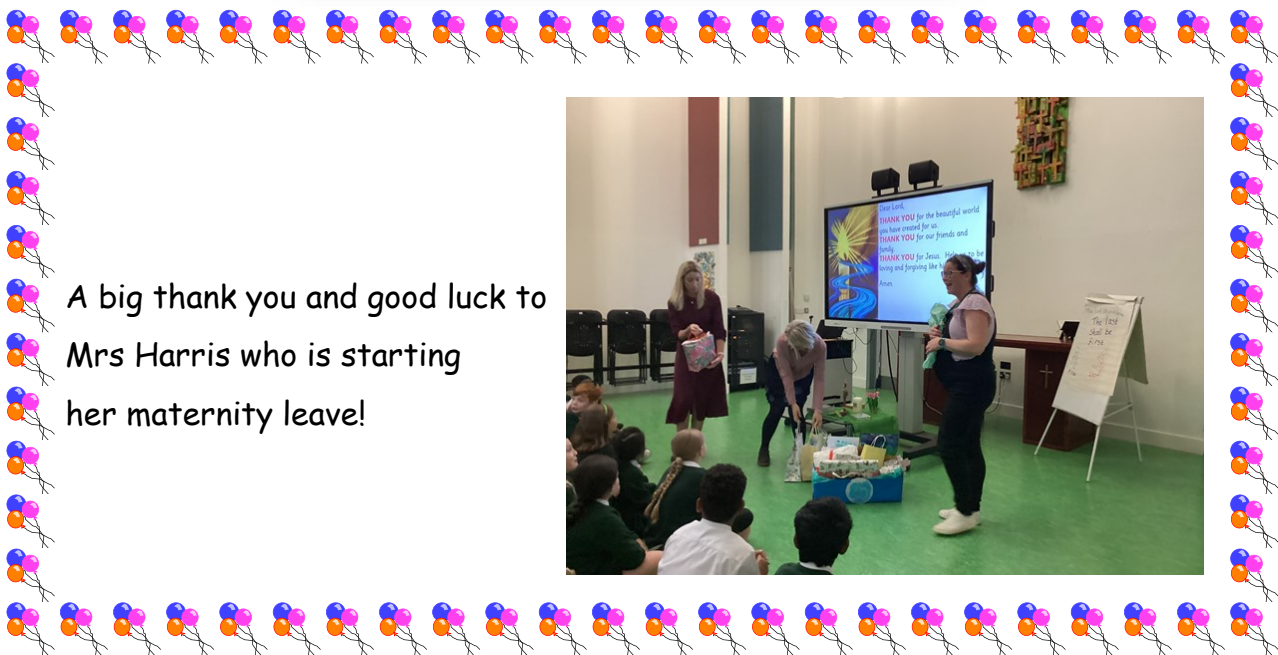
Thank you for your support

We played in a tournament at our school against Abbeymead and Coney Hill.

We first played against Abbeymead and the score was 3-1. In this match Betsy scored all 3 goals.

Our next match was played against Coney Hill. We beat them 5-0. This meant we won the tournament!

The finals will be held on the 10th October at Oxstalls Sports Park.



A big thank you and good luck to Mrs Harris who is starting her maternity leave!



LITTLE WAY WEEK

This week we learnt more about St Therese of Lisieux and why our Trust is named after her. During the week we have been encouraging each other to do a small act of kindness to make a big difference. Please chat further to your child about this and encourage them to continue these kind actions.

Religious Education Changes

Your child may have told you that this year we have started a new RE curriculum because of the release of long awaited New Religious Educational Directory.

This new curriculum will ensure that there is a greater fluency between EYFS children all the way through to students at secondary level. This is a huge change and we are working very closely with the LWCET and Clifton Diocese to ensure all of our children receive the very best Religious Education.

The amount of time your children are spending learning about RE has not changed but our topic titles and some of the content for each year group has. As the new curriculum is being released a year group at a time we have decided to combine year groups so that our children are prepared for when their curriculum is released.

This means currently;

EYFS have their own planned curriculum

Key Stage 1 are learning the same content.

Year 3 have their own planned curriculum

and Year 4, 5 and 6 are also doing the same.

We will continue to update you on what your children are learning in our fortnightly newsletters.

Over the year, all children in all year groups will learn Liturgically through 6 different branches with the 6th branch linking to other faiths.

Currently our RE topic across the school is called *Creation and Covenant*. The children are learning about how God created the world and how we are called to show stewardship in looking after it.

If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.

In the meantime, we look forward to sharing information termly with you as each new branch is taught. Please encourage your child to share what they have been learning about! There are some wonderful scriptures being read and discussed in school at the moment.

Frampton Gymnastics Club at St Peter's Primary School

We welcome new gymnasts to learn how to balance, gain strength, flexibility and confidence.

If interested, call Rhian on 07970 886165

St Peter's Under 5s



Halloween Children's Party—Friday 25th October, 6-8pm at the Gala Club, Longford

£10 for a family ticket up to 5 people, £2.50 for any other tickets. Tickets available from playgroup or can be bought on the door on the night.



Christmas Wreath Making Night—Monday 9th December at 7pm



First Holy Communion: Application forms for children in Y3 and above who are baptised Roman Catholic and wish to make first Holy Communion in 2025 are now available from St Peter's Church, St Augustine's Church and English Martyrs Church.

Black History Month

Children in KS2 thoroughly enjoyed their Black History Month workshops on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd October. They used games and freeze frames to learn about chronology and key events from Black history.

"I enjoyed everyone acting out freeze frames. I learnt that in 1619 Black people in America were enslaved. Later they had a piece of paper to show if they were free or not." Lewil Y6.

"We learnt about Black people during the wars and about the slaves who were taken from Africa to America." Ileana Y3

We are now looking forward to the KS1 workshops which will run on Wednesday 16th October.

Black History Month

As part of Black History month, Y5 had a brilliant workshop on Thursday this week, where we travelled back in time... We learnt about key historical events in America and Britain, including the Civil Rights Movement and Windrush.

I really enjoyed the workshop! We got to do lots of acting and my favourite part was when I was able to act out a scared black soldier and pretend to be a British officer - Noah

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday, 15th October	Y6	World War II Day	In School
Friday, 25th October	Whole school	INSET DAY	
Monday, 28th October	Whole school	HALF TERM	
Monday, 4th November	Whole school	Start of the new term	
Monday, 11th November	Whole School	School Photographer	During the school day
Wednesday, 20th November	Y3	Portals to the Past—Stone Age	During the school day
Friday, 6th December	Y4	Portals to the Past—Ancient Greece	During the school day

DINNER MENU – w/c 7th October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Vegetable Fajitas	Spaghetti Bolognaise	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

DINNER MENU – w/c 14th October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Macaroni Cheese	Beef Burger in a Bun	Roast Chicken	Minced Beef & Onion Pie	Fish Fingers & Chips
Vegan Meatballs	Vegan Spaghetti Bolognaise	Vegan Sausages	Lentil & Sweet Potato Curry	Vegan Sausage with Chips
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato

HOUSE POINTS

Our House Points totals for this week are:



136



117



248



184

CONGRATULATIONS TO FIRE!