



## St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term No 1

09 September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back, everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and were able to learn many new and exciting things either abroad or here. It was great to see all the children on Monday (and many smiling parents). The children were excited to see their redesigned playground, old friends and their new teachers. Welcome back, all, you've been missed.

As always we have a few priorities this year which we will keep you informed about over the coming weeks. We continue promoting our ethos and school values this year and hope you will be joining us to support your children in the understanding of: Respect, Relationships, Resilience and Responsibility. Our curriculum focus continues to be Writing with a big push on Poetry and Performance. This year we will have a spoken word poet who will be in residence every Monday. The KS2 staff had a great Inset with him and the KS1 staff had training on Talk 4 Writing which helps to promote writing through talk.... watch this space. Please take time to TALK to your children about what they have learnt, about what is in the news and their views on things.

Three afternoons a week we have sport coaches in to deliver PE lessons and some will be out at lunch times to help to support the children with organized games, in our new look playground.

Thank you to all the parents who attended their child's curriculum meeting this week – this was an opportunity to hear about what your child will be learning this term and all the daily routines that we have to ensure that your child has an excellent all round education. Please do read through the newsletters to ensure you get to know our procedures and look on the website to keep you updated. Important information was given out at these meetings so please do speak to your class teacher about arranging a time to meet. It is vital that all contact and permission forms are completed every year. The building fund is a vital help to support us in our up-keep of the school property – if you like the new playground that is where part of the building fund money went.

I am looking forward to a fun and exciting term.

**Ms John**



## LATENESS

If your child is late for school, we have Ms Fennelly, Ms Hair, Mrs Braniff and Mr Peppard waiting at the reception area to register your child's arrival and then escort them to their classes. However, any children arriving after 9.15 am should be accompanied by

an adult and report to the school office. You will be required to provide a reason for lateness and this will be recorded on the class register.

## REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE –

We are now using an e-registering system in school. This hopefully will speed up the registration process and enable us to create accurate reports on attendance and punctuality.

**PLEASE NOTE:** School begins at **9.00 prompt**.

Please remember pupils should not arrive at school unaccompanied before 8.45 am and that all pupils remain the responsibility of parents until this time.

### Before school

**Reception and nursery** children must now enter the Reception gate and line up in front of their classrooms. All pupils in **Years 1 - 3** will enter and line up in the front playground.

**Y4 – 6** enter via the back playground.

### After school

**Nursery and Reception parents** – please enter through the side gates and collect your child from outside their classroom.

### Attendance & Punctuality

Could you please bring your children to school every day! We require a minimum attendance of 97% for the whole school but unfortunately, this week we have only reached 95% which is below Tower Hamlets expectations.

Every class has an attendance chart in their classroom and the children are working towards a reward for good attendance.

## Procedure to follow when your child is absent from school

Please remember to ring the school if your child is going to be absent, after dialling the number, press option 1 to leave a message. When your child returns to school, you need to provide a letter explaining their absence addressed to the class teacher. Please note this relates to Nursery children also. If you do not provide an absence letter on your child's return to school, the class teacher will provide you with a standard letter to complete.

## Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

From September 2014, all pupils in primary schools in Tower Hamlets are entitled to a free school meal.

Children:

- will receive a free school meal under the existing statutory free school meals scheme if their parents meet the criteria.
- will receive a free school meal under the Government's Universal Free School Meal (UFSM) scheme if their parents do not meet the criteria to enable them to receive a statutory free school meal.

There is a risk that parents/guardians will no longer feel it is necessary to apply for free school meals as they are now universally free. If this were to occur there would be an impact on the school's pupil premium.

### Pupil Premium Payments

The Government has committed to pay schools for each child in their school who is registered for statutory free school meals. This is money that the school can benefit from and use to fund interventions, booster classes, new equipment or additional teaching staff.

### Application for Pupil Premium Funding

In order to qualify for free school meals, all parents/carers whose children go to school in Tower Hamlets are asked to complete and return the form to their school before the 16th September 2016. It will then be possible to confirm whether the school is entitled to claim the Pupil Premium for your child. Any qualifying family that registers their eligibility by simply completing this form will help to make sure our school is as well funded as possible.

If you have not yet completed a form, these are available from the school office. **Please complete the application form even if you think you may not be eligible. Your application will be checked by office staff and processed in confidence.**

## Curriculum Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who attended the curriculum meetings this week. These meetings are a great opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and find out what is happening in class this term. Have a look at the useful website links included on the curriculum map – this is just one of ways you can support your child's learning.

**School Building Fund**—Are your payments up-to-date? If in any doubt, please call by the office. Thank you!

## Playground Development

The work on the KS1 playground has now been completed and the children are enjoying the brand new climbing frame and the grassed seating area.

