




St Peter's Catholic School



National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Faith is our Foundation

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Archdiocese of Birmingham
Metropolitan Borough of Solihull

Friday 19th March 2021

Dear Parent,

I hope you are all well. This last year has been like no other. On the 18th March 2020, we had to make the difficult decision to close the school; this was then followed up later that day with the announcement from Boris Johnson that all schools would be closed from 23rd March. One year on, we are coming to the end of mass testing pupils in school, sending testing kits home with pupils who have completed 3 tests in school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their perseverance, support and understanding of our school response to government guidelines. Our priority has been the wellbeing of everyone in our community and delivering the best education we can.

The rise in Covid-19 cases

There has been a sudden rise in cases concentrated in the Smith's Wood and Kingshurst areas of the borough.

Our rate today is 83.2 per 100,000, up from 54.1 on 4 March - a rise from 117 to 180 cases.

Our rates are now the third highest in the West Midlands, above Birmingham, Warwickshire and Coventry.

As we saw at Christmas, once the new variant gets out, it spreads very quickly, causing new outbreaks and transmitting around families and workplaces.

Although 44% of people in Solihull have had their first dose of vaccine, this is mainly people over 60 and the average age of people most recently in intensive care was 57. **This still leaves many people at risk of being very severely affected by Covid-19.**

We need to take this as a very serious warning sign. We do not want a third wave. Please follow this Government advice:

- Stay home
- Remember *hands, face & space*
- You can only meet one other person outdoors.
- You should not meet in groups.
- Indoor mixing is not allowed – this is the highest risk for spreading the virus.



- You should continue to stay at home unless you need to go out for essential reasons, which includes education for children and young people.
- Do the right things to for Solihull and allow the vaccination programme to do its job.
- Please remember that you can spread the virus with no symptoms – get a regular test at one of our community test centres – Tudor Grange Leisure Centre or North Solihull Sports Centre – if you are out and about – more info [here](#).
- You can spread the virus if you do not self-isolate for 10 days. **Financial and practical support** is available to help anyone who needs this so you can keep yourself, your family and your community safe.
- Contact the council on 0121 704 8000 for further information, including how to get tested if you have symptoms or are asymptomatic, or look at the information on our Covid-19 web pages [here](#).

Face Coverings

We are working hard to ensure that all members of our school community wear a face covering as much as possible when social distancing cannot be achieved. Please support this system of control by ensuring pupils have a good supply of face coverings. Pupils who persistently fail to follow this important safety rule will be sanctioned by a detention with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Punctuality

It has been noted that the roads around school are getting busier. Please bear this in mind in terms of journey times to school. Year 7, 8 and 9 should be in their form rooms by 8.30am, Year 12 and 13 by 8.45am and Year 10 and 11 by 9am.

Year 11 Timings

With effect from Monday 22nd March, the timings of the Year 11 day will change slightly. Form Time will now begin at 8.55am, five minutes earlier than present. Their day will finish at 3.15pm rather than 3.20pm. This is to facilitate some new zoning arrangements to keep bubbles separate in school and to provide more time to support Year 11 pupils at the start of the day. All other groups remain unchanged.

Communication

We are still experiencing an exceptionally high level of parental emails and enquiries. Please be aware that it is not always possible to have an immediate response, but we do endeavour to reply as soon as we can. We ask families to be patient as this will be within 48 hours.

Valuable items

Please be reminded school are unable to take responsibility for any valuable items that are brought into school. By bringing items into school, there is always the risk they could be lost either around school or on your way to/from school.

Catholic Life

It has been a busy week for the Catholic Life of our school with a number of themes and values being taught and reflected upon. All children had a remote assembly on the key Catholic value of forgiveness. Especially at a time when we are hearing of many conflicts in the media and society, children were invited to consider the question – what is easier: To ask for forgiveness or give forgiveness? [The Assembly can be viewed here](#). On Wednesday, it was St Patrick's Day. Irish music was played while students waited to complete their covid testing and there was a Irish theme in music lessons. A further Assembly followed this which launched our Food Bank for the Birmingham Irish Association who are working with our local GAA clubs to support their appeal for goods for those most in need in our community. [The Assembly featuring Diarmuid and Dominic](#)

[from Year 10 can be viewed here](#). Today was the Feast of Joseph, Husband of Mary – a brilliant role model especially regarding the topical issues of gender, equality and respect. Children were reminded about Joseph's special role in our faith and throughout the day, staff used hymns and songs about St Joseph as reflection music. [An Assembly about St Joseph was prepared](#). As we continue our Lenten journey our thoughts turn to charity, a day of fasting and abstinence next week and of course Holy Week during the final days of this term. We look forward sharing these details with you soon.

