



# St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter 15 Friday 9th May

[www.st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk)   
 [admin@st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk)

Local Parish Mass Times	St Peter's	English Martyrs	St Augustine's
Saturday	6pm		6.30pm
Sunday	9am 10.30am 5.30pm	9am	11am

### RE CURRICULUM

EYFS	EYFS I know that the Holy Spirit is our friend
Y1	The Ascension and the Promise of the Holy Spirit
Y2	The Ascension and the Promise of the Holy Spirit
Y3	To know what Christians mean by "The Trinity". Understand what happened after the Ascension
Y4	To develop our understanding and knowledge of the Catholic Church
Y5	To develop our understanding and knowledge of the Catholic Church
Y6	To develop our understanding and knowledge of the Catholic Church

Dear parents and carers,

Please accept my apologies for a longer Headteacher's section - there has been a lot going on here at St. Peter's in recent weeks.

The obvious place to start our newsletter is with Pope Francis. The whole school community of St. Peter's give heartfelt thanks for the guidance, compassion, and deep humility of Pope Francis, whose papacy has been a source of inspiration and hope for Catholics around the world. As we now welcome Pope Leo XIV, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide him in wisdom and love as he begins this new chapter of leadership in our Church. May his ministry be one of peace, unity, and faithful service to God's people. May we keep both Pope Francis and Pope Leo in our prayers.

I am delighted to share an update on Golden Tickets! As you may already be aware, we have changed our approach to recognising and rewarding behaviour. The results for the spring term are as follows:

Earth - 2891 golden tickets

Fire - 3261 golden tickets

Wind - 3807 golden tickets

This is an incredible achievement by our children and reflect the hard work and amazing work going on in our classrooms and around the school. Six of our children have won individual vouchers for Amazon and Waterstones through the golden ticket lucky dip. These will be sent home shortly so children can enjoy them.

We also have some really exciting collective prizes to share with the children. I have outlined the prizes below, including details of which houses have earned them and when they will take place.

<b>Extra playtime</b>	(all houses) Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May – 1.40pm to 2.30pm
<b>No school uniform</b>	(all houses) Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
<b>Pizza party</b>	(Fire, Wind, Water) Hall – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2.35pm to 3.00pm
<b>Cinema experience</b>	(Water house only) Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – 1.35pm in the Spiritual Space Children in Water house may bring a pillow or something comfortable to sit on during the movie. Popcorn will be provided.

Golden tickets have proven hugely successful and very popular so far. The individual prizes for the summer term will be 3x £15 Amazon vouchers, 6x children selected to join myself and Mrs Young (Deputy Headteacher) for a trip to Waterstones to select a book of their choosing, and 15x children will receive a special Forest School Experience. The collective prizes for the summer term will be an OPAL play afternoon (1000 golden tickets), Ice Cream Party (2000 golden tickets), In-School Cinema Experience (3000 golden tickets), Water Fight in the grounds (4000 golden tickets), and Bouncy Castles (5000 golden tickets). These exciting rewards were selected using recommendations from the children. All children can earn golden tickets for positive behaviour, producing good work and for working hard and trying their best.

On a different note, the fundraising project I have been leading for Missio and the new St. Peter's Disadvantaged Fund has now finished. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for the incredible support shown. I am delighted to share that we were able to raise an incredible £1485. This money will be split equally between Missio (the school's chosen charity this year) and our new St. Peter's Disadvantaged Fund. This fund has already been launched and is being used to support children and families in our very own community. Fathers Gary and Benedict will be visiting on behalf of Missio after half term to share how the money raised is being used to support mission and pastoral work in disadvantaged areas around the world.

St. Peter's is proud to utilise the THRIVE approach as part of our commitment to supporting every child's social and emotional wellbeing. Rooted in neuroscience and child development research, THRIVE helps us to identify and meet the emotional needs of our pupils at different stages in their lives. By creating tailored support and positive relationships, we help children to build resilience, confidence, and the emotional skills they need to engage fully in learning and in life. We believe that when children feel safe, understood, and supported, they truly thrive. Investment in the THRIVE approach as a universal offer for all children further demonstrates the school's ongoing commitment to the holistic learning and wellbeing of all of our children. This learning can be done through whole class, small group or individual support based on each child's need. If you would like more information regarding this, then please approach Mrs Desando.

Please can I politely remind parents and carers to not book holidays during term time. I fully understand and appreciate the significant difference in price between term-time and non-term-time bookings. However, the statutory guidance published in the summer by the government has severely limited the scope of headteachers and schools to authorise leave during term time. Since the updated guidance was published in August, we have had a number of families issued with fixed penalty notices by Gloucestershire Local Authority. Please work with us to ensure that your child attends school for every available session. I would also like to add the school is required to request fixed penalty notices in specific instances and the school does not benefit financially or is compensated in any other way by supporting this process.

