



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
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Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

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.

It is important to say at this point that we are expecting further Government guidelines to be published on 11th August so we will write to you later in the summer holiday if these new guidelines mean we have to make any further changes to our plans.

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'	Gate	Location
7	A	Pedestrian Gate
8	C	Near Sixth Form
9	B	Middle Gate
10	B	Middle Gate
11	A	Pedestrian Gate
12 and 13	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, all other pupils and members of staff from that bubble will be told to remain at home and self-isolate for 14 days.

'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-3.00pm spending the day in their form group	In school 8.45am-2.45pm
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.

Year Group	Start of School Day	End of School Day
7	8.30am	2.45pm
8	8.30am	2.45pm
9	8.30am	2.45pm
10	9am	3.20pm
11	9am	3.20pm
12	8.45am	3pm (or 4pm for a period 6 lesson)
13	8.45am	3pm (or 4pm for a period 6 lesson)

Siblings who arrive early for their start will be advised of a "gathering point".

Where Years 12 and 13 have a 'private study' session Period 5, they will have permission to travel home to complete the session there.

4. Hygiene Arrangements

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.

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.

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.

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. Pupils will only be permitted to take part in practical PE lessons if they have all of the correct kit.

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 and 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. However, we are currently planning alternative ways to order lunches and this will be communicated to you in September. 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. Our Behaviour and Discipline policy is currently being amended again in the context of the current circumstances and this will be communicated to you in September.

10. Uniform and Equipment

During the summer term, we have been flexible regarding school uniform, as pupils have been attending for shorter periods of time. In September, 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		

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.

Please find attached a booklet from the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families which you may find useful in preparation for September.

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

We are currently liaising with National Express West Midlands regarding the times of the usual school buses and we will update you when services are confirmed.

Pupils who use the tendered services 821, 822, 823, 894 and 895 should be aware that they need to apply for a bus pass from Solihull Council.

Solihull Council are currently surveying all pupils across the borough to review the transport available. Please see their request below:

As you will be aware, the Secretary of State for Education has announced that schools and further education colleges across the country will reopen for all year groups from the beginning of the autumn term. In order to plan a safe return to school Solihull Council are collecting data on how pupils travelled to school before the current epidemic and how you are planning to travel from September. This data will be used to communicate demand to local transport providers so pupils can be accommodated safely and to support our children to travel by foot or cycle where possible.

Please take a few minutes to complete the attached questionnaire. The survey will close on Sunday 26th July 2020. <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/31844Z/>

Data Protection

The information collected in this survey will be used by Solihull MBC and secondary schools across Solihull to prepare for transport to school when pupils return for the next 2020/21 school year. We will share the results of the survey with individual schools.

Information is stored by a company called SmartSurvey who are based in the UK and who are fully GDPR compliant.

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.

Goodbye

We say goodbye to some members of staff who are moving on to pastures new: Mr Foster, Mr Carbery, Mr Matthews, Miss Caines and Mrs Pearce. I would like to thank each one of them for their hard work and efforts. I would also like to mention Mrs Smith, our SENCO, who is re-locating to the north of the country. Having worked tirelessly and so conscientiously at St Peter's for over eight years, Mrs Smith will be finishing in her current role as a History teacher at the end of this year. It is not goodbye though, as she will be working with Mrs Wolfe, our SEND Lead for next year, but I did want to thank her for the amazing contribution she has made to our school. I know parents and pupils alike will be forever thankful for the kindness and dedication Mrs Smith has shown.

Summer Activities

This year's school summer holidays (more than any other) are going to be a real challenge, continuing to keep children both entertained and active. With this in mind, Solihull family information service working with *Solihull Active* have compiled details of the following activities:

- Ofsted-registered holiday schemes for parents looking for childcare during this time including specialist holiday schemes.
- Ofsted-registered childminders and day nurseries (for under 5's) who are open during the summer holidays.
- local attractions/venues that have now re-opened to visitors (in line with government guidance).
- family-friendly activities that we hope you and your children can enjoy at home.
- details of further groups and summer camps that children can join this summer.

Please note that throughout the summer holidays, we will keep the webpages updated with further details of further activities, events and holiday schemes as information becomes available. Therefore, please do keep checking our webpage on a regular basis for all the latest details.

There are useful links to the latest government guidance for holiday and out of school settings for parents as well as information on how to choose safe activities.

To view information on this year's summer activities, please see the [local offer site](#).

Please don't forget that Solihull family information service are here to assist and support families throughout the holidays and beyond.

Mass

Many of our local parishes have opened their doors to celebrate mass over the last two weeks in addition to livestreaming what is happening across our diocese. Dispensation from the Sunday obligation is still in place and many parishes are inviting the faithful to attend a weekday mass if this would be convenient as numbers are limited. Those who do attend church are reminded that they must wear a face covering and follow instructions from stewards on duty. For your convenience, below are links to some of our local churches' websites and their mass times and arrangements.

St Augustine's RC Church

<http://www.staugustinesolihull.org.uk/content/pages/documents/1594396091.pdf>

Our Lady of the Wayside RC Church

<http://ourladyofthewaysidechurchshirley.co.uk/>

St Thomas More's RC Church

<https://www.stthomasmorerccchurch.com/newsheets-2020.html>

St George and St Teresa's RC Church

<https://www.catholicchurch.dorridge.uk/bulletins/>

Sacred Heart and Holy Soul's RC Church

<https://www.holysoulschurch.co.uk/newsletter.html>

St Ambrose Barlow's RC Church

<http://www.st-ambrose-barlow.org.uk/calendar-1>

Olton Friary

<https://www.oltolfriary.org.uk/>

Assembly

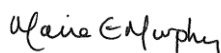
I would like to share with you the final video assembly of the year, and this one is particularly dedicated to all of those students for whom this is their last year. Please click [this link](#) to view.

In this final communication of the year, I would like to thank most sincerely all the parents, pupils and staff of the St Peter's community who have adapted and coped with such unprecedented changes so well. It has been a year like no other, but the wonderful warmth, support and compassion of our community has truly shone through.

If you have any queries or concerns, please feedback to office@st-peters.solihull.sch.uk.

Wishing you a lovely summer holiday.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs M. E. Murphy
Headteacher