



Striving for excellence in a caring Catholic Community



## St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term No 7 / 02 December 2016 / [www.stelizabeth.co.uk](http://www.stelizabeth.co.uk)

### Winston's Wish the charity for bereaved children

#### Memory Tree



Winston's Wish is a charity which helps young people who are coping with the death of a family member. They offer the practical support and guidance that many children and their families need in order to cope with the loss of a loved one.

Stars will be available at both the KS1 and KS2 gates at the beginning of the school day or from the school office until the end of term.

#### KS1 Nativity at St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School

**Thursday 8 December 2016 - 10am or 2pm performances**

(tickets can be obtained from the office, 2 per family, limited spaces)

#### KS2 Carol Concert at Our Lady of the Assumption Church

**Thursday 15 December 2016 - 4pm or 6pm performances**

(tickets can be obtained from the office, 2 per family, limited spaces)

All children are required to attend both performances.



The weather is getting colder and the day is shorter, so we understand that there will be a lot of absences. Can we remind parents that if your child is suffering from severe bugs such as vomiting, temperature or diarrhoea, children must stay home for 48 hours until it clears up. Minor coughs and colds are not classed as severe so we would expect children to attend school.

Holidays or other forms of unauthorised absences will result in you receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Persistent absences is when your child is absent from school and has an attendance of 90% or below. This is for absences that are authorised too, including periods of illness.



## 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.

**Please collect your children on time. Children not picked up on time will be put into After School Club and you will be billed.**



**Please be patient with us if we double check who your children are going home with—if one of us doesn't know then we will always double check. Better to be safe than sorry!**

## 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**

As of September 2014, all pupils in primary schools in Tower Hamlets were granted free school meals.

#### **The following are now in place:**

- 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. 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 Community House.



**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.

### 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.**

### Return of Important Information

Parents/carers will all have received, via your children, a contact information sheet which needed to be completed. Many thanks to everyone who has returned this information already. However, we still have a huge number of contact sheets remaining to be returned, so over the next week the office team will be resending the contact sheet to parents who have not returned the form. The information is vital for the school and the office team must ensure that accurate details are inputted on the school system. We apologise in advance that there has been loads of sheets being sent out but as a school we must have up-to date contact details in case of any emergencies.

### 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

**Last day of term:  
20 December @2pm**

### School Building Fund

Have you paid your Building Fund yet? The amount payable is £10 per term for each child in the school, £30 per school year for each child. However, if you have 3 or more children in the school, the maximum amount payable is £20 per term to cover all of them and £60 per school year. You may make payments for 1 term or for the whole school year. Alternatively, you can make smaller payments throughout the school year, e.g. weekly, fortnightly. These should be handed in to the school office in an envelope clearly marked STE Building Fund with your child/ren's name[s] and class[es] on.

### Prospective Parents Tour

If you have friends or family with young children, please let them know about our Prospective Parents Tour that is taking place on Thursday 15 December at 10 am. It is a lovely tour that is conducted by our Year 6 children. The children take a pride in their school and love showing people around. As a general rule, the tours are run every last Thursday in the month at 10 am.

**Are all your school payments up to date?**

**After School Club  
Breakfast Club**

Please visit the school office to request an up to date bill of any outstanding payments we have yet to receive. It is important for you and the school that payments are always kept up to date.





## at St Elizabeth Primary School

### Finance & Premises

One of the responsibilities of the Finance & Premises committee is to look after the upkeep of the school's physical premises, but often improvements to the premises have other benefits. Last time, we highlighted the playground improvements and this physical enhancement alongside more safe activities available to our children has also had an impact on behaviour during the lunch break. The school also receives a grant for sports and physical education activities. The school this year has partnered with Premier Sports to lead PE classes and organised play on the playground. This has been a big hit with the children and is paying back more than you can imagine.

### Teaching & Learning

This term members of the Teaching and Learning committee have visited the school and met with key members of staff responsible for a range of subject areas including assessment, music, literacy, computing, PSHE and Sex Education, E-Safety, Physical Education and Pupil Premium. We have also scrutinised the assessment data, the reading, writing and mathematics attainment and progress of all students, and discussed the strategies that the school has and is putting in place to support the effective teaching throughout the school to ensure that all students make excellent progress. We are also discussing teacher workload to ensure that all staff in school are energised at school and at home.

