



St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term No 5 / 04 November 2016 / www.stelizabeth.co.uk

ST ELIZABETH DAY

We are celebrating St Elizabeth Day on Monday 7 November. Children will participate in a range of activities which will develop their knowledge of St Elizabeth and why she is special to our school. Please talk to your child about their new learning; it is good for our children to perceive the adults around them as life-long learners.

Year 4 –Year 6 will celebrate with a special Mass at 2.00pm which parents of those year groups are invited to attend. Year 3 will celebrate a Class Mass in the Spring Term which parents will be invited to attend. Look out for dates early in the Spring Term.



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Recently, you would have noticed staff asking parents not to use their mobile phone. At St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School the welfare and well-being of our pupils is paramount. Our policy on the use of mobile phones in school has been drawn up in the best interest of pupil safety and staff professionalism.

PARENTS & OTHER VISITORS

Mobile phones must never be used to take photographs in the school building or grounds during school hours, or outside without the specific permission of all parents whose children might be included. We ask all parents not to use their phones on the premises – we are aiming for a phone free environment.

We very much appreciate our parents' support in implementing this policy in order to keep our children safe.

UNIFORM

Parents have been notified in writing if their child is not wearing the correct uniform. Parents are required to complete the slip attached to the non-uniform letter, to explain why their child was not in the correct uniform.

It is our policy that all children should wear school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organized event outside normal school hours. We provide a complete list of the items needed for school uniform in our school prospectus.

We ask all parents to support the school uniform policy. We believe that parents have a duty to send their children to school correctly dressed and ready for their daily school work. Parents should ensure that their child has the correct uniform, and that it is clean and in good repair.

Any children wearing incorrect uniform, in the first instance, will receive a letter home. Following any further breaches of the school rules, parents will be called in to speak to a member of the leadership team to go through the Home-School Agreement they signed when applying for a place at St Elizabeth. Not adhering to the school rules may result in a child being sent home to change into the correct uniform.

Thanks to the parents and children who are now wearing their full school uniform. We will carry on monitoring school uniform.

Thank you to all parents who are working with the school in our drive forward. A number of new systems have been put in place of which parents are very supportive. We appreciate your continued support.



Lateness

If your child has ever been late for school, you will have noticed Ms Fennelly, Ms Hair, Mrs Braniff and Mr Peppard waiting in 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. Perhaps you could aim to be on the school premises by 8.45 am? School assemblies have specifically been moved to the afternoon so that work can start at 9 am. Many thanks for your attention to this matter.

Year 3 transition

Improvements to the KS2 playground have been completed and Year 3 children have, this week, been able to enjoy their new surroundings. From Monday 7 November, Year 3 children will arrive through the KS2 gate each morning. They will continue to be collected from the KS1 playground at the end of the day.

attendance MATTERS

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 **9.00am prompt**. Please remember pupils should not arrive at school unaccompanied before 8.45am 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 - 2** will enter and line up in the front playground.

Y3 - 6 enter via the KS2 playground.

After school

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

Free school meals



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 were asked to complete and return the form to their school before the 16 September 2016. It was then 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.**

Coffee Morning every Friday at 9.00-9.30am in the room above the school office. (We will be back in the Community House soon).

Adult Literacy will continue to run every Thursday afternoon 1-3pm. New learners are welcome to come along.

Adult Maths 5 week course starting Friday 11 November 9.30-12.00pm. We would like some new parents to come along!

Christmas Fete Friday 2 December from 3.45pm. Parents wishing to donate a bottle for the Tombola stall or items to raffle can leave them at the school office, we would be most grateful.



School Rucksacks and School Bags


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

School Building Fund

Are your payments up-to-date? If in any doubt, please call by the office.


Thank you!

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. This letter should be handed in to the school office. Please note this relates to Nursery children also. If you do not provide an absence letter on your child's return to school, the office will provide you with a standard letter to complete.



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.

Attendance

Below is the weekly attendance figures. Congratulation to 3F for the best attendance this week at 99.40% followed closely by 4B with 99.01%.

The overall attendance is good at 97.24%! let's aim to keep it above 97%.

Group	No. of Students	Maximum No. of possible attendances	Total Absences				Total Attendances		Total No. of Students who were absent on one or more session		% Unauth. Absentees
			Authorised		Unauthorised		No.	%	Auth.	Unauth.	
			No.	%	No.	%					
Class 1G	30	210	2	0.95	8	3.81	200	95.24	2	4	13.33
Class 1M	29	203	2	0.99	7	3.45	194	95.57	1	3	10.34
Class 2E	28	196	0	0.00	2	1.02	194	98.98	0	1	3.57
Class 2G	29	203	2	0.99	1	0.49	200	98.52	2	1	3.45
Class 3F	24	168	1	0.60	0	0.00	167	99.40	1	0	0.00
Class 3J	28	196	1	0.51	2	1.02	193	98.47	1	1	3.57
Class 4B	29	203	0	0.00	2	0.99	201	99.01	0	1	3.45
Class 4L	30	210	0	0.00	5	2.38	205	97.62	0	2	6.67
Class 5A	29	203	0	0.00	8	3.94	195	96.06	0	3	10.34
Class 5V	32	217	0	0.00	15	6.91	202	93.09	0	5	15.63
Class 6A	26	182	2	1.10	0	0.00	180	98.90	1	0	0.00
Class 6M	25	175	2	1.14	1	0.57	172	98.29	1	1	4.00
Class RG	27	189	4	2.12	1	0.53	184	97.35	3	1	3.70
Class RS	29	203	8	3.94	0	0.00	195	96.06	5	0	0.00
Totals	395	2758	24	0.87	52	1.89	2682	97.24	17	23	5.82

