



St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 7 Friday 12th December

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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	We know that Jesus came for everyone
Y1	Know how Christians celebrate Christmas today
Y2	WALT understand the story of John the Baptist and the Baptism of Jesus.
Y3	Exploring how Christians prepare for Christmas during Advent
Y4	Jesus' Family Tree— Learning about the Jesse Tree
Y5	Advent preparation
Y6	Advent preparation



Dear parents and carers,

What a wonderful and whirlwind fortnight it has been at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School! We may be tired (with staff now powered mostly by mince pies, cake and determination), but we are feeling incredibly positive. The children have been fantastic in their learning, and school life has been sparkling with festive joy.

We do, however, need to start this newsletter with some sad news. We would like to share that Mrs Jackson has made the difficult decision to resign from her teaching post for family reasons. While we will miss her greatly in the classroom, she remains a much-loved member of our St. Peter's community. We are hopeful that she may return in the future, and she will still be popping into school from time to time so do say hello when you see her. In separate staffing news, Mrs Quinton will shortly be starting her maternity leave. This is fantastic news and we wish her, Mr Quinton and baby Quinton the very best of luck (mostly with the lack of sleep they are shortly about to experience) and share our love with them. We are delighted to share that Mrs Ellie Hodges who has been spending some time with us this week and will join us in January. Mrs Hodges is a very experienced teacher, and we are pleased to welcome her to St. Peter's.

I would like to say a big festive thank you to the PFA and to all of Santa's helpers (with a special nod to Mrs Baron in the secret present wrapping room) for making our Christmas Fayre such a tremendous success. It was full of cheer, crafts, good food and the world's largest raffle. We are so grateful to everyone who volunteered, attended, or bought one-too-many slices of cake. All of the money raised by the PFA directly benefits the children in our school.

The Reception Nativity was an absolute joy to experience this week. Many of the parents and carers enjoyed it so much that they returned for a second show in the afternoon. The children were great in their performances with all of them playing a role in the retelling of this very famous event! It was amongst the more adorable things I have ever seen. We have also enjoyed two excellent Carol Services with Key Stage One and Upper Key Stage Two. These were truly beautiful. They showcased the great musical talent many of our children possess. We are also very excited for the Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) Carol Service which is taking place on Monday 15th December. We look forward to more angelic singing. We conclude our Advent season in school this year with Mass on Friday 19th December; but before that we will be celebrating an Hour of Prayer. This is a special moment of reflection for our children during this Advent season. There are a number of interactive stations which will be set up in the Spiritual Space for children to engage with during this calm and reflective time. Mrs MacDonald gives the preparation for this much consideration and the feedback from children last year was great.

Next week also brings Christmas Jumper Week; YES! A whole week of Christmas jumpers. I am already dusting off the mini dinosaurs on skateboards with Christmas hats! There is a suggested donation of £1 per family and this money will be donated to the James Hopkins Trust.

On Wednesday 17th December (next week), our much-loved Christmas lunch returns. The hall will be decorated to the nines (possibly even the tens) and Christmas crackers will make their triumphant comeback after their incredible popularity last year. If your child has specific needs and the noise of crackers may be difficult for them, please speak with a member of staff so we can consider thoughtful alternatives and ensure every child can enjoy the occasion comfortably. Otherwise, we look forward to sharing some photos and updates after lunch.

In recent weeks, we have been busy providing tours of the school to prospective parents for next year's Reception intake. We will continue to hold Reception look-arounds for families interested in joining us in September 2026. If you know anyone with a little one ready to start school next year, please do point them in our direction - nothing makes us happier than showing families what a warm and welcoming place St. Peter's is for all children and families.

Finally - last but absolutely not least, we are honoured this afternoon to welcome Alex MacIntyre (Member of Parliament for Gloucester), who will present our OPAL Honours Award. He will be joined by Michael Follet who is the founder of OPAL. We are one of only seven schools in England to receive this special recognition, and it will be a proud moment for our entire community, especially our children who shine so brightly in their outdoor play and learning. A special well done should be shared with Mr Dowling and Mrs Whitehead to do an outstanding job in leading our flagship OPAL play provision at St. Peter's. They really do go the extra mile to create amazing experiences for the children here and I am grateful to them for their dedication.

I plan to write to parents and carers again next week as we break up for the Christmas holidays, however, as we wrap up this festive term like the expertly folded present we always aspire to achieve, we want to express a heartfelt thank you for your ongoing support. Our school is a special place because of the kindness, generosity, and partnership of our committed staff, amazing children and supportive families. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all peace and joy this Christmas.