Food Bank Appeal for the Birmingham Irish Association

Please help us in this appeal by purchasing any of the items in this list and sending into school to be placed in one of food bank appeal bags.

- Washing up liquid
- Washing powder
- Antibacterial sprays
- Cloths
- Sweet/chocolates for children
- Nappies, baby wipes etc
- Cereal, porridge oats
- Extra carrier bags
- Sugar free biscuits
- Biscuits/cakes/puddings (custard, rice puddings etc)
- Razors/shaving foam
- Shampoo/shower Gel,
- Tinned vegetables, tinned fruit
- Tea, sugar and coffee
- Pasta and rice
- Pasta sauces
- Carton milk
- Flour, raisins and dried fruit
- Squash
- Jams, marmalade

Post 16 Destinations Data Information for Parents - Solihull Council's September Guarantee

Each year, Solihull Council collects data to track the destinations of all pupils post 16. If you have a child in Year 11 or Year 12, you will be sent a Survey requesting information about your child's planned destination. The Survey Monkey questionnaire can be completed in a few minutes on mobile phones by scanning the QR code or following the link, which will be provided to you. Please would you kindly ensure this is completed by Thursday 1st April 2021.

Information for Parents from Solihull Council's Post 16 Tracking Team

Solihull Council's Post 16 Tracking team have a statutory duty to report to the Department for Education each month on whether young people are in education employment or training. They are required to identify those who are not engaged to enable the local authority to plan services that meet young people's needs, to ensure they are supported into gaining further education/training or employment up to the end of the academic year in which they turn 18 (or up to the age of 25 if they have an EHCP).

You/your child may be contacted by a member of the Post 16 Tracking Team by phone, text, e-mail or letter from May 2021 onwards. This is to confirm if they have an offer of education, employment or training after Year 11 or 12.

They may also contact you from September 2021 to confirm if your child took up their offer or if the situation has changed. If they are unable to confirm your child's current activity using these methods, they may visit you at home to collect this information. The Post 16 Tracking Team will maintain contact at least once a year, or more regularly if the young person is not settled anywhere/are in part time education or employment to collect this information and signpost to support available if required. Further information on this service can be found at www.solihullforsuccess.com

You may receive e-mails from iocomms@solihull.gov.uk or text messages from 07786 203100 (number does not accept incoming calls).

If you require any further information, please e-mail post16tracking@solihull.gov.uk or call 0121 709 7015.

Careers News

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#) have released their [March Parents' and Carers Pack](#).

In the [March issue](#) you can find out more about International Women's Day March is Women's History Month and as part of this, Amazing Apprenticeships celebrated International Women's Day on the 8th March. The theme for International Women's Day (IWD) 2021 was #ChooseToChallenge. IWD is acknowledged across the world, celebrating the achievements woman are making in society. The day of celebration raises awareness of *gender equality* whilst highlighting to young people that they can challenge the misconceptions on stereotypical roles to create a more inclusive future. Female role models are creating a positive impact on the economy through science, business and political roles. Inspiring, ambitious females are building their confidence in applying for positions in careers they wish to pursue.

Women remain underrepresented in some male-orientated industries including:

- Engineering
- Science
- IT
- Construction
- Manufacturing

The A-Z of female apprentices booklet may be downloaded using this link: [Amazing-Apprenticeship-booklet.pdf \(amazingapprenticeships.com\)](#)

Watch RAF careers webinar

Pupils, parents and teachers can now catch up on the RAF careers webinar. Hear from RAF apprenticeship ambassadors from a wide range of professional areas including engineering, intelligence, aircrew and many more. Watch the recording [here](#).

Enjoy your weekend. We look forward to the week ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs M E Murphy
Headteacher