



St Peter's Catholic School



National Teaching School
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National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Faith is our Foundation

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Archdiocese of Birmingham
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Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and you have had a pleasant summer holiday.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on arrangements for September. As you will be aware, the Government have announced that all pupils in all year groups will be returning to school in September; please click [this link](#) for the guidance. We will be delighted to have all of our pupils back in our school community. As I am sure you can appreciate, there are a significant number of health and safety measures that we have to put in place to accommodate this. I would like to stress that the health and safety of pupils and staff is my highest priority and we are taking every action needed to help protect everyone in our school community.

There is a lot of information to share. However, I believe it is important for all parents to be fully informed about the arrangements that will be in place and the actions that the school will be taking. For clarity, I have divided this information into key sections.

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1. Bubbles

Pupils will form a 'bubble' within their year group (Years 12 & 13 are one bubble) and pupils from one year group will not be mixing with pupils from other year groups. Each year group will have an allocated gate which they need to use to enter and exit school. Gates will open 30 minutes before the start of the school day. At the gate, before entering and leaving school, pupils will be asked to wash their hands at the wash station. The gates are as follows:

'Bubble'	Times	Gate	Location
7	Arrive between 8am and 8.30am	A	Pedestrian Gate
8		C	Near Sixth Form
9		B	Middle Gate
10	Arrive between 8.30am and 9am	B	Middle Gate
11		A	Pedestrian Gate
12 and 13	Arrive between 8.15 and 8.45	C	Near Sixth Form

Each bubble will have a specified route to follow when in school and their own specified 'zone' of classrooms that they will be using. Therefore, pupils will not be moving around the school, using a range of different classrooms, as they normally would.

In the circumstance that a child or a member of staff who has been in school tests positive for Covid-19, the guidance below will be followed. Government guidance is [here](#).

'The health protection team will work with schools in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.'

'Close contact means:

- *direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)*
- *proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual*
- *travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person'*

2. Arrangements for the Start of the Year

Pupils will either return to school on Thursday 3rd September or Friday 4th September (please see below for further details). On these days, pupils will be spending time with their form tutor and teachers, settling back into school life. Academic curriculum lessons will start on Monday 7th September.

Year Group	Thursday 3 rd September	Friday 4 th September
7	In school 8.45am – 2.45pm spending the day in their form group	In school 8.45am-3.00pm
8	Not in school	In school 9.00am-1.00pm
9	Not in school	In school 9.15am-1.15pm

10	Not in school	In school 8.45am-1.30pm
11	In school 10am-3pm in learning skills workshops	In school 11.00am-2.45pm
12	Pupils attend school for a pre-arranged appointment with a member of staff	In school 9.30am-3.00pm
13	Pupils attend school for a pre-arranged appointment with a member of staff	In school 10.00am-3.00pm

3. The Start and the End of the School Day

In line with Government guidance, we shall be staggering the arrival time and the departure time of the pupils. Therefore, some year groups will be starting school a little earlier or later than normal and finishing a little earlier or later than normal. Please find a below a summary of the start time and the finish time for each year group. Where pupils arrive early, each 'bubble' has a gathering point.

Year Group	Start of School Day	Gathering Point	End of School Day
7	8.30am	Dining Room	2.45pm
8	8.30am	G1.5/Room 29 and area outside.	2.45pm
9	8.30am	Room D1.1/Room 13.	2.45pm
10	9am	A1.7 / Main Hall	3.20pm
11	9am	H1.2 / Room 25	3.20pm
12	8.45am	Room F1.9/Room 78	3pm (or 4pm for a period 6 lesson)
13	8.45am	F1.3 / Common Room	3pm (or 4pm for a period 6 lesson)

Where appropriate, some Year 13 pupils who have a 'private study' session in the afternoon, will have permission to travel home to complete private study at home.

