

St Peter's Catholic School

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Headteacher: Mr T Miller



8th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

School Update from Mr Miller

Thank you for your ongoing support during this stage of the autumn term, especially the emphasis on face masks and for some students having to self-isolate. As you know, we have had very few positive cases in school and have been able to manage the contact tracing effectively in order to minimise the number of students being absent.

As we commence the last two weeks of term, we must continue to be rigorous with our mask wearing, sanitising and social distancing to continue to keep COVID-19 at bay. I will mention it in my end of term letter but your children have been brilliant in their support. We have had very few occasions where students have had to be reminded to keep to the protocols, please can we maintain this!

Face Masks

Although all students are wearing face masks every day, I was hoping that nearly everyone would be in a fabric, washable variety but many are still using disposable, single use masks. We do have a limited supply of fabric, adjustable masks on sale at reception should you wish your child to use one. The price is £2 which will be added to your child's cashless catering account.

Forgotten Items

Please remember we are limiting visitors onsite and would kindly ask that you do not bring any forgotten items into school for your child. Please consider the school site out of bounds to adults during the school day, unless we have requested that your child is collected. This is primarily for COVID-19 reasons but, as I have mentioned previously, your children will learn a lesson about managing their equipment and being organised if they have to deal with the consequences of leaving something at home. They will not learn this lesson if you always rescue them!

Parking

Unfortunately, I do need to raise the issue of parking and driving in the vicinity of the school again. We are very worried about the safety of your children with so many vehicles in the area, particularly in the afternoon. I think we would all agree that the roads are just not designed and built to cope with the daily level of vehicle and foot traffic. We cannot do anything about the foot traffic but the volume of vehicles is fully under your control.

Despite previous requests, parents persist on parking as close to the school as possible. For many this is in the Woodlands area which cannot cope and parents are regularly parking across driveways, on double yellow lines and on the kerbs. At secondary school age, children are fully capable of walking for ten minutes and meeting you in a road further away. Please, please reconsider your arrangements for meeting your child. There are multiple roads in the housing development around the 'One Stop' parade of shops that would make the area safer if they were used.

Additionally, we still have parents driving along Horseshoe Lane East and stopping immediately outside the school in order to drop their child off. It is dangerous and unsupportive of what we are trying to achieve and I would ask you in the spirit of cooperation not to do this.

As those of you who do drive and park in the area at the end of the day will agree, the situation is getting a bit ridiculous. We regularly see parents driving loops of the Woodlands 'roundabout' as they cannot find a parking space, therefore, increasing the risk for your children and adding to the tension with residents. Please see the attached examples.

For all parents whose children walk to and from school, please encourage them to be respectful of residents and families from St Thomas' and Boxgrove School as they also do their school commute. The pavements are narrow and it is easy for our students to step to the side to allow families to pass. We will be reinforcing this in the Student Bulletin at school. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the student cyclists who are much better at using their helmets, thank you for reinforcing this aspect of safety.

I appreciate these topics are not the most exciting but it is all aimed at keeping your children safe and the environment a pleasant one, so thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr T Miller
Headteacher

Attachment