## Pupil Support & Community

At the meeting held on 24 November 2016, the Pupil Support & Community Committee would like to draw parents'/carers' attention to the following points:

- The committee were given a presentation by Ms Simmons (one of our SENCO officers) and a useful pamphlet has been produced introducing the team and explaining the various spectrums of Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). All parents/carers are encouraged to read this and contact the school office should you have any further queries.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to voice their opinion via Parent View and this can be accessed via the direct link on this page. If you do not have access to a computer please speak to Sue Braniff who can make a computer available in the Community House. It is important that parents/carers have their say via Parent View so that the school can see how they are doing and also for Ofsted inspections.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

- Some time before Christmas, pupils will take part in an annual survey, the results of which will be available in the Spring term. As a result of comments received from the Parents/Carers Questionnaire asking “what new subjects would your child like to see introduced”, the following after school clubs have been added:

Spoken Word Poetry

Archery

Yoga for Little Ones

Fencing

Messy Play

D&T

## Key Dates

| NOVEMBER 2016 |     |   | DECEMBER 2016 |    |  |
|---------------|-----|---|---------------|----|--|
| 1             | Tu  |   | 1             | Th | Adult Literacy 1.00-3.00pm   |
| 2             | We  |   | 2             | Fr | Coffee Morning 9.00am<br>Christmas Fete 3.45 – 5.30pm                    |
| 3             | Th  | Adult Literacy 1.00-3.00pm  | 3             | Sa |  |
| 4             | Fr  | Coffee Morning 9.00am<br>Adult Maths 9.30-12.00pm                         | 4             | Su |  |
| 5             | Sa  | Family Day Bethnal Green Library 11.00am                                  | 5             | Mo | KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal   |
| 6             | Su  |   | 6             | Tu |  |
| 7             | Mo  | St Elizabeth Day Mass 2.00pm  | 7             | We | Strengthening Families 9.15-12.00  |
| 8             | Tu  | Nursery to Reception Transition Meeting<br>9.15-10.15am                   | 8             | Th | KS1 Nativity 10.00am and 2.00pm  |
| 9             | We  | Strengthening Families 9.15-12.00   | 9             | Fr | Coffee Morning 9.00am<br>Adult Maths 9.30-12.00                          |
| 10            | Th  | Scholastic Book Fair<br>Adult Literacy 1.00-3.00pm                        | 10            | Sa |  |
| 11            | Fr  | Coffee Morning 9.00am<br>Adult Maths 9.30-12.00pm                         | 11            | Su |  |
| 12            | Sa  |   | 12            | Mo |  |
| 13            | Su  |   | 13            | Tu |  |
| 14            | Mo  | PHSE & Philosophy Week<br>Anti-bullying Week                              | 14            | We | Strengthening Families 9.15-12.00pm<br>KS2 Carol Concert Dress Rehearsal |
| 15            | Tu  |   | 15            | Th | Adult Literacy 1.00-3.00pm<br>KS2 Carol Concert 4pm and 6pm              |
| 16            | We  | Strengthening Families 9.15-12.00pm                                       | 16            | Fr | Coffee Morning 9.00am<br>Adult Maths 9.30-12.00pm                        |
| 17            | Th  | Anti-Bullying Show Y4-Y6<br>Adult Literacy 1.00-3.00pm                    | 17            | Sa |  |
| 18            | Fr  | Coffee Morning 9.00am<br>Children in Need Day<br>Adult Maths 9.30-12.00pm | 18            | Su |  |
| 19            | Sa  |   | 19            | Mo | Class Parties  |
| 20            | Su  |   | 20            | Tu | Christmas Lunch<br>School closes at 2pm                                  |
| 21            | Mon | Road Safety Week  | 21            | We | Christmas Holiday  |
| 22            | Tu  |   | 22            | Th |  |
| 23            | We  | Strengthening Families 9.15-12.00pm                                       | 23            | Fr |  |
| 24            | Th  | Road Safety show KS1 & KS2<br>Adult Literacy 1.00-3.00pm                  | 24            | Sa |  |
| 25            | Fr  | Coffee Morning 9.00am<br>Adult Maths 9.30-12.00pm                         | 25            | Su |  |
| 26            | Sa  |   | 26            | Mo |  |
| 27            | Su  |   | 27            | Tu |  |
| 28            | Mo  | Writing Week  | 28            | We |  |
| 29            | Tu  |   | 29            | Th |  |
| 30            | We  | Strengthening Families 9.15-12.00pm                                       | 30            | Fr |  |
|               |     |   | 31            | Sa |  |