We are now onto phase 2 of the KS2 playground development which will be a new football pitch. Phase 3 will be the garden area development. The children have been enjoying the new playground markings and the soft grass next to the climbing wall.

## Behaviour

Below is a brief summary of the behaviour strategies used at St Elizabeth.

### EYFS & KS1

#### Traffic lights system

**Green:** All children start off with their names/photos on the green traffic light.

**Amber:** Child is sent to time out area in classroom

**Red:** Child is sent to time out in neighbouring classroom



### KS2

#### Behaviour levels

**Level 1:** Time out in class, children write their name and reason in the class Level 1 book.

**Level 2:** Child is sent with their work to the time out area in the neighbouring class. A letter is sent home to inform parents that their child was sent out of class that day.

#### Level 3: Detention

A letter will be sent home to inform parents that their child has been sent to detention that day. Detention is a last resort and is only used for serious/persistent cases. However if the child should receive three Level 3 Think it Through letters in a term this will result in an exclusion so this is a serious matter.

Serious incidents such as fighting, bullying, assaulting staff or racist/homophobic comments are dealt with by the Headteacher/SLT who will send home an unacceptable behaviour letter to parents, if a pupil receives three of these letters in a term this will lead to the pupil being excluded.

Never underestimate the importance of reading with your child. Regular reading helps to embed skills that will help your child access all areas of the curriculum.

## Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities

At St Elizabeth School

### Being a Parent is hard work!

Would you like support to?

Set boundaries

Manage unacceptable behaviour

Set up a homework/bedtime routine

Understand your child/teenager



The SFSC course supports parents to:

Build upon existing skills and build positive relationships with their children

Share their experiences of being a parent

Meet new parents and learn from each other

#### **This is a course to support all Parents.**

**We would like to start this group after the October half term. There will be an information session on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 9.15am in the Community House. If you are unable to attend but would like some information please speak to Sue Braniff or Anna Hair to book a place.**

### After School Clubs

The cost of the after school provision is **£8 per session** and runs every day during term time. The after school club in conjunction with the Breakfast club **£2 per session** will offer parents 'wrap around care' from 7:45am to 6pm for their children.

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team

We would like to introduce our SEND Team.



Ms Tamara Simmons  
SENCO Nursery - Yr 3



Ms Angelina John  
SENCO Yr 4



Mr John Peppard  
Learning Mentor  
SENCO Yrs 5-6

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities:

We will be conducting consultation meetings for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) pupils in the next few weeks. Parents will have an opportunity to sign up to meet with the class teacher and SEND Phase Leader. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss any questions or concerns you may have and share information in order to ensure your child has a successful start to this academic year.

## School Ruck Sacks and School Bags

Ruck sacks are on sale from the school office at a cost of £8, school bags for £4.

## Headlice

Over the last term we have had a number of children who have contracted headlice on a regular basis. We try very hard to make sure that parents from those classes are made aware so they can treat their child's hair. Where there are persistent cases headlice we will refer families to the school nurse who will be able to support them with treatment guidance.

## No Mobile phones

We ask all parents not to use their mobile phones once they enter the school premises, this includes the playground. This is a mobile free zone.

## Family Learning Maths

**Develop your skills to help your children with their maths**

A five week taster course for parents and carers. You will learn how maths is currently taught in school.

Sessions are informal and fun so don't worry if your skills are a bit rusty!

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Time: 9.15-11.30am

Place: St Elizabeth School

**To book your place Speak to Sue Braniff (Family Support Worker) email [parentsupport@st-elizabeth.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:parentsupport@st-elizabeth.towerhamlets.sch.uk)**

## COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

In our efforts to be responsible for the planet, I would encourage all parents to provide us with an

**email address.** The office team has undergone some major system changes and requires that **ALL** parents provide email addresses to the office team as soon as possible.

## Uniforms

We are proud to be a part of the St Elizabeth community and this means wearing our uniform with pride. It is very important that all children wear the correct uniform at all times. If you are unsure please speak to your child's teacher or check out our website. We do have a strict uniform code and we know you will support us in this matter. Can I remind you that girls must have their hair tied back and no jewellery (except a plain cross and studs/small sleepers) or nail varnish. Boys must have plain hair cuts.

## Family Learning Literacy

**Develop your skills to support your children's literacy**

A five week taster course for parents and carers.

- You will learn how literacy is taught in school and how the new assessments are made
- Sessions are informal and fun so don't worry if your skills are a bit rusty!

Date: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Time: 12:45- 3:00pm

Place: St Elizabeth School

To book your place, speak to Sue Braniff (Family Support Worker)

Email: [parentsupport@st-elizabeth.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:parentsupport@st-elizabeth.towerhamlets.sch.uk)