



# St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter 18 Thursday 17th July

[www.st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk)   [admin@st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto: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 and carers,

I am writing to you at the end of what has been a very busy yet productive and wonderful school year.

I must start by expressing my thanks and gratitude to everyone involved in a fantastic summer fair. The PFA has worked incredibly hard again this year and delivered a great afternoon full of great food, interesting activities and lots of family fun. The PFA members give up their time to organise these events and it is important that we recognise their sacrifice and dedication. The work they quietly go about doing in the background raises thousands of pounds every year and this money directly supports the children in our school. This year the PFA has given the school £5000 towards our new library, which will be ready on our return in September. They have also funded or part-funded a wide range of projects and experiences, including school trips. I would like to thank them all for their work. Thank you to Ria, Catherine, Katie, Christine, Anne, Craig, Deb, Alex and everyone else involved.

Some of you may have heard through the grapevine - as it is amongst the worst kept school secret in my short time here as headteacher, that the school was recently successful in achieving Platinum accreditation in our OPAL audit for the third time. This incredible success means that we are now an **OPAL Honours school**. Our play is considered to be amongst the best in the country and we are now a flagship school for school-based play. We are one of only 7 schools in the country to have achieved this magnificent feat. I would like to thank all our OPAL play team and a special thank you must go to Mr Dowling and Mrs Whitehead who lead OPAL with incredible dedication and motivation. The whole team is highly committed to ensuring that our children experience exciting and stimulating playtimes. This is a great honour for the school. Well done to everyone involved and to the parental community for your continued support and investment in this wonderful initiative.


On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July, Mr Dowling and I led two football teams in a tournament at St. Peter's High School. 20 players were selected across Year 3 and Year 4. This was a great experience for the children who were able to play multiple matches against a range of schools from across Gloucester and Cheltenham. All of the children worked hard. Their behaviour and attitude was excellent and they represented our school with distinction. Well done to all involved.

This tournament is the result of a renewed link between St. Peter's Primary and the High School. We will be working closely with their PE department from September and leaders are now working collaboratively across both schools in a number of subjects to develop and align curriculum, and to improve teaching and learning for all of our children. This is hopefully the beginning on a closer and more positive relationship in the months and years to come.

Our children met their new class teachers in their new classes on Thursday, last week. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Inevitably some children will be nervous about forming a relationship with a new teacher, about moving up a school year and being with some peers. However, we have given the changes great consideration over recent months and we are confident that the children will all benefit from these changes next year. We will continue to monitor and support this process in the autumn term.

I don't usually make a thing of praising exam results publicly. However, I do need to recognise the incredible effort of our Year 6 cohort. They have worked incredibly hard all year and have recorded results which are consistently well above the nation average. This puts St. Peter's Catholic Primary School amongst the strongest academic results in the City. Further to that, the recent Year 6 production was superb. I was able to watch this in school with the Key Stage 2 children and enjoyed it as much as they did. The jokes and puns were great and the music was catchy and beautifully delivered. I particularly enjoyed Tiny and Chaos Crew. Well done to a wonderful Year 6 cohort: we will miss all of you!

Sadly, there are a number of families who will no longer have children with us at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School. Some of those families have had multiple generations of children attend this prestigious school. We would like to wish the following families well in their future endeavours and we hope that you may consider choosing St. Peter's again in the future for following generations: Constantine, Crowley, Fallows, Flinter, Forest, Garcés, Janagap, Jordan, Kwiatowska, Ndayisaba, Ogebule, O'Loughlin, Pastoral, Rajeev, Sasitharan, Simpson, Sojan, Urbanik, Allsopp, Aspinall, Biszley, Bohan, Chockowski, Cook, Cosgrave, Duffy, Espesor, Joby, Jomon, Joseph, Kamau, Le-Bon Francis, Maher, Manoj, Mocek, O'Neill, Putnokyoova, Randall, Reese, Robinson, Senthooran, and Whyte.