4. System of Controls

Our priority in returning to school will be implementing a range of health and safety measures. As well as at the gates, there will be mobile hand washing stations situated around school for pupils to use. In classrooms, there will be hand sanitiser, tissues and cleaning products. We have expanded the cleaning rota extensively so that all areas of school are regularly cleaned and areas such as toilets and the canteen will be cleaned between each break and lunch session.

Pupils who have been quarantined must not return to school until the 14 day period of self-isolation has expired. Government guidance is [here](#). Please advise school by telephone as soon as possible.

As part of the Induction Day programme, pupils will be taught and reminded of the prevention and response controls specifically:

- to minimise contact with individuals who are unwell it is vital that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, **do not attend school**. Government track and trace guidance is [here](#).
- cleaning hands thoroughly more often than usual. As well as at the gates, when arriving at and leaving school, pupils will also need to use the mobile hand washing stations around school and use the sanitiser in each classroom before and after handling or eating food, after using the toilet and after sneezing or coughing.

- o ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Tissues in each classroom and a dedicated bin with a lid are provided to support this. All pupils should have their own tissues on their person each day.

5. PPE

PPE is not compulsory in schools with the exception of the School Nurse or a First Aider who is dealing with a child who is unwell. However, if a pupil or a member of staff wishes to wear PPE, for example a face mask, they can (although the current DfE guidance does not recommend that children wear masks, as wearing one incorrectly can actually increase the risk of infection, please click [this link](#) for the guidance). If a pupil wears a mask on their journey to school, it must be removed at the gate and placed into a tie-able plastic bag and a new, clean mask must then be worn. It is the responsibility of the pupil to look after any PPE brought into school and it **must not** be disposed of on the school premises, it must be put in the plastic bag and taken home. If a mask is deemed unsuitable (for example, it hides all of the child's face), we will not permit the mask to be worn. We are awaiting further guidance with respect to PPE in schools.

6. Attendance

It is expected that all pupils who are well will attend school each and every day and full-time attendance from September is compulsory for all pupils. This includes families who are currently shielding. If your child receives specialist health care which makes them particularly vulnerable to infection, please speak to your doctor or consultant to seek further guidance about their return to school. Any relevant information should then be passed to your child's Lead Tutor.

It is imperative that any pupil with COVID-19 symptoms does not attend school and that school is informed immediately. Absence should be reported in the usual way by telephoning the school, but we would ask you to do this before 8am during this time.

Please keep us informed if your child is showing symptoms of Covid-19, has tested positive for Covid-19 or has been in close proximity with someone who has symptoms.

The government guidance regarding Attendance can be found [here](#).

7. Lessons and Timetable

As mentioned previously, academic lessons will begin on Monday 7th September and pupils will have the full range of curriculum subjects. Please be aware that no practical lessons will take place during at least the first half term. For example, while pupils will still attend Music lessons, they will not be able to use instruments. Some practical PE will still take place but some lessons will involve theory. Where a pupil is timetabled to have PE, they must wear their uniform to school and bring their PE kit separately as usual. Where a lesson is scheduled to be a theory-based lesson, pupils will be told in advance where possible. Pupils will only be permitted to take part in practical PE lessons if they have all of the correct kit.

All subjects will be contributing to the filling of gaps in core knowledge. One example of this will be an emphasis on reading. **It will therefore be essential that all pupils have a reading book on them each day.**

Work will be marked in a different way by teachers, with online learning playing a much bigger part in pupils' independent work. Pupils will have exercise books for each subject as normal but work to be marked will be done on paper which will be subsequently returned and collated with their classwork. Homework will be set online.

8. Breaktimes and Lunchtimes

In their free time at school, pupils will remain in their bubbles in specified areas of the school. Lunchtime will change significantly. The catering provision will be more limited than is usual, serving cold food only in the first instance. Food will still be available for purchase and those entitled to free school meals will still be able to have a lunch at school.