After much careful consideration over recent months, we have taken the decision to re-organise our classes. This change will take effect from September 2025. This means that your child may be with a different mix of peers. We understand that changes like this may feel uncertain, but please be assured that this decision has been made with great care and with your child's best interests at heart. Mixing classes provides a valuable opportunity for children to build additional friendships, develop social confidence, and learn to adapt to new group dynamics — important skills that support both academic progress and personal growth. We are committed to ensuring a smooth and supportive transition for every child and will be working closely with them throughout the process.

This decision has been made after careful review of the learning, social and development needs of all of our pupils. Most pupils join our school community in their reception year and the classes are randomly allocated. At this point, we often know very little about the children and their developmental strengths and needs. This means that most classes throughout the school have much greater levels of need in some areas. This change is designed to rebalance both classes in each year group so that all children, at all stages of their development will continue to thrive through receiving the very best support we can offer. I firmly believe this will be a positive change for the children at St. Peter's. Much of their social time and interaction during school is during playtime and lunchtime. We note (during our observations and consideration over recent weeks) that most children play with children from across their year group and many children have strong friendships across the school with children of all ages. We will, of course, endeavour to place all of our children in a class with strong established friendships. This will be a primary consideration alongside their learning and developmental needs.

I have spoken with a number of schools who do this annually and they are very positive about the overall impact on learning, social skills and character development for pupils. I plan to share this news with the children during our assembly on Tuesday morning; and I wanted to provide an opportunity for parents and carers to discuss this with your child beforehand, should you wish to. It will take some weeks to carefully deliberate the new classes with staff involvement. We plan to share the provisional class allocations in early July.

We are pleased to confirm our sports day (and reserve sports day for bad weather) for this year. Sports day will take place on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June and will continue to operate in its current format. The reserve sports day will be on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July. More details will be shared with parents and carers in the coming weeks.

We are delighted to celebrate with the children who recently received their First Holy Communion – a truly special milestone in their faith journey. On behalf of the whole school community, I offer our heartfelt congratulations to each of them. We hope their day was filled with joy, peace, and the presence of the Lord's love. May they continue to grow in their relationship with Christ through the Eucharist. A sincere thank you goes to Mrs Desando for her dedication and care, both in school and in church, in preparing the children so thoughtfully for this sacred occasion.

On Friday of last week, our school community came together for a May Procession to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. The children brought flowers, sang hymns, and reflected on Mary's faith, love, and obedience to God. It was a beautiful and prayerful occasion, reminding us all of Mary's special place in our Catholic faith and her example of grace and devotion. The behaviour and respect from our children was exemplary throughout. Thank you to Father Stephen for leading the devotion, to Mrs MacDonald for organising this, and to the parents and carers who were able to join us for this beautiful and joyous celebration.

Finally, thank you to the children for wearing red, white and/ or blue on Thursday of last week to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day! It was an incredibly busy week but we will take some time on Tuesday during worship to reflect on VE Day, remembering the end of World War II in Europe and honouring the courage and sacrifice of those who served. We will reflect, in an age appropriate way, on the significance of this historic day and the importance of peace, gratitude, and resilience. As a school, we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy today and continue to pray for peace in our world.

Thank you for taking the time to stay connected with all that is happening in our school community; together, we continue to live, love and learn.

Kind regards,  
Mr. Kurt Doyle  
Headteacher



Please join us in congratulating the following children who have received the sacrament of Holy Communion last Saturday or will be receiving it tomorrow. This is a very special time for the children and their families. We keep these children in our prayers.

3LP—Aaliyah, Cruz, Denver, Henry, Joenna, Leon, Sean, Siona, Chidimma, Clara, Cohen, Isla, Luca, Rafaella and Seth.

3DD—Aaryn, Joshua, Irus, Mylie, Avani, Chizaram, Isla, Isaac and Rome

5MD—Brooke, Evaleen and Gavin

5FB—Serha



**Your child has the chance to earn extra class OPAL time. Here's how you can help**

Each class is going to work together to bring in as many of the items below to donate to OPAL here at St Peter's. Once an item has been received it will be ticked off. For each line the class completes (both horizontal and vertical) they will earn an extra 5 minutes of OPAL; there are 9 lines in total (45 minutes worth) but if they complete the whole sheet they will get a 15 minute bonus bumping the extra OPAL up to 1 hour!

Small items can be taken into class by the children but if you are able to donate any of the larger items, they can be left in the covered area outside the school office and your child will just need to let their class teacher know.

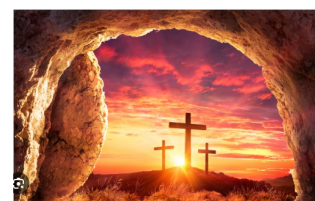
Thank you in advance for your support,  
Mr Dowling (OPAL lead)

## Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO

<b>Pool noodles</b> 	<b>PVC pipes</b> 	<b>Wheelbarrow</b> 	<b>Dress up items</b> 	<b>Cable spools</b> 
<b>Suitcase</b> 	<b>Beach spades</b> 	<b>Buckets</b> 	<b>Pushchairs</b> 	<b>Toy cars</b> 
<b>Straw bales</b> 	<b>Lego</b> 	<b>Hats</b> 	<b>Plastic trucks</b> 	<b>Guttering</b> 
<b>Dinosaurs</b> 	<b>Pans</b> 	<b>Plastic dolls</b> 	<b>Tarpaulin</b> 	<b>Action figures</b> 

## Resurrection Mass

Thank you to everyone who came and celebrated Mass with us last Friday.



