



St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 04 Friday 18/10/24

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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	I know that we should look after our world
Y1	Stewardship in Creation
Y2	Stewardship in Creation
Y3	Study of a black saint
Y4	Study of a black saint
Y5	St. Zeno Factfile
Y6	Study of a black saint

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is amazing how quickly this term has flown by! I would like to thank the school community for making me feel so welcome over the past seven weeks. This is a wonderful school with incredible children, hardworking staff and a very supportive parental community. We are working hard behind the scenes to evaluate all areas and to plan our school improvement priorities for this year. This work will be focused on delivering an outstanding level of education, high-quality pastoral care, and community celebration underpinned by our Catholic faith.

Mrs. Devereux and Mr. Dowling are currently leading a review of the behaviour policy. As part of this review, they have been engaging with all stakeholder groups. This includes parents and pupils. I want to thank all parents who were able to contribute to this process. We will be reviewing all of the feedback over the half term break and we will be amending the policy to reflect this. There will be a short period of consultation on the amended version of the policy before it is recommended to the Local Governing Body for ratification. Our aim is to develop a clear and consistent approach to behaviour, which is based on fairness, consistency and kindness.

Thank you for the feedback regarding the proposed changes to the start of the day and communicating with teachers in the morning. After the October half term, we will be offering morning parent drop ins in Reception and Key Stage One, in their current form on Monday and Friday mornings. This change is already having a positive impact on learning time and there has been a demonstrable increase in learning. Parental feedback has been constructive and useful; thank you to those parents who have taken the time to share their thoughts. It is important that I clarify any misunderstandings, and I do apologise if my earlier communication was not clear. The aim of this change is to maximise learning time, which will benefit our children in their learning. We do still welcome communication with parents at drop off. If there is something urgent and important (e.g. you believe your child is being picked on, they have been unwell in the night etc.) then we still encourage parents to share this information. If the message is not urgent and important then we are still keen to work with you, and we politely ask that this conversation takes place after school when learning has finished. Home-school relations are, and always will be, a central component of how this school seeks to support our children.

These changes are part of a wider plan to increase learning time and improve how we communicate with parents and carers. It is important that we share important information about your child's learning, their next steps and how we can work together to support them. This is part of my wider plan for school improvement. Once we have reviewed our school curriculum offer, this will be something we explore further. Parental feedback, including positive suggestions are warmly welcomed on this matter. We will be working with an external communications expert to review and improve this in the coming academic year.

I am also excited to share the news that St. Peter's will be a Thrive school after half term. This is an exciting journey to improve knowledge, understanding and provision for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) across the school. For most children, the focus will be on understanding our emotions and supporting children to deal with and manage these more effectively. This includes boosting self-esteem, confidence and understanding anxiety - areas all people can benefit from. This will be a whole-school approach. We will also be able to provide both focused and group support for children with higher levels of need. This can only be done with parental support and consent. If you are worried about your child and believe they may benefit from this support then please do mention it to your child's class teacher at parents' evening or with Mrs Desando, as our Pastoral Lead. More information about Thrive can be found using the link below:

<https://www.thriveapproach.com/about-thrive/about-us>

Returning to our major work this year on curriculum development. I have included a draft version of the new Curriculum Vision Statement below. Again, it is important this is shared with parents and carers. I would be grateful if you could take a moment to look over it and to share relevant feedback with me where required; our curriculum vision is fundamentally about providing the highest standard of teaching and learning for all our children and this continues to be underpinned by our Catholic Faith as a school community.

Subject leaders have been working hard this term as we review and strengthen our curriculum in mathematics, writing, science and history. We will be reviewing geography, Design & Technology, music and Physical Education in the Spring and Summer terms. The remaining subjects will be school priorities in the next academic year (2025 - 2026). Research is overwhelmingly clear that having an ambitious and relevant curriculum in all subjects, which is carefully planned and sequential in its progression, will have a positive impact on the learning of all our children. This is our number one development priority this year.

I am also delighted to share that the extra-curricular clubs are now live and places have been allocated. This information will be shared with parents early next week. We are working to develop relationships with external partners e.g. Gloucester Rugby Club and Cheltenham Town Football Club to provide a greater number of spaces and opportunities throughout the year. I worked in professional sport for a number of years before becoming a teacher and I am passionate about extra-curricular provision, particularly sporting. We are also exploring additional options in music and the arts. Recommendations for possible clubs are always welcomed.

As the first half term draws to a close, I would also like to thank the teaching staff for their incredible hard work. They work tirelessly to support the school and they are dedicated to the children and families we serve. This is evident in some of the excellent successes I have observed over the past two weeks: Year 3 have been learning about pneumatics and have made great improvements in their music lessons; Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed creating their own mythical creatures to cause havoc when planning their own graphic novels; children in Reception are making fantastic progress in their phonics learning this week and a special well done must go to Ajeesh for working super hard; Year 1 created a Victorian classroom and experienced what school was like at that time; they have also learnt about Saint Augustine (who happens to be my patron Saint from Confirmation), a saint who originated from North Africa. They learnt that he turned away from God when he was young. However, he later believed and became a Bishop and an important thinker and philosopher in the Catholic Church; children in Year 6 have explored a range of sketching techniques such as hatching and cross hatching to emphasise contours, light and shadow. This has enabled them to create some really powerful pieces of art; and, Year 5 had their first visit from PC Ellis as part of their Mini Police project and our new Mini Police officers at St. Peter's are: Hannah, Ak-eelah, Khyan, Harvey, Julia, Chelsa, Rachel, Jack and Jaiden. They will be involved in various activities in school, and they will be focusing on how we can stay safe within our community. There has been so much excellent learning across the school and all the children and adults should be proud of this. Finally, I wanted to finish the newsletter with a beautiful poem written by Lili in Year 2, about the dark:

The darkness is creeping.

The darkness in creeping into the back of Lazlo.

The darkness heard a small baby owl hooting.

Scary and creepy.

The small spider is hiding in the door and is black. It's so scary.

Thank you again for your warm welcome and for your support and feedback over the course of this half term. This is a wonderful school, and I look forward to working with all of you as we continually strive to offer the best possible education and pastoral care for each of our amazing children.

Kind regards,

Mr. Kurt Doyle
Headteacher

Curriculum vision

At St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, our vision is to provide a carefully considered, well-designed and sequenced curriculum so that we are able to offer an education which:

- is rooted in our Catholic Faith, and inclusive and loving ethos;
- is ambitious for all of our pupils, including those who are disadvantaged;
- is broad and balanced in its coverage;
- brings to life the spiritual and moral ethos of our school;
- exposes our children to the very best which has been thought of, said and done;
- exposes our children to the impact of significant events and people - both good and bad;
- prepares our children to contribute positively to the world of tomorrow.

Our vision is to provide a knowledge rich curriculum which identifies the big ideas, key concepts and powerful knowledge and uncovers this in a clear and progressive way. We aim to build knowledge systematically and review and revisit this learning often. Our ambition is that our pupils methodically explore this knowledge so they can recall with fluency, understand more, and reason with knowledge articulately and confidently.

Literacy and language is a crucial component of our curriculum offer. It underpins our whole approach to learning. We consider Reading to be one of the primary vehicles for acquiring knowledge. It is central to all of the work we do here at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School. We are passionate in our belief that great literature exposes children to stories, places, facts and people which each add value to their understanding of the world.

Our aspiration is that our curriculum, approach to teaching and learning, and the wider and cultural experiences provided, will ensure that all of our children will be inspired learners, will be well-equipped to add value to society, and to be positive and caring citizens in the modern world.

This approach is underpinned by the famous Christian philosopher, Saint Augustine of Hippo, who said:

understand so that you may believe, believe so that you may understand.



Education Mass

Bishop Bosco will be celebrating Mass for all those involved in any way in Catholic education, at Clifton Cathedral, on Thursday **21 November at 6.00pm**. This is an annual Mass, bringing all our school community members together as a diocesan family to celebrate Catholic education.

This year's choir will be St Peter's High School, Gloucester. The Mass offers an opportunity for all those connected with Catholic education, teachers, staff, governors, pupils and parents, in Clifton Diocese to renew their commitment to Catholic education. Light Refreshments will be available.

Girls Football Match Report



On Thursday, 10th October, we played in a tournament at Oxstalls Sports Park. There were quite a lot of injuries, especially with Kelly who broke the world record for falling over! Unfortunately, we didn't win, but we also didn't give up - we showed great resilience and perseverance.

Boys Football Match Report

On Thursday, 10th October, we played against Churchdown village and we lost 3-2. In the first half we scored a wonderful goal and we were leading 1-0. A few minutes after half time, we scored our second goal and we were dominating. Then within 5 minutes they scored 3 goals because we were exhausted and we lost 3-2. The man of the match was Elliot.



Y6 HISTORY DAY

On Tuesday 15th October, Y6 children participated in a WWII day as part of their history learning. During the day, the children learnt about rationing, the use of propaganda and the important role code breakers at Bletchley Park had in winning the war. Also, the children had a session where they played games that were used by children at the time such as egg and cup, dominoes and pick up sticks. All the children had a super day and it was great to see the wonderful outfits worn!

"Our day was really intriguing; we got to look at different artefacts and do extremely entertaining activities. My favourite artefact was the gas mask; it felt quite claustrophobic when I tried it on." Megan Y6.

"I loved all of the activities. My favourite part of the day was the code breaking. I also found out that there were 3 million evacuees during WWII." Max Y6



TENPIN PENATHON BOWLING EVENT

On Wednesday, 16th October we had the pleasure of taking four Y2 children to a Tenpin Bowling Tournament. We were so proud of the way they worked together and showed great resilience. Above all, as a team we had the most amazing fun and got awarded 2nd place overall. Well done team!

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
can be bought on the door on the night.



or



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.

Applications for Secondary School September 2025

The closing date for applications for admission to secondary school is midnight 31st October 2024. if you apply after this date, your All applications are made

directly to Gloucestershire County Council using the link below.

[Citizen Portal - Sign in \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/citizen-portal/sign-in)



GIRLS BASKETBALL EVENT

On Thursday, 17th October, 10 girls from Y6 got the opportunity to go to St Peter's High School for a basketball event. They were given some coaching on the specific skills and techniques and then they got to put this into practice with some games against other schools.

"Our basketball tournament was incredibly fun and exciting. It included many different activities like dribbling, shooting and defending. At the end of all that fun, we got to do multiple mini matches which was the highlight of our day for everyone. Altogether, our day was very thrilling and exhilarating." Megan Y6



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday, 23rd October	Whole School	Parent's Evening	3.30pm—6.00pm
Thursday, 24th October	Whole School	Parent's Evening	3.30pm—6.00pm
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, 4th November	Whole School	Flu immunization	
Tuesday, 5th November	Whole School	Flu immunization	
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 21st October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Summer Vegetable Risotto	Pork Sausage in a Bun	Roast Turkey	Chicken Korma	Fish Fingers & 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 4th November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tomato Pizza	Sausage & Mash	Roast Chicken	Beef Pasta Bake	Fish Finger & Chips
Mexican Fajitas	Creamy Curry	Vegetable Roast	Baked Bean Hot Pot	Mexican Bean Roll
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato

HOUSE POINTS

Our House Points totals for this week are:



111



257



246



258

CONGRATULATIONS TO WATER!