As always, there are a small number of adults who will move onto their next great adventure and a small number of adults who will join us in September. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Miss Evans (Year 4 teacher), Mrs Topping (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Sysum (Teaching Assistant and Forest School Leader) who will be leaving us and taking up new posts elsewhere. Mrs Jackson (Year 4 teacher and senior leader) is also taking a year-long sabbatical and will return to St. Peter's in September 2026. Each has contributed significantly to the school and the learning and development of the children during their time here. We wish them the very best of luck in their future endeavours. They will always be welcome here at St. Peter's.

We have recently welcomed Mr Desando to our wonderful school and he joins us officially on a part time basis to support Mr Sysum in maintaining the school grounds. We are also delighted to share that Mrs Kershaw and Miss Reynolds will be joining us as teachers in Year 4 and Miss Hodge, Mrs Major, Mrs Murugian, Mr Jones and Mrs Nickerson will be joining us as teaching assistants from September. I am sure you will all join me in warmly welcoming new members to our wonderful team and our fantastic school community.

I have been very impressed with the learning which has taken place this year. We have been increasing expectations in some subjects so that they better match the aims of the national curriculum. Our children have responded superbly to this challenge. It sounds obvious but for effective learning to take place, this requires children to think hard. If we want our children to be able to form educated opinions on important matters, to analyse evidence, present a balanced argument, refuse or refuse, and critique well then we need our curriculum to better provide these opportunities and we must consider how we develop greater resilience, determination and perseverance with our children. This will be a key component of our work next year and we are excited to share these plans in the autumn term.

To aid this learning, our dedicated team have been working tirelessly throughout the year to review, and in some cases redesign, our subject curriculums in a number of areas. This early work has now been completed and we will be teaching from many of these new curriculum plans from September. In order to support this, we have developed Whole School Curriculum Overviews. These curriculum reviews have now been published and are available to view on the school website in the Curriculum section. This will be a really helpful guide to help parents see what is being taught throughout the year in each year group.

It was with much sadness that we thanked Monsignor Canon Liam Slattery VG for his outstanding service to the school at our Leavers' Mass here at school on Monday morning. We have been incredibly fortunate to have Father Liam as our Parish Priest at St. Peter's for such a long time. He is an incredible man with an amazing ability to relate to both adults and children on such a warm and personal level. He is kind, caring and inclusive in everything he does and epitomises the teachings of Jesus Christ in his words and in his actions. He will be a tremendous loss to our local community but the Cathedral in Clifton and the wider Diocese will continue to benefit from his great gifts. On behalf of everyone at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, we would like to thank Monsignor Liam for his wonderful service and wish him the very best in his new role. Father Gary Brassington will be joining St. Peter's Church as the new Parish Priest and we look forward to welcoming him back to our community and working closely with him in the years to come.

We are delighted to share that **Bishop Bosco** has accepted our invitation to visit St. Peter's Catholic Primary School. His Excellency will visit us on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025. Bishop Bosco will tour the school and spend some time speaking with pupils. This is a wonderful opportunity to show the Diocese of Clifton and our Bishop what an amazing school this truly is.

The Catholic ethos of our school is woven deeply in all that we do. We spend much of our time with the children reflecting on what Jesus has taught us and how we can turn our concern into action so that all our brothers and sisters experience God's love. I would like to say a huge well done to Miley in Year 2 and Mrs Brown who recently donated their hair for the Little Princess Trust. I am reliably informed that Miley donated 11 inches! Well done, Miley and Mrs Brown. You are super ambassadors for our school and we are incredibly proud of you!

My final note is to share something you already know. Our wonderful children have worked incredibly hard this year and they have some very positive academic progress. It is essential that they have a break from this learning over the summer holidays. Hopeful the weather remains largely positive and they can each enjoy a real summer break, a proper one: with opportunities to climb trees, to go swimming, to play in the park for hours on end, to create and make things, and to be children. We ask a lot of them during term time and it is important that they enjoy this summer break, mentally and physically.

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales."

