



St. Peter's Primary School Newsletter

September 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. I am delighted that we continue to have very positive experiences here at St. Peter's and our children are looking healthy and happy. Thank you for your cooperation as we operate under new guidance while we do our best to ensure that we keep safe and free of covid-19. There are a few important items contained in this newsletter that I wanted to update you with.



Health and Wellbeing

The health and wellbeing of staff and pupils is always of the highest priority but is particularly so at the moment. With this in mind, we are following programmes in classes which allow all children to focus on what it means to be healthy while giving them the opportunity to practice relaxation techniques. The importance of a healthy mind as well as a healthy body is highlighted every day. Please ask your child about their PATHS programme or mindfulness tasks and allow them to tell you all about it. You may even want to try some of their techniques at home – allow them to lead if you can!





First Holy Communion

Fr Andrew Coleman met with Mrs Lawson and I on Tuesday 22nd Sept to discuss First Holy Communion for our current Primary 5 children who did not receive the Sacrament due to lockdown. We agreed that this would take place week beginning 26th October over 5 consecutive days (Monday – Friday) to accommodate our children and families and to follow national guidelines. Each Mass will begin at 6pm and all children who are receiving the Sacrament can have 6 guests there to celebrate with them on this special occasion. Further information regarding practical arrangements will be issued to individual families shortly. We will soon be asking you to confirm with us your intention to have your child receive the sacrament. Mrs McFarlane and Mrs Campbell are helping to prepare the children of primary 4 for receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and the children are enjoying learning about this important aspect of the Catholic religion.

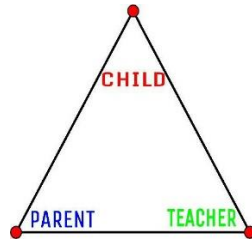
We 
homework

Homework

Staff are preparing to begin issuing homework tasks to all children week beginning 28 September 2020. There will be a variety of tasks given Monday – Thursday. Examples of these are listed below:

- Maths (practical tasks such as exploring the environment for shapes, completing quizzes and sumdog challenges)
- Reading tasks (these may be based on extracts from novels presented online or books which are sent home and will remain at home for the duration). Please note that once books are returned to school they are kept aside for 72 hours before being used.
- Spelling – lists of words given to children to practise in an active way at home
- Social Studies – pupils may be asked to prepare a verbal response to a task which will be shared with the class the following day, e.g. summary of world news item
- Research task – this may be given on a weekly or fortnightly basis which allows children to investigate a topic which interests them and present verbally to the class with their findings (use of IT can enhance this process)

Your child may be given a blank jotter for recording notes, workings, etc. This should be kept at home and not brought to school each day as it has to be used as an aid for learning and does not need to be seen by the teacher or other supporting staff members.



Parents Evening

Teaching staff would really like to be able to talk with you and provide a progress update for your child but unfortunately it will not be possible to have face to face appointments as we usually do in the month of November. Alternatively, teachers would like to be able to contact you via telephone and have a conversation which will hopefully give you the opportunity to hear about how well your child is doing in particular areas while also discussing which aspects of the curriculum they should focus on developing. This is important in continuing the partnership you share with your child's teacher and allows you to talk about ways in which you can work together to support.

We will require to use an appointment system as we always do so that we can be sure that you are available when we call. For this reason, you will be asked to select your preferred date from a list of options as before and choose a time that suits – this will come to you via email. We cannot guarantee that your appointment will be exactly what you request but we will do our very best. You will then be given an email which will provide you with the date and time of your appointment. Each appointment will last 10 minutes and will hopefully be a very pleasant experience. We would be happy for you to have your child with you during the conversation so that they feel included and are able to contribute their views as well as feel involved in setting their next steps and learning goals.

All appointments will take place between Monday 9 November and Thursday 12 November (3.30-6.30pm).

You should receive an email asking you to select your appointment by Monday 5 October with a response to be returned by email on Thursday 8 October.

You will receive your appointment date and time on Monday 26 October.



Parent Council

A huge thank you to Paul Doherty, Parent Council Chairperson, who organised a successful meeting via Microsoft teams during the evening of 22 September. It was lovely to see some familiar faces and have a talk with those who were able to attend. I would encourage you to become involved in these meetings as it is important to share your views. We value the contributions of everyone and enjoy hearing about the many ideas people have. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 3 November at 6pm. Please give your email address to Paul Doherty prior to the meeting if you are able to attend and he will ensure that you are included in the meeting.



Physical Distancing

Thank you to everyone who is making use of our one-way system and doing their very best to physically distance from other adults who do not live in their household. I know how challenging this can be and we can often forget but we have a duty to remind each other that a 2m distance is a safe space to allow conversations to take place. It is encouraging to see that some people are wearing masks too when this is not mandatory at the moment. Let's hope we can continue to be responsible by keeping ourselves and other safe.

Spare clothing

I would like to remind everyone that we do not currently keep a stock of spare clothing in school and request that you provide your child with some items that they can change into should they have an accident, fall into puddles, etc.

No Dogs Allowed

Please remember that dogs are not allowed in our school playground. This can cause great anxiety for some and we would really appreciate you waiting outside school grounds if you have a dog with you while dropping off or collecting your child from school.

September Holiday Weekend

The school will be closed for the holiday weekend on Friday 25 and Monday 28 September. I hope the weather is kind to us all and we can enjoy a little family time.

As always, thank you very much for your cooperation throughout these times. Staff are finding lots of ways to be fun and creative, especially using our outdoor space in school. I hope the children are telling you about the many things they are learning and are enthusiastic about their experiences here at St. Peter's. Please do not hesitate to get in touch by telephone or email if you wish to discuss any matter with me.



Have a lovely long weekend!

Best wishes,

Sharon Mazzoni

Head Teacher

Our School's motto

'ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF'

Our school's vision

Our vision is to provide a safe, happy, caring, supportive and stimulating environment where everyone is welcome and no one feels alone. We work, learn and achieve together. We respect and care for everyone and everything around us. St. Peter's Primary is a school that sets high standards of learning and celebrates the achievements of each individual. We live our lives focused on remaining faithful to the teachings of the Gospel.



Respect

Responsibility

Kindness

Fairness

Honesty