



8th October 2020

Dear Parents



Christ, be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

As we continue through the half term in these new and unusual circumstances, I feel it is appropriate this week to say an enormous 'thank you' to our children, who have been resolutely cheerful despite all the new arrangements and changes they are experiencing. They truly are 'St Peter's People,' and it is a pleasure for all the staff to spend their days in school with them.

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day** This will take place tomorrow - Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> October. The theme is 'Brighten up the Harvest.' Children may come to school wearing something bright in addition to their usual school uniform. This may be a hair accessory, tie, pair of socks, etc. We will be collecting donations for CAFOD on that day. We would also like to support our local food bank. We would be very grateful to receive donations of tinned and packet foods. We have placed these on display in the hall, so that they may be quarantined before being collected by the food bank team next Monday. Thank you for your support with this – we particularly welcome these donations for any local families who may be struggling in the light of the current pandemic

**Entrance and exit arrangements for children** Year 3 and 4 – please escort children to the playground in the mornings if the perimeter gate is open. Please do not leave children unattended on the disabled ramp or outside the office. Please hand them over to a member of staff on the playground. If a member of staff is outside the Year 3 or 4 classroom, please hand your child over to them.

Please could we ask all parents to observe the social distance markings on the pavements around the perimeter of school when waiting to drop off or collect your child. Some parents are finding it difficult to pass groups who have gathered together on the pavement and are having to walk in the road with their children. If people who are waiting to collect children at the end of the day stand close to the fence, but use the markers as a guide, then this situation should not arise.

Thank you for your understanding about parking – it is a danger when cars park on the corners of the pavements near the Nursery unit.

**First Holy Communion** Recently I attended a meeting with Father Philip and the headteachers of St Raphael's and St James' Catholic Primary Schools. Father Philip is parish priest to these two schools, as well as our own. After a lengthy discussion, the decision was made to celebrate the First Holy Communion of the current Year 4 children on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021. We made this decision in the hope that, by this date, we would be able to hold a celebration of the sacrament most similar to the celebration which we are used to experiencing. If we were to celebrate the sacrament now, the children would be unable to take part in the mass in the same way (with prayers, readings, etc) and we would be unable to sing the special hymns. We would also need to restrict the number of people who could accompany each child to the Holy Communion mass.

The current Year 3 children will celebrate their First Forgiveness on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021, and their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**New Staff** We are delighted to welcome Mrs Hilary Williams and Mrs Marianna Meola who are to begin posts as teaching assistants at St. Peter's.

**Parent Governor Election** Ballot papers have been issued to each family today, along with two envelopes. Please see the ballot paper for instructions on how to vote, and for the closing date and time.

**Nursery and Reception Phonics and Reading Workshops.**

These will be held on the following dates:

Reception Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Nursery Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Parents have received a letter from Mrs Walker or Miss Cooper, inviting them to book a slot on the day or evening of these dates. We are able to carry out these workshops in groups of less than 6 people, in line with government guidance.

**Year 6 transfer from Primary to Year 7 (High School) – September 2020** The online admission process is now open. Parents will need to log on to Tameside MBC school admissions and register to submit an application and access the 'Moving On' booklet [www.tameside.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/admissions). The closing date is Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Admissions submitted after this date will be treated as late and if your application is not submitted on time you are less likely to receive the school of your choice

**Moving On / Starting Out - A message from Tameside Admissions for Year 6 and Nursery/Reception parents**

**We have been notified that Microsoft has blocked the Tameside MBC domain from their system.**

**This means that parents using Hotmail/live/outlook email addresses will encounter problems with the Tameside online applications system. This means that you will not receive the confirmation email when you register or submit your applications for new reception and new year 7 and this error will prevent you from completing the application.**

**Parents using these email providers are asked to set up an alternative account using another provider (Gmail for example).**

**We have taken steps to address this problem with Microsoft but it is at present unclear if / when this will be resolved.**

**Please find below some changes in arrangements to planned events in school**

**Parents' Evenings** These will now not take place in person. We are planning ways in which teachers can make contact with parents remotely by appointment, we will let you know the details of this as soon as they are finalised.

**Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 Christmas Nativity Play: Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

This will now take place on the school field. We will NOT be able to hold our usual lovely Nativity play, but we strongly feel it is important that we mark the celebration of the Nativity with the children in a different way. We plan to use the field so that parents can gather together outdoors with social distancing to enjoy watching their children singing some Christmas carols and songs. The children will need a pair of wellingtons, a warm coat, hat and scarf. We invite Nursery and Reception parents to join us at 9:20am, and parents from Year 1 and 2 at 2:30pm that day.

**Junior Christmas Production:** The children are going to perform 'Aladdin.' Clearly, we will be unable to perform this to an audience in the school hall, which saddens us greatly. After much deliberation, we have decided that the children will perform the play on the stage as usual, and a DVD will be filmed. This way, children still have the experience of the performance, and parents can still share in it in some way. We appreciate the disappointment that parents may feel about the arrangements for the two events above, but we have made what we feel is the best decision in the current circumstances.

**Cancelled trip to Cockfields Farm – Nursery and Reception, Easter 2020** We are in the process of refunding all payments. The cash payments have been returned this week; the online payments will be refunded this month.

**Nursery Snack Fund** Fund amounts will vary due to the staggered intake. Snack fund is £2.50 per week. We also ask for £1.00 a week as a voluntary contribution for curriculum enhancement as explained in the Nursery Prospectus and is available to view on the website under the Admissions section. Please make cheques payable to: St. Peter's Catholic Primary School alternatively payments can be made via School Money Scheme, a text has now been sent out. Thank you to parents who have already sent in their snack fund.

**Nursery Wraparound Provision** From 3<sup>rd</sup> September we are pleased to offer wraparound care in our nursery unit. The sessions are from 11:55 am until 15:15. The charge is £10.00 per afternoon session.

**30-hour funding** Please would you contact the school office if your circumstances change, as this may affect your eligibility. This needs to be in writing within 5 working days. Please contact the school office for more information.

**School Meals** Please would you bring any outstanding payments up to date; reminders have been sent out this week. Please ensure that money is placed in an envelope clearly marked with the pupil's name and class. Dinner money is collected every **MONDAY**. Payment can also be made via the Tameside MBC website [www.tameside.gov.uk](http://www.tameside.gov.uk)

***We will not be able to issue a school dinner to any child where there is a debt of more than £20.00. In such cases parents will be expected to provide their child with a packed lunch.***

**If your circumstances change you may be eligible to apply for free school meals. More information is available on the school website under school meals where there is a link to a website [www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-tameside](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-tameside) where you can complete an online application to see if you are eligible. If it is undecided, then proof of benefits will be required to be shown at school.**

**Nasal Flu Vaccination Year R to Year 6** The Department of Health have announced that all children in year R - 6 are going to be offered a flu immunisation every year. The immunisation will take place in school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October for those children who returned the signed parental consent. If you wish to withdraw consent, a form is available from the school office. This form can also be downloaded from the school website under Newsletter.

Kind regards

Mrs K Ryan  
Acting Headteacher