



St Peter's Catholic School



National Teaching School
designated by
National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Faith is our Foundation

Headteacher: Mrs M.E. Murphy



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Archdiocese of Birmingham
Metropolitan Borough of Solihull

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to thank you for all your support during such a difficult start to the year for our pupils. Whilst we have not yet been advised of exact details of pupils' return to school, we very much look forward to when it happens. I hope there is opportunity for everyone to take a well-deserved break over half term.

Pupils in school

We have had a significant number of pupils needing to work in school during the last six weeks, since the 'lockdown' had been announced. The learning provided in school has been exactly the same as for those who are learning at home whereby pupils connect to their lessons via Microsoft Teams on a computer or work independently on work set via the Student Portal. Recently, there have been a large number of additional requests for places in school. Please could I stress that places for the children of critical workers should only be used in emergencies. Due to the current situation with new variants of COVID near us, I would not expect pupils to attend school where there is a family member at home who can provide childcare. Similarly, we would politely expect that pupils who do attend school are following all laws regarding the current restrictions. It is unacceptable for children who are mixing outside of their own 'family bubble' to attend school and therefore put other pupils and staff at risk. As we expect further announcements from the government regarding school opening, the current arrangements for pupils in school will be in place until Friday 5th March. For those pupils who must attend school, full uniform and equipment including a reading book, earphones and writing equipment are essential.

Catholic Life

In addition to their academic lessons, there have been plenty of lessons being delivered virtually to support our pupils' personal and spiritual development. This week has explored many themes and St Peter's staff have prepared and produced a number of excellent assemblies. We began the week with an assembly introducing the Year of St Joseph. 2021 has been dedicated to this remarkable saint who is patron of many causes. This week we particularly thought of St Joseph the worker and while reflecting on St Joseph as a carpenter, we also began to consider our pupils' future careers, especially as this week was also National Apprenticeship Week. Jesus would have been like an apprentice to St Joseph, learning the world of carpentry and in a similar way, Mr Horsfield arranged a special assembly for our pupils on apprentice opportunities. Of course, there will not be many jobs in the future that do not in some way revolve around the internet and the safe use of the internet was the theme of our third assembly. Following Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9th February, Mrs McHale delivered an informative virtual presentation about the many



blessings of the web but with excellent advice about how to use it safely. And finally, Mr Grubb of the Science Department introduced an excellent presentation as part of 'Women in Science' day on Thursday 11th February. All of these presentations are available to view here.

- Year of St Joseph – Patron Saint of workers - <https://youtu.be/IEwEA57kTDg>
- National Apprenticeship Week - <https://youtu.be/WnAJ-Ebw0T8>
- Internet Safety Day- <https://youtu.be/Y8lrwxUz1rc>
- Women in Science Day - https://youtu.be/Z_PShfgOqg0

Lent begins on Wednesday 17th February and therefore this year falls during half term. Many of our parishes have plans to hold Masses and Services on Ash Wednesday that comply with current government guidelines. Whether current pandemic restrictions mean 'doing extra' is more appropriate than 'giving up' or the other way round, either way, we hope that this Lent is still a time when we all stop to think about those less fortunate than ourselves. In school, we will be doing what we can to reflect on Christ's time in the wilderness as we look forward to commemorated Holy Week and foundation of our faith. Assemblies will continue with a Lenten theme throughout and we will be doing what we can to help those in need as we always would during the special season where we focus on the Catholic Pupil Profile Values of being Compassionate and Loving.

Half Term KS3 Reading Challenge Feb 2021

Challenge 1:

[Free Children's Books & Audiobooks \(researchify.co.uk\)](https://www.researchify.co.uk)

Click on this link and pick one of the 6 books to read. Your challenge is to read the first 3 chapters BUT feel free to carry on if you are enjoying it!

Send the title and author name to your English teacher via email, with a star review out of 5.

Challenge 2:

24 hour reading observation task.

Make a list of everything that you 'read' in 24 hours. This could include: posters, cook book recipes, take away menus, shopping lists, subtitles, signs, books, magazines, emails or texts.

[TIP - Think beyond the obvious despite the limitations of lockdown!](#)

Send this list to your English teacher via email.

MindFitness

After half term, St Peter's will be launching a new initiative to help keep our minds healthy during this lockdown period. MindFitness will promote a range of optional activities to promote mindful and resilience activities for everyone in our school community. We are excited about this new initiative and hope that both staff and students will have a go at the brief activities. Further details will be sent via our new MindFitness email address and promoted on the school twitter feed at the start of the half term.

Community Connections - St Peter's Spreading Joy

As the Year 7 and 8 parents will know, the customer relationship manager at Heartlands Care Home put out a message about a resident called Lillian who turns 100 on Saturday 13th February 2021. Lillian has no family and the customer relationship manager, therefore, was asking if anyone could send in a birthday

message/card. We asked our Year 7 and 8 pupils to send in a drawing, message or letter for Lillian, and her fellow residents, to spread some joy in the care home. We have been inundated with drawings, and messages of kind words, which reflect the truly altruistic nature of St Peter's pupils. Some of our Year 9 pupils also kindly volunteered to make some birthday cards for Lillian. Thank you to all the pupils who sent in their contributions and many thanks to our parents for supporting this venture during what have been challenging times. You can see some examples on our Twitter feed.

Careers News

Apprenticeship Week has been a great success this week. The resources that were sent out for pupils to complete during form time have been well received. Pupils were asked, once they had completed the resource pack, to email it to their form tutor. The form from each year group with the most completed activity packs will win a prize when we are back in school.

Inspire ATA Apprenticeships delivered a fantastic 25-minute webinar aimed at Years 10-13 on Apprenticeships & Traineeships.

- To watch the webinar (25 mins) – [click here](#).
- To access the webinar presentation – [click here](#).

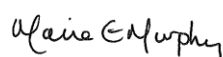
National Careers Week – 1st to 6th March 2021

As part of National Careers week 'Careers at Sea' are offering a free webinar for parents regarding the engineering roles in the Merchant Navy on board ships on #TidalTuesday **2 March 2021 15:30-16:30**. You can register using [this link](#) and select the FREE ticket from the drop-down menu.

During National Careers Week, your child may find the following link from BBC Bitesize useful in learning more about [where their favourite subject could take them](#).

I would like to thank all of our pupils for their resilience, parents for their support and our wonderful staff for their care and creativity.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs M E Murphy
Headteacher



Happy Chinese New Year.