— Albert Einstein

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for making me so welcome this year. Your support has been warm and encouraging throughout. This is an incredibly special school with a very special school community. It has been an honour to serve as Headteacher this year and I look forward to welcoming you all back on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**

Kind regards,

Mr. Kurt Doyle

Headteacher



## EARLY FINISH

Just a reminder that we finish for the summer holidays on Friday, 18th July at **1.00pm.**

## Leavers Mass

Thank you to everyone who shared mass with us on Monday. It was a lovely occasion where the children listened carefully and sang beautifully despite the heat.

Mnr Liam shared how we are all seeds of God like the mustard and potato seed. We are destined to grow into amazing beings. We should know we are loved by God and part of his amazing plan.

All leavers were presented with a wooden fish keyring made of olive wood from the Holy Land to use with their first door key. Another symbol that they are growing in independence and maturity. We hope they remember our school, their time with us and that we are all 'fishers of men' like Peter was.

We are thrilled to let you know that the recent 24-hour sparring event which Gavin and Fay participated in was a phenomenal success, raising over £2000 for Talk Well! This incredible achievement wouldn't have been possible without the overwhelming generosity of our school community.

Gavin, Fay and all other participants pushed through a long night with very little sleep, demonstrating incredible resilience and determination. They truly did themselves proud, and I couldn't be more impressed by their commitment to such a vital cause.

It's truly inspiring to be part of such a supportive community. Every donation, big or small, made a difference and helped them smash their target. Your support will directly benefit Talk Well, enabling them to continue their invaluable work.

Thank you.





# City Soccer

**CAMPS**

**£65**  
/ WEEK DISCOUNT

**£25**  
/ DAY

## Gloucester City AFC

Meadow Park, Hempsted, Gloucester GL2 5HD

## Gloucester City AFC

Meadow Park, Hempsted, Gloucester GL2 5HD

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July (9am - 3pm)

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July (9am - 3pm)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August (9am - 3pm)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August (9am - 3pm)

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August (9am - 3pm)



Book Here



**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Friday, 18th July		<b>FINISH FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAY</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>
Monday, 1st September		<b>INSET</b>	
Tuesday, 2nd September		<b>INSET</b>	
Wednesday, 3rd September	<b>Whole School</b>	<b>Start of the new academic year</b>	<b>8.45am</b>

**DINNER MENU – w/c 1st September**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>INSET</b>	<b>INSET</b>	Roast Gammon	Spaghetti Bolognaise	Fish Fingers & Chips
		Veg Wellington	Cheese & Bean Pasty	Summer Frittata
		Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato



## Little acts, great love, big difference



St Catharine's Chipping Campden



St Joseph's Nympsfield



Catholic School of St Gregory The Great, Cheltenham



St Peter's Gloucester



The Rosary Stroud



St Thomas More Catholic Primary Cheltenham

## SOLIDARITY

### Working Together as a Team



Little Way Catholic Educational Trust

Solidarity

**Solidarity** in Catholic social teaching emphasizes the interconnectedness of all people and the responsibility to support one another. It is rooted in the pursuit of **justice and peace**, as highlighted by Pope Paul VI, who stated, "if you want peace, work for justice".

Solidarity drives us to take action to help others achieve their full potential, recognizing that we belong to each other. This principle is also reflected in the Eucharist, which commits us to the poor and

calls us to recognize Christ in those who are marginalized. Solidarity requires that we see another person as a neighbour, a fellow human who is equal in dignity.

### The good Samaritan: Love your neighbour

Jesus tells us that to love your neighbour is of extreme importance; in fact, it is second only in importance to loving God. ([Matthew 22:37-39](#).)

#### Who is my neighbour?

A neighbour is anyone in need whom we have the ability to help. The parable



We need to work together and support each other as one human fam-

We are all connected.

When one person suffers, we all suffer, when one person rejoices,

Solidarity is not an act of charity, but mutual aid between forces fighting for the same objective.

— Samora Machel —