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

Parents code of conduct - Zero Tolerance

St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School will not tolerate aggressive or obstructive behaviour, swearing, threatening or actual bodily harm. Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated nor will malicious damage or theft. Any individual who displays abusive, aggressive or violent behaviour will be asked to leave the site and may be reported to the police. If appropriate, an exclusion order may be issued to prevent an individual coming to or near St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School in the future.



Remembrance Day

The poppy has a long association with Remembrance Day. But how did the distinctive red flower become such a potent symbol of our remembrance of the sacrifices made in past wars? Scarlet corn poppies (*popaver rhoeas*) grow naturally in conditions of disturbed earth throughout Western Europe. The destruction brought by the Napoleonic wars of the early 19th Century transformed bare land into fields of blood red poppies, growing around the bodies of the fallen soldiers.

In late 1914, the fields of Northern France and Flanders were once again ripped open as World War One raged through Europe's heart. Once the conflict was over the poppy was one of the only plants to grow on the otherwise barren battlefields.

The significance of the poppy as a lasting memorial symbol to the fallen was realised by the Canadian surgeon John McCrae in his poem 'In Flanders Fields'. The poppy came to represent the immeasurable sacrifice made by his comrades and quickly became a lasting memorial to those who died in World War One and later conflicts. It was adopted by The Royal British Legion as the symbol for their Poppy Appeal, in aid of those serving in the British Armed Forces, after its formation in 1921.

Today, cloth poppies are sold on, or around, 11 November each year. They are an exact replica in size and colour of the poppies that bloom in Flanders' Fields.

St Elizabeth is selling Poppies and other items for Remembrance Day in the general office. Donations can be made in the office before and after school.

Governors of St Elizabeth Primary School

Finance & Premises

This Committee monitors and evaluates the use and impacts of the school's budget and the premises development plan. Speaking of premises.... You probably noticed there were substantial improvements in both playgrounds over the school holidays! Some of this was possible thanks to a donation but **most** of it was funded through the school building fund. The school building fund is built up thanks to the contributions parents make each year. Have you made your contribution this year to support continued improvement to the environment of the school for our children? Not sure... feel free to contact the office to confirm.

Thanks for your support!

Teaching & Learning

The committee monitors how the curriculum is implemented across the whole school. How are all students being stretched in their learning? How well do we identify and support students to achieve their potential? What support is being provided to staff to support students learning? These are some of the fundamental questions that we look at in the Teaching and Learning Committee by understanding the achievement of pupils and quality of teaching. This committee also scrutinises all aspects of the curriculum, collective worship, pupil premium, e-safety, sex education, British values to name a few areas. There have been some fabulous developments in the whole school so far this year that you may already have heard about. Ask your children about Philosophy 4 Children, the School Parliament, lunch time sports activities and the resident Poet. These are just a small selection of the fabulous whole school developments in the school.

Pupil Support & Community

The remit of the PSCC is to monitor and evaluate as follows:

- the impact of the school's contribution to pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare;
- establish a child protection policy that meets all requirements, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding procedures and make recommendations to the Governing Body to address any emerging issues;
- attendance, punctuality and behaviour patterns and trends;
- the views of pupils and staff and how these are taken into account in planning and day-to-day practice, including the school council;
- the effectiveness of partnerships with other schools, external agencies and the community including business, to improve the school, extend the curriculum and increase the range and quality of learning experiences for pupils;
- the engagement and views of parents with the school, particularly those who find it hard to engage and how these are taken into account. To consider ways in which home-school links can be further developed, making appropriate and contributing to recommendations perhaps through a termly newsletter or website;
- how the school promotes British values and informs children about how to be a moral citizen who follows the 'rule of law';
- the range of the extended school offer, including after school clubs, school performances and visits, and its impact;
- the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage;
- community links and community use of the school & wider community,
- the school's contribution to promoting community cohesion;
- supporting the school in ensuring that the school's website is compliant.

The first meeting of the new term was held on Thursday 6 October.

From the Parent Questionnaire that was given out at the July 2016 BBQ, one of the questions asked was "**Does your child feel safe at this school?**" Here is a taste of some responses and the school's response.

Parent Response	School Response
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.	The KS2 playground has had a major overhaul with AstroTurf being laid in the form of a football pitch and also in other areas around the playground as well as beneath the climbing frame, the concrete dragon has been removed and the playground has been freshly tarmacked. All climbing frames have a safety inspection and are age appropriate.
Concerns regarding KS2 climbing frame being dangerous	The KS1 playground has received a new climbing frame and the area around the community house has a new play area.
Children have reported bullying and anti-social behaviour in the playground.	MDMS have been trained to better identify such incidences so they can be nipped in the bud early.
Strict on policy of calling to arrange who will pick up the child.	The children's safety and well-being is a priority and a child will never be released from school without prior authorisation being given from the parent/carer.