



INTERNATIONAL DAY 2017

St Elizabeth  
Catholic Primary  
School  
Newsletter  
Spring Term Wk 7  
24 February 2017



Dear Parents/Carers & Children,

Welcome back. I hope you all had a restful and fun half term.

The first half of the spring term has been eventful. The teachers had their termly Pupil Progress meetings to establish how much progress your child is making and this was followed by Parent-Teacher-Child consultations where you would have received your child's **Attitudes to Learning & Behaviour report**.

**Maths Week** was a great success and the Y6 pupils managed to sell some Maths equipment to help pupil's learning.

**International day** was a great success. Thank you to all the parents and children who contributed to that special day. We had some great stalls which were very informative and had some tasty dishes. On Thursday we also had the pleasure of **Bishop Nicholas Hudson** visiting us again. He was able to celebrate the rich diversity of our school at a well produced assembly led by the Y5 pupils. Bishop Hudson wrote to us to express his thanks. Please see the letter attached.

Oh! I almost forgot... we also had a visit from **Ofsted**. We received the call on Tuesday 7 February and they arrived on Wednesday 8 February for 2 days. It was a positive experience where the team of 3 Inspectors conducted numerous lesson observations, meetings with coordinators, a wide range of staff, pupils and parents... We await the outcome of our Inspection (approx. 19 days).

**Coming up** in the second half of the term.... Reading week, World Book Day & Scholastic Book Fair, Ash Wednesday Service, KS2 Class Masses, Reconciliation Service and Triduum Service, Science Week and more. We really would like to encourage parents to attend our services and assemblies. The children really feel proud when you come to watch and be part of our acts of worship. Please can you make a special effort this term, we would love to see you.

**Safeguarding** can I remind all parents to ensure that they keep their children with them once they have been dismissed by their class teachers. A number of children have been climbing over school playground equipment and this could lead to an accident or school property being damaged. Also, just a polite notice, mobile phones are NOT to be used on the school grounds. We thank you for your cooperation.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ

Ms Angelina John  
Headteacher  
St Elizabeth's School  
Bonner Road  
London E2 9JY

10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Ms John

Thank you for a delightful visit to St Elizabeth's School last Thursday.

I felt most welcome from the moment I arrived! It was good to sit down in the Community Room and have time with Fr David Evans.

Then it was a great privilege to be part of your International Day Assembly. I was very impressed by the singing, the reading, the prayers; and also all the different national costumes.

Thank you for choosing three such delightful tour-guides! They were a real credit to the school and to themselves. I was touched to see their affection for the place; and to hear them say how much they like it at St Elizabeth's. This impression was confirmed by the time spent with the School Parliament also: I think you would have been proud to see how confident and friendly they were; and how well they explained all that happens in the school.

I was greatly impressed by the staff's warmth of welcome and by the pupils' friendliness wherever I went. It warmed my heart to meet them all! Do please thank your colleagues for making me so very welcome.

Thank you for all that you are doing to lead such a happy faith-community! Thank you as well for your kind gifts, including the beautiful International Day Prayer Book.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and all the school.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely



Rt. Rev. Nicholas Hudson  
Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster



**Does your child feel safe at this school?**

Yes and whenever there has been an issue over the years it has been resolved responsibly and promptly by staff.

Most of the time yes but the outdoor surfaces and play equipment are potentially dangerous and there have been many accidents which should be avoidable such as tripping over roots coming through the play surface to bars on play equipment being splintered and breaking.

**What are your views about how the school responds to any concerns you raise?**

I feel that the staff do listen.

I have never felt ignored when we have raised an issue but I feel that there is still a tendency for parents to be seen as complainers and the first reaction is to be defensive rather than listening properly. Follow-ups are sometimes lacking.

**Which subjects does your child most enjoy at school and what new subjects would they like to see introduced?**

All subjects particularly science, English and music lessons but would like to see artistic experimentation in drawing, applied arts, drama, music, poetry.

Would like to see life skills, personal hygiene, cooking and current affairs.

**Any other comments**

[Communication with school/teachers, homework, behaviour, lessons]

Behaviour is well managed.

I would like the school to give at least 3-4 weeks' notice of school activities for us to be able to attend which will help our children's confidence.

Paying in cash/cheque only is archaic!



**Does your child feel safe at this school?**

We aim to deal with situations we know about promptly. Please let us know of any concerns or situations that arise by speaking directly to teachers or calling the office to make an appointment to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

We have had a total refurbishment of our outdoor play equipment and resurfaced the tarmac. The children are more happy at playtimes and there are many things to keep them occupied.

**What are your views about how the school responds to any concerns you raise?**

We are happy to listen to your concerns—we are here to support your child.

Our aim is to have a school where parents and staff have a mutual respect for each other. Whilst I know sometimes things happen which may upset you or your child, it is in speaking to each other in a respectful way that things can be sorted out swiftly.

**Which subjects does your child most enjoy at school and what new subjects would they like to see introduced?**

We are pleased that children are enjoying learning at St Elizabeth. We aim to provide a wide curriculum.

We want to provide a more creative curriculum, providing more opportunities for children to access non core subjects. It is important for children to understand what is happening in the world. Please support us by encouraging your child to read the newspaper and watch the news. In order to produce a high standard of written and oracy work children must have the background knowledge.

**Any other comments**

[Communication with school/teachers, homework, behaviour, lessons]

Our Positive Behaviour system works well. There has been a reduction in the number of children attending detention. Keep it up kids!

The office have had a high turn over of staff and we are in the process of 'TECHing up' to ensure that we work more efficiently. Reminders and notices will be much more timely. We ask parents to bare with us as we review and renew our systems. Can I thank you in advance for your patience while we revamp our systems.

We are in the process of looking at various companies that offer electronic payment. Please watch this space.... We are moving to cashless!