It was a joyful event with uplifting singing from the children. When hearing the Matthew's Resurrection Gospel, the children amazed Mnr Liam with their wonderful vocabulary explaining the emotions felt during Eastertide.



## VE Day Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Brockworth Hedgehog Rescue Visit

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May we commemorated VE day by wearing red/blue/white clothing.

This year the children wanted to donate to a local charity and decided to donate cat food to the **Brockworth Hedgehog Rescue** (A local hedgehog charity).

This act of charity shows how our children are living actively in our community by showing the **Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Stewardship**.

Caring for God's creation and our Common Home.

What a lovely session we had with the volunteers who described the life of a hedgehog and the important role that the charity provides.

Brockworth Hedgehog Rescue is a registered charity that rescues, rehabilitates and releases the wild hedgehog in the Cheltenham, Gloucester, Cotswold and Forest of Dean areas.

Last year over 900 hedgehogs were rescued in Gloucestershire, so please keep them safe by checking your gardens/hedges and bushes!

Thank you so much for your generosity with cat food for this event, the volunteers were very grateful.

Did you know that a baby hedgehog is called a hoglet?

We learnt so much!





Throughout the year, the children have been enjoying playing in all the different OPAL zones in all weathers. They have been climbing trees in the Forest School zone; rolling down the bank inside a water butt; playing with the figures, cars and building blocks in the Small World zone; building sandcastles in the sand pit; making bases with the donations of tyres and pallets we received from local companies on the field; dressing up and making obstacle courses in the Role Play zone; and many many other things. They are LOVING OPAL. As a result of this and now the weather is becoming more favourable, we'd love you to experience OPAL too. So, starting next week (wk commencing 5/5) until the end of the summer term, parents/carers are invited to 'Stay and Play' with your children from 3.15pm - 4pm every Friday. This will be unsupervised play (however I will be on site to support if/when necessary) - all we ask is that you follow these simple rules:

1. Sign the sheet in the main office to say you are staying (this is so we know who is on site) and sign it again when you are leaving (so we know you have left!).
2. Treat the resources and the zones with respect.
3. Tidy away the resources when you and your children have finished with them.
4. The POND by the forest school zone is strictly out of bounds.
5. Bring your own drinks, snacks and first aid supplies - the school does not accept any liability for any accidents that occur - you 'Stay and Play' at your own risk.
6. Take all your litter home with you.
7. Have an amazing OPAL experience!

Thank you for your continued support Mr Dowling (OPAL Lead) and Mrs Whitehead (OPAL Play Coordinator)

## DISNEY FOOTBALL

10 Year 3 and 4 girls had the opportunity to take part in a Disney inspired football session at Ribston Hall High School on Thursday. They had a skills session where they learnt to dribble, shoot and defend through some fun activities led by the girls at the High School. They then played three matches against other local primary schools and even won of them! They had an absolutely brilliant day and were a credit to our school!



**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Tuesday 20th May	Y2	Weston-Super-Mare Trip	9.00am—3.00pm
Friday 23rd May	Whole school	School Disco	EYFS and KS1 3.30—4.30pm KS2—4.45—6pm
Friday, 23rd May		<b>FINISH FOR HALF TERM</b>	Normal time
Monday, 2nd June		<b>INSET</b>	
Tuesday, 3rd June		<b>Start of the New Term</b>	8.45am
Thursday 19th June	Y1	Cotswold Wildlife Park	9.00am—3.00pm
Thursday, 19th June	Y6	Clifton Cathedral	9.30am—1.00pm
Sunday, 22nd June—25th June	Y6	Residential Trip	
Friday, 27th June	Whole School	Sports Day	During the school day
Wednesday, 2nd July	Y6	Gloucester Ski Slope	10.30am—2.15pm
Friday 4th July	Whole School	Summer Fair	During the school day
Wednesday, 9th July	Whole School	Reserve Sports Day	During the school day
Thursday 10th July	Whole School	Move up Day	
Friday, 18th July		<b>FINISH FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAY</b>	1.00pm

**DINNER MENU – w/c 12th May**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bean Burger	Green Thai Chicken Curry	Roast Chicken	Greek Chicken Pitta	Battered Fish & Chips
Creamy Curry	Vegan Bolognese	Roast Quorn	Vegan Meatballs	Spinach & Cheese Pin-wheel
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato

**DINNER MENU – w/c 19th May**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Tomato Pasta</b>	BBQ Chicken Pizza	Roast Gammon	Spaghetti Bolognese	Fish Fingers & Chips
Caribbean Stew	Mild Mexican Chilli	Veg Wellington	Cheese & Bean Pasty	Summer Frittata & Chips
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato