

St Peter's Catholic Academy



**Together,
One Family, One Community
in Christ**

St. Peter's Catholic Academy

**November
Newsletter**



November Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

As we move through November, it has been a month filled with meaningful activities and reflections.

We began by marking Remembrance Day with thoughtful prayers and moments of silence to honour those who have served and sacrificed for our country, praying for the end to all conflicts.

Our school community also celebrated Inter-Faith Week, embracing the values of understanding, respect, and unity among diverse cultures and beliefs, finishing with the wonderful 'Culture Day', which was a really proud moment for our school. Anti-Bullying Week also provided us with an opportunity to reinforce the importance of kindness, inclusion, and standing for kindness, remembering to always 'Act Like Jesus'.

While we look forward to the festive season ahead, including our much-anticipated Nativity performances and Christmas Fayre, Advent is a time for spiritual reflection and preparation and is a really special time of year. There is much more to accomplish before the holidays, and our children are working hard to finish the term strong!

Wishing you all a wonderful December as we head into the Christmas period.

Warm regards and God bless,

Mr. Hodgson
Principal

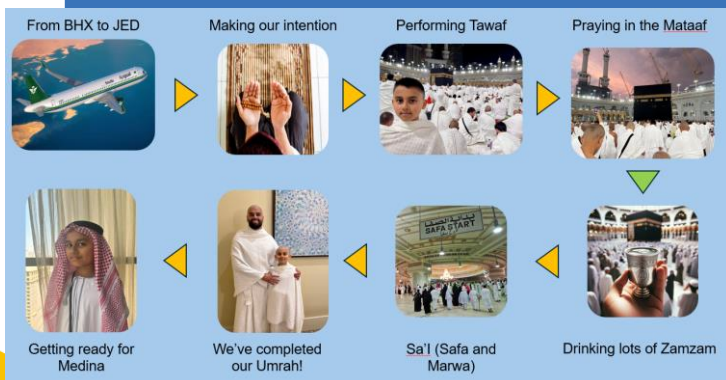
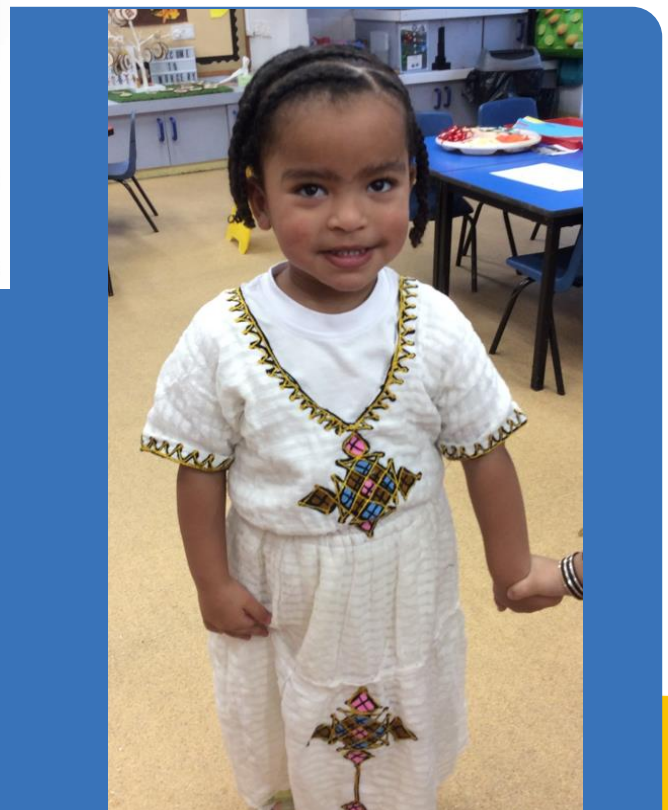


St. Peter's 'Culture Day'

What an incredible day we had the other week, as St. Peter's celebrated our first 'Culture Day' – a day to celebrate the amazing and rich range of cultures and backgrounds that we are lucky to have in our school.

The children were incredible, wearing cultural clothes and preparing presentation, posters and food to celebrate everything that makes them special, while teaching their classmates along the way.

Thank you so much for your support – we already can't wait for 'Culture Day' 2025!



RECEPTION '25 APPLICATIONS:

A friendly reminder to parents that applications for children to join our Reception class in September 2025 must be submitted by Wednesday 15th January. (Date of birth 01/09/2020 – 31/08/2021)

NURSERY '25 APPLICATIONS:

Applications to join our Nursery class in September 2025 open online on Sunday 1st December and must be submitted by 31st January 2025. (Date of birth 01/09/2021 – 31/08/2022)

If you have any questions, please speak to the school office.



Year 6 History Trip:

Year 6 class had an unforgettable day at the Staffordshire Regimental Museum this week. They explored history in an interactive way, trying on authentic WW2 uniforms, giving them a first-hand experience of what life was like during the war. The class also had the chance to handle various historical artifacts and, to top off the visit, they even put out a fire using WW2 firefighting equipment.



It was a wonderful, exciting and educational experience for everyone – they even came back to school and taught Mr. Hodgson something new!

Live Simply Award:

As a school, we are working towards our 'Live Simply' award where we are focusing on caring for God's creations, sustainability and showing solidarity with our global family.

Travelling to school by walking or cycling is a great way of caring for our earth. Can you walk to school instead of driving next month? Set yourself the challenge!



(Key Dates)



Wednesday 4th December	Year 6 London trip
Wednesday 11th December	Chocolate Bingo
On sale all week of 16th December	Chocolate raffle tickets on sale!
Tuesday 17th December	KS1 Nativity, 6:00pm
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 18th December	EYFS Nativity, 9:30am
Thursday 19th December	EYFS and KS1 end of term assembly - 9:00am
Thursday 19th December	KS2 end of term assembly - 2:00pm



Year	Star Award	Goldfinch Award	Handwriting	Learning Behaviours	TT Rockstars
YN	Haytham Balall Amelia Istoc William Fola-Ajileye Abdul Sohail	Francis Durunwa Yabsera Zwede Abu Bakr Javaid			
YR	Tayyibah Khan Armaan Adnan Luqman Ali Jodelle Asubiojo	Zayaan Muhammad Dalton Robins Arisa Ali Oliver Lee	Aroosha Saber Khan Ryan Rasekhizadeh Micah Marfo Umer Daood	Ismail Adnaan Umer Daood Tama Igbiriki M. Unaiys Khan	
Y1	Zohan Ali Adam Haji Amaan Kayani Afiyah Imran	Amaan Kayani Alizah Noor Islam Aliza Ahmed Lois Marfo	Alizyah Khoshall Ijeoma Barter Eneje Zidan Joshim Noor Ul Saba Fatima	Elias Asiedu Haider Chaudry David Cervenak David Cervenak	
Y2	Arin Mariwan Ayaan Ahmed Yousaf Muhammed Hasan Saber	Stefania Stan Jacob Hughes Saif Sherafghan Imaan Ali	Ammara Uddin Habiba Akhtar Ibraheem Mohammed Edward Turcitu	Hashim Imran Poppie Beswick Tayab Shakil Mamoona Hussain	Kaashif Khalid Zedan Hussain Chiedozie Nwanguma
Y3	Lena Bidani Jannah Hussain Aaziz Ismael Anayah Irfan	Musa Adeel Humayra Choudhury Lena Bidani Saimah Uddin	Ayaat Faisal Anayah Irfan Araf Islam Anaya Asiedu	Rumaisa Khaliq Daniel Mustafa Myra Yousaf Humayra Choudhury	
Y4	Akam Ismael Ugochi Nwanguma Isaac Dwumfour Ebun Oyelade	Yahya Mazahir Michaela Masar Elias Hawley Maryam Khan	Makenzy Beswick Ibrahim Uddin Sahad Khan Sulaiman Ali	Rohaan Ahmed Aamen Amsar Milan Kadir Madinah Adnan	Prince Barter Eneje Ismail Haque Isaac Dwumfour
Y5	Sadia Rahman Owais Ahmed Aleena Hussain Monira Choudhury	Ernest Obeng-Boafo Ayaana Uddin Abubakr Imran Uhban Ali	Esaam Khan Hazik Sajid Ismail Mohammed Kanya Noori	Aya Haji Ernest Obeng Boafo Lily Moges Aya Haji	Hadi Imran Mary Rajapakse Saif Aqeeb Owais Ahmed
Y6	Dastan Mustafa Amir Ali Arman Khan Eshal Bint Ahmed Tasin Leeton Faryal Yousaf Sufyaan Aqeeb Abdur Raheem Athif	Christian Balogh Rafi Rahmen Eshal Bint Ahmed Christian Balogh	Faryal Yousaf Christian Balogh Ayaan Ali Arman Khan	Laibah Khanum Yusuf Haji Inaaya Haque Roma Saadi	Arman Khan Arman Khan Tasin Leeton Arman Khan



Victim in a controlled setting to sexually or physically abuse them. In some cases children are abducted or have long-lasting psychological damage.

What parents need to know about

ONLINE GROOMING



CHILDREN ARE MOST VULNERABLE

Unsurprisingly children are often most at risk as they are easy to target and unlikely to question the person who is engaging in conversation with them. Groomers will use psychological tricks and methods to try and isolate them from their families and friends and will often choose to target more vulnerable children who may be easier to manipulate. Predators will stalk apps and websites that are popular with young people and will use a 'scattergun' approach to find victims, contacting hundreds online to increase their chances of success.