During the Induction Days, pupils who would like to order some food, will be able to do this via their form tutor. In advance of Monday 7th September, families will be able to complete a pre-order system via Microsoft Forms. A form will need to be completed for each pupil for each choice of sandwich they wish to order specifying the days required. Food ordered will be deducted from the Parentpay account. Should a pupil be absent, they will not be charged. Details of choices and a link to the pre-order form will be sent to families next week.

Lunchtimes will be split so that each year group has 20 minutes inside for eating and 20 minutes outside. Thorough cleaning will take place in between each sitting.

It would be helpful if, for the first half-term at least, parents sent their children to school with a snack for breaktime, a packed lunch and a water bottle. This will significantly reduce the numbers who need to use the canteen and help the logistics of our lunchtime arrangements.

9. Behaviour and Expectations

Our current school rules will still be the same, but there will be some additional rules pertaining to health and safety that is imperative that all pupils follow. Sanctions will be similar to now and sanctions such as detentions will continue. However, it is important to inform all parents that we shall be operating a 'zero tolerance' approach to any conduct or behaviour that puts the health and safety of a child or a member of staff at risk. Should this arise, serious action will be taken. An addendum to our Behaviour and Discipline policy is [here](#).

10. Uniform and Equipment

It is important that all school standards are high and therefore I need to insist that when pupils return for the academic year, they are in full school uniform. The blue summer shirt may be worn as an alternative to the white shirt and school tie (clip-on or velcro). All other items of uniform such the school skirt, dark grey trousers, the school blazer must be worn, along with approved footwear. I would also like to remind families that from September, no jewellery will be permitted for both boys and girls. No earrings, rings or piercings will be permitted to be worn. We are also aware that during lockdown some pupils have experimented with hairstyles; from September, no extreme haircuts or colours will be allowed. Further details can be found on the school website.

Pupils will need to bring their PE kit on the day they have practical PE. Please be aware that our sports shirt is changing from white to blue, but unfortunately there have been some issues with the manufacturer and we understand that the blue sports shirts have not yet arrived at the uniform shops. Therefore, next year pupils can wear either the white or the blue sport shirt for PE.

There will strictly be no borrowing or sharing of equipment, such as stationery. As a result, it is crucial that all pupils bring the required equipment. The list of essential pieces of equipment are as follows:

Pencils	Blue or black pens	Green pens
Pencil crayons	Ruler	Glue Stick
Highlighters	Dictionary	Protractor
Calculator (Scientific)	Small Headphones	Pencil Sharpener
Tissues	Reading book	

Please only bring essential items into school, e.g. coat, school bag, lunch and the equipment above.

11. Pastoral Care

I appreciate that a return to school may be an anxious and unsettling time for some, particularly those who have not been here for a number of months now. Please be assured that we understand these anxieties and that we will be doing everything we can to support pupils in their transition to the new year.

SOLAR, the mental health support service in Solihull, has produced a very helpful guide to support available which can be found [here](#).

For the government guidance regarding supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, please follow [this link](#).

National Online Safety

Please find a [link here](#), to a poster regarding online safety and not becoming a 'Screen Zombie'.

12. Transport

I am pleased to say that our local transport providers have been very flexible in adapted their services to meet the needs of St Peter's pupils. While the 876 and 898 have been withdrawn, the new provision of and extended X2 and improved 877 will hopefully provided the flexibility required. Please note that the previous Solihull Council commissioned services are now school specific. St Peter's will be served by a new 810 service. Full details can be found in [here](#).

13. Clubs, Activities and Trips

Unfortunately, there will be no extra-curricular events taking place until further notice.

14. Visitors

Visitors to the St Peter's site, including parents, will be severely limited. In the vast majority of cases, communication between school and parents will need to be by email or telephone. Under no circumstances will adults be admitted on the school site unannounced. Please be aware, that unfortunately in the first half term, we have had to cancel all parents' events/meetings. We will be reviewing the calendar as the school year progresses.

If you have any queries or concerns, please feedback to office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk. Myself and all the staff are really looking forward to welcoming back all pupils next week.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs M. E. Murphy
Headteacher