



6th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you and your families are all keeping well. We have been delighted to welcome back our Reception children and for now have all our classes back in school. The children have continued to work hard and adapt to our new 'normal' routines. We have spent the first few weeks identifying gaps and this week we are carrying out assessments so that we are able to put a good recovery plan into action in the weeks ahead.

Welcome

A special welcome to all our new Nursery families and those new to both our Reception class and other year groups throughout the school.

Staff News

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Galvin has welcomed the safe arrival of baby Erin Alexandra. We have sent our warmest congratulations to the family and hope she enjoys this precious time with her new arrival. She has reported that Orla is already a wonderful big sister!

Last week, after a rigorous process and a number of applicants, we were delighted to appoint Miss Simmons as our permanent Deputy Headteacher. I am sure you will all be delighted for her as she has made a significant contribution to St. Elizabeth's during her secondment from St. Anthony's.

Pupil Leadership Roles

At this time of year, another rigorous process for us is the election of our Head Girl, Head Boy and Deputies who make up our Junior Leadership Team. Each year we explain the role to our pupils and invite them to make an application for the position. Once again, we were amazed at the quality of applications and it was a very difficult decision. You will shortly be able to view their applications on the website. I am delighted to announce that Lucy Faulkner is our new Head Girl with Charlie Siddall as our new Head Boy. As votes couldn't be split this year, we are lucky to have two young ladies in the role of Deputy Head Girls they are: Kitty Astbury-Campion and Yuri Joyce. Finally, our Deputy Head Boy is Nyah Frain. Congratulations to them all and I look forward to working with them this year as I know what wonderful ambassadors for St. Elizabeth's they already are.

Pupil Data Information

Thank you to those parents who have completed and returned the pupil data sheet. It is essential that we have up to date records for your child, particularly during this period of pandemic as we may need to contact parents/carers urgently. There may also be occasions when we need to drop work off to your house if your child is isolating. If you have moved house or changed your phone number please email the change of details to: admin@st-elizabeths.manchester.sch.uk

School Jotter

As the majority of our parents are aware the quickest and most effective way of communicating with you is via School Jotter. If you haven't already, please download the School Jotter app and search for St. Elizabeth's. It is very easy to install!

School Meals

We have now re- introduced hot dinners back for all children. However, please note there will always be the cook's choice and a pasta dish every day. If you are entitled to Free School Meals then no payment is necessary. If your child is in Reception, Year One or Year Two then there is no need for payment under the Governments Universal Free School Meals Grant. If your child would like a school meal and they are in Nursery, Year 3, Year 4 or Year 5 then payment must be made via ParentPay. Please note payments must be made by Thursday for the following week. We will not allow arrears to build up and this will be monitored closely.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties or your circumstances have changed please go on to the Manchester City Council website where you can check to see if you are eligible for Free School Meals.

Packed Lunches

For those who choose to remain on packed lunches may I remind you all that we are a school who wish to retain our Healthy Schools Status. Over recent weeks, I have been horrified at the contents of some of the packed lunches which include large chocolate bars, sweets, lollipops, sugary snacks and drinks. Along with this letter we will re-issue our packed lunch policy as a reminder.

Harvest

Thank you for your support with our own clothes day for CAFOD FAMILY FAST day. As part of our ongoing Harvest celebrations we are collecting food for our local foodbank. Over the next 2 weeks please send in to school tinned vegetables, tinned meat, tinned soup, cereal, pasta, rice and any other non-perishables. This is always a good opportunity to talk to our children about our Mission Statement which states: 'We welcome and support those in need'.

First Holy Communion -Year 4 Parents

One of the many events which we had to cancel during this time was our children's First Holy Communion celebration. In discussion with the clergy team we have now agreed a date for this celebration to take place. Unfortunately, the celebration will not be as you would expect due to the restrictions placed upon us right now. However, as with the other schools in the Wythenshawe Cluster, we believe the most important thing is for our children to receive the Eucharist for the very first time. We will do our utmost to make this a very special time. Please see the accompanying letter from Fr. Nick Kern for further details.

INSET Day

As previously indicated, schools have been allowed to plan for 2 further extra-ordinary INSET days during this period. We added one at the start of the year to enable us to be ready for the whole school re-opening. Our second extra-ordinary INSET day is planned for **Monday 2nd November**. This means children will return to school following the half-term break on **Tuesday 3rd November**.

Finally, it has been lovely to be on the gate each morning to welcome our children each day. I am so proud of them all as they have returned to school so happily and ready to learn. I wish to thank all of you for your continued support during this time. I have received many positive comments and support and for that I am very grateful. It has certainly been my most challenging year of Headship!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Kelly Headteacher







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