LIVE STREAMING CONCERNS

Predators may use live video to target children in real-time using tricks, dares or built-in gifts to manipulate them. Grooming often takes the form of a game where children receive 'likes' or even money for performing sexual acts. Social media channels, such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, all have live streaming capabilities, but there are many apps which children can use to live stream, including Omegle, Live.me, BIGO Live, YouNow and many more.



ANYONE CAN BE A PREDATOR

The internet has made the ability to interact with strangers online easy. Many sites and apps are reliant on individual users entering their own information when signing up. However individuals can remain anonymous if they choose to enter inaccurate information and many online predator cases are due to groomers using impersonation techniques. However, often the greater threat comes from adults who 'hide in plain sight', choosing to befriend young children without hiding their real identity.



CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Unfortunately, most children find the 'grooming' process (before any meeting) an enjoyable one as the predator will compliment, encourage, and flatter them to gain their trust, friendship and curiosity - 'a wolf in sheep's clothing' scenario. This often means children fail to disclose or report what is happening, if the groomer is also previously known to the child, their family and their friends, then this can make detection even harder.



FROM OPEN TO CLOSED MESSAGING

Online predators may contact their victims using any number of ways including social media, forums, chat rooms, gaming communities or live streaming apps. Sometimes there is little need to develop a 'friendship' (rapport stage), as the victim has already shared personal information online and is communicating openly with others. Children may also be prepared to add other online users they don't know so well to gain 'online credibility' through increasing their friends list. Predators will often seize this opportunity to slowly build a relationship and then move their conversation with the child to a more secure and private area, such as through direct messaging.

EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

Online predators will use emotive language and aim to form close, trusted bonds with their victims through showering them with compliments and making them feel good about themselves. Often victims will refer to them as their 'boyfriends' or 'girlfriends' and it can be difficult to convince some young people that they have been groomed, often leading to lasting psychological effects.



Safety Tips for Parents & Carers



IT'S GOOD TO TALK

It's unlikely that you can stop your child using the internet, nor can you constantly monitor their online activities, but you can talk to your child on a regular basis about what they do online. By talking openly with them about online relationships, they can quickly ascertain the kind of behaviour which is appropriate or inappropriate. Ask them whether they have any online friends or if they play online games with people they haven't met. This could then open up conversations about the subject of grooming.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

In order to give your child a safer online experience, it is important to check privacy settings or parental controls on the networks, devices, apps, and websites they use. Disable location sharing if you can. If you use location-sharing apps to check where your child is, remember that these could always be used by strangers to follow your child without their knowledge. Ensure that you check options so that location information is never shared with anyone except those they have permission to share with.



MONITOR SOCIAL MEDIA & LIVE-STREAMING USE

It's important to be aware of what your child is sharing on social media and with whom. Create your own profile and become 'friends' with them or follow them so that you can monitor their activity. Similarly, always check on them if they are live streaming and implement privacy controls. Choose a generic screen name and profile picture that hides their identity. You may also feel more comfortable being present each time they live stream.



STICK TO 'TRUE FRIENDS'

Make it clear to your child that they should not accept friend requests from people they don't know and to verify friend requests with people who they do know. Encourage them to only interact and engage with 'true friends' i.e. those friends who don't ask personal questions such as close family and friends. Remind them to never agree to chat privately with a stranger or someone they don't really know and to never divulge personal information, such as mobile phone numbers, addresses, passwords or the name of their school.



DISCUSS HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Talk to your child about what a healthy relationship looks like and how to detect someone who might not be who they claim to be. Explain that groomers will pay your child compliments and engage in conversations about personal information, such as hobbies and relationships. They may admire how well they play an online game or how they look in a photo. Groomers will also try and isolate a child from people close to them, such as parents and friends, in order to make their relationship feel special and unique.

BE SUPPORTIVE

Show your child that you will support them and make sure they understand they can come to you with any concerns they may have. They need to know they can talk to you if someone does something they are uncomfortable with, whether that is inappropriate comments, images, requests or sexual comments.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



LOOK OUT FOR WARNING SIGNS

Child safety experts have identified key grooming patterns and advise parents to look out for:

- Secretive online behaviour.
- Late night internet or smartphone usage.
- Meeting new friends in unusual places.
- Becoming clingy, develop sleeping or eating problems or even bedwetting.
- Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities.
- Having new items, such as clothes or phones, unexplainably.
- Seem withdrawn, anxious, depressed or aggressive.
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.

