



St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
A Voluntary Academy

Headteacher:
Mrs L. M. Kelly, B.Ed.



Tuesday 14th July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Children,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of the academic year, when we look back and reflect who could have predicted the global pandemic, lockdown and school closure that we found ourselves in. The recent months have been a very strange time and school has not been its usual vibrant place. We have missed the summer activities in which we see many different talents from sporting skills during our annual sports week, end of year productions and the development of the skills of resilience, determination and teamwork which our Year 5 hone during their residential trip to PGL. We have also missed a very special event for our Y3 children in the celebration of First Holy Communion. However, we have witnessed many acts of kindness in our community, been moved to tears by the weekly tradition of clapping for the NHS and saw the teaching skills of many parents who began the home learning journey with many creative activities taking place. Although we have not been together as a whole school community we have found many different ways to continue to 'Let our Light Shine'.

While my thoughts are with all children and families right now there is undoubtedly one particular group that are uppermost in my mind; our current Year 6's. The traditional rite of passage and all the events and celebrations that entails have been snatched away from them by Covid-19. These children have given so much to the school and we are going to miss them. I know that with your continuing help and support, coupled with their own resilience they will go from strength to strength as they embark on the next stage in their education. Year 6, thank you for all you have contributed to St. Elizabeth's. I am very proud of you all and I look forward to hearing about your future achievements. We wish you all the very best of luck as you move to your new High Schools.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to a number of our families;

Donavan family, Dunaj family, Larr family, Flanagan family, George family, Murphy family, Iwanicki family, Ugobere family, McInerney family, Duffy family, Smirthwaite family, Carson family, Scott family, Chambers family, Leigh family, Dean family, Hill family and the Taylor family.

My heartfelt thanks to you all for your wonderful support over the years.

Staff News

As you are aware Mrs Galvin is eagerly awaiting the arrival of her second child in September. We welcome Mrs Claire Lee who will cover Mrs Galvin's maternity leave, job sharing with Mrs Capper.

I am delighted to announce we have further baby news as Miss Dwan is expecting her first child, a baby boy, in December. I am sure you will join me in wishing her many congratulations.

It is with sadness that I inform you that Mrs McLaughlin has decided not to return to St. Elizabeth's following her maternity leave. As you are aware, Mrs McLaughlin returned home to Donegal for the duration of her maternity leave. It is not a decision she has made easily but at this time it is the right decision for her new family.

I am sure you will all agree that she has had a significant impact over the past 4 years. After being appointed as Deputy Headteacher she quickly found herself as Head of School in my absence. We thank her for all her hard work, endless energy, support, friendship, outstanding teaching and incredible organisation skills which will be sorely missed. Once she is able to, Mrs McLaughlin will come over for an official farewell in true St. Elizabeth's style!

The end of a school year also allows the opportunity for us to take stock and look back at what has been achieved during the past 12 months. Despite this year being a relatively short year 'in school' we still managed to pack in many exciting events from September to March!

Highlights of the year at St. Elizabeth's

The children continue to develop and '*Let their Light Shine*' in so many ways and we are proud of them all. We have introduced our new 'Dimensions' curriculum which has seen some exciting new topics from 'Zero to Hero', 'Law and Order', 'Over the Rainbow' and 'Come Fly with Me to I have a Dream'.

We always strive to deliver a rich and varied curriculum for the children and offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities in order to foster a love of learning. Through the 'Weekly Update' and 'Peek at the Week' you will have seen the wide range of opportunities that your children are given. Notable highlights include; Our choir performing at 'Young Voices', the fantastic performance of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', Carols by candlelight, and The Grumpy Sheep. Not forgetting Miss Dwan's trip to Uganda earlier this year, her trip brought the whole school together through our fundraising mission. We loved seeing photographs of her visit as she taught children during her trip sharing a little bit of St Elizabeth's spirit with the people she met.

Class trips have included; Blists Hill, Marist Centre, Chill Factore, The Velodrome, The Synagogue, The Stockport Air raid Shelter, The Bridgewater Hall to see the Halle perform, The Irish Festival and Crucial Crew.

Special visitors have included; local artist Andy Leigh, Paralympian John Stubbs, MP Mike Cane, Footlights Theatre Company and the Fire Brigade to name but a few.

We continue to be dedicated to developing our children's sporting abilities, talents and sheer enjoyment of sport. This year children have been involved in Basketball, Cross Country, Tag Rugby, Mini Tennis, Athletics and many more. Year upon year we continue to pride ourselves on the development of the whole child enabling their talents in the arts and sports to thrive.

Local Governing Body

Alongside the amazing staff team, I have here at St. Elizabeth's, I am very fortunate to work with an extremely dedicated team of Governors who work tirelessly to constantly improve life at St. Elizabeth's. They regularly give up their time willingly for many meetings, review days, support events and join me in recruiting the best possible staff for St. Elizabeth's. They monitor the curriculum, review and challenge our developments, ensure policies are adhered to and ensure St. Elizabeth's remains a safe place for all. As you can imagine, they have had even further responsibility in ensuring that our Risk Assessments are robust during the pandemic and I thank them for their support.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank them, once again, for allowing me the opportunity to take on the Executive Headship role at St. Mary's this year. I look forward to returning to St. Elizabeth's full time in September.

Class Organisation in September

Nursery	Mrs Lowry Monday-Wednesday	Mrs Meredith Wednesday-Friday
Reception	Miss Dwan	
Year One	Mrs Williams	
Year Two	Miss Prunty	
Year Three	Miss Pearson	
Year Four	Miss McCrea	
Year Five	Mrs Capper Monday-Wednesday	Mrs Lee Wednesday-Friday
Year Six	Mr Knight	

Mrs Bambrick will continue in her role as SENDCO working Tuesday-Thursday
Mr McGinn will continue as our specialist Maths teacher working Tuesday-Friday

Miss Simmons will continue as Acting Deputy Headteacher for the Autumn Term until the recruitment process for a permanent Deputy Headteacher is completed.

As stated in my previous newsletter we are expecting further DfE guidance in mid-August and our plans to date are reflective of current guidance. As the situation may change we will update you prior to September.

A reminder that on **Thursday 3rd September** we welcome back Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 **only**
And on **Friday 4th September** we welcome back Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 **only**

All children will return to school on Monday 7th September. We will contact you nearer to September with details of school timings. We will aim to give you as much notice as possible once this is planned.

Finally, I would like to say a very special thank you to all our staff and Governors who have worked so hard during this difficult time and to you our parents and carers who have supported us with both patience and understanding. We look forward to welcoming all our children back in September as we get used to the new 'normal'.

I hope you all have a fantastic relaxing summer holiday.

With very best wishes,



Mrs L Kelly
Headteacher

Reflection to share at home

Let us put ourselves into the hands of the Lord, and pray that God will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer.

*May each of us help to make our homes a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety.
May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves but helping others
enjoy the blessing of the summertime.*

Amen



Let Your Light Shine