Kind regards,
Mr. Kurt Doyle
Headteacher





Parent Quiet Reflection and Prayer

The Spiritual Space will be open for quiet prayer for parents on Wednesday 17th December from 2:45pm until 3:10. This will be a prayerful and reflective time when you can ponder the season of Advent before collecting your child.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Please note, we will not be able to provide childcare for this prayer session.



EYFS Nativity

On Wednesday 10th December EYFS took to the stage to retell the story of the first Christmas. As Mr Doyle said, it was a modern take on a classic tale. The children looked fantastic, they sang, danced and spoke brilliantly and made us all so proud. Thank you to all of the families and friends who came to watch and support us. A special thank you to the EYFS Team for preparing the children to share the Nativity so beautifully. We are certainly in the Christmas spirit now.



The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is back to help keep children in Gloucestershire happy, healthy, and entertained with free activities and nutritious food.

Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals can register now for the winter HAF. Thanks to grant funding, the county council is extending these fun, enriching holiday activities to all children and young people through the Holiday Activities Programme (HAF).

Most activities will be taking place between Saturday 20th December and Sunday 4th January 2026.

Booking is now open via the new Family Hubs system - <https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf>

Families are encouraged to visit the website to create an account, add a profile for each child taking part in activities, and make sure emergency contact details are up to date.

This winter, in addition to ticketed attractions, 41 providers will be providing activity sessions for children and young people across the county, helping to create memorable experiences for thousands of families who **greatly value the opportunities it offers**.

This winter there are lots of great options to choose from including drama and science workshops, sports and games, art and crafts, music and dance, indoor and outdoor activities. In addition, popular ticketed attractions include ice skating and pantomimes. More information about the programme is available at:

<https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf>

Families needing extra support to choose, book, or attend HAF activities can get help from six HAF Community Connectors, one for each district. This winter, there's also a Specialist SEND Community Connector to improve support for children and young people with additional needs:

<https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf-send>

MOBILE PHONES ON SCHOOL PREMISES



Our school policy is that mobile phones are not used on our school site.

When parents are invited into school for celebration assembly, we ask that you enjoy the assembly and watching your child receive their certificate but take no photographs. You will then be invited at the end of the assembly to take a photo of your child with their certificate. This is a safeguarding issue as there are children in our school family who cannot have their photograph taken. If you have taken any photographs **during** the celebration assembly today (other than the individual one of your child after assembly has finished) these will need to be deleted.

EVENTS AND SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS



9th December KS1 Carol Service

10th December EYFS Nativity

11th December UKS2 Carol Service

15th December LKS2 Carol Service

Times of the above will be confirmed nearer to the events.

16th and 17th December Hour of Prayer

CHRISTMAS JUMPER WEEK

IN AID OF
JAMES HOPKINS TRUST

15TH - 19TH DECEMBER

WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPER AND DONATE £1 OR MORE IF YOU CAN OR WANT TO!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS PROVIDING NURSING RESPITE CARE TO LIFE-LIMITED AND LIFE-THREATENED CHILDREN IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

SCAN TO DONATE

#JHTChristmasJumperDay

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER

The school kitchen has now had the final numbers for the Christmas lunch. If your child has ordered a meal and they are in KS2, please make sure you have paid the £2.85 on ParentPay before this date. KS1 children do not have to pay. If your child hasn't ordered a lunch, please make sure they have their packed lunch on this day. Thank you for your co-operation.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 15th December	LKS2	Carol Service	2.30pm
Wednesday 17th December	Whole School	Christmas Dinner	Lunchtime
Wednesday 17th December		Hour of Prayer	2.45pm
Thursday 18th December	Y1	Advent Liturgy	9.00am
Friday 19th December	Whole School	Advent Mass	9.00am—everyone welcome
Friday 19th December	Whole School	Finish for Christmas	1.00pm
Monday 5th January	Whole School	INSET	
Tuesday 6th January	Whole School	Start of the New Term	8.45am
Monday 12th January	Whole School	New Year Mass	9.00am Everyone welcome

DINNER MENU – w/c 15th DECEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce	Roast Gammon	Chicken Curry	Fish Fingers with Chips
Vegetable Pasta Bake	Vegan Burger	Roast Quorn	Macaroni Cheese	Cheese Whirl with Chips
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato

DINNER MENU – w/c 5th JANUARY 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
INSET	Sausage & Mash	Roast Chicken	Spaghetti Bolognaise	Fish Fingers & Chips
	Lentil Curry	Vegetable Wellington	Roasted Vegetable Pizza	Red Pepper Frittata
	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato