

## St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary

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Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

It's hard to believe we've reached the end of the Autumn term. Autumn term is always a busy term with many milestones for our children and families. Reflecting back to the children beginning their first day in new classes or being welcomed as new members to our school, it's a great opportunity to stop and appreciate how far each child has come this academic year. We are extremely proud of the progress our children have made not just academically; the progress they have made socially through interactions with friends and staff; seeing their confidence grow as they feel more settled in what is now a familiar environment and watching them flourish in so many aspects of school life. Well done children!

This week has been full of festive fun! On Wednesday, we filmed our Christmas performances which we hope you enjoy watching over the festive period. On Thursday, after a morning of Christmas activities we enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner; although, the children seemed most excited to pull a cracker at the dinner table! The afternoon then brought music, games and of course a visit from Fr Christmas! A huge thank you to our PTA who organised Santa's visit and funded this year's gift of a book for every child in the school. Some highlights for me was definitely watching the excitement of Year 6 playing pass the parcel, seeing Nursery children run to hug Fr Christmas and watching Year 4's phenomenal dance-off in the hall.

Today, we said our final farewells to Mrs Capper, Mrs Meredith, Miss Solomon and Miss J who have all contributed to our school community in such a positive way. Once again, we thank them and wish them well as they look forward to their next chapter after St Elizabeth's.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank you for the many Christmas cards, treats for the staffroom and gifts we have received. Our wish is for you to have a very Merry Christmas enjoying time with family and friends during the festive season.

Have a wonderful holiday,

Miss Simmons



### Reflection

Let us prepare for Christmas with humility and simplicity, readying ourselves to receive the gift of light, joy and peace. Let us welcome the nativity of Christ as an event capable of today renewing our existence. May the encounter with the Child Jesus make us people who do not think only of ourselves, but be people who live following in the footsteps of Jesus. By doing this we too can become the light that Christmas radiates.



## In the Spotlight

### Year 3

What a lovely final festive week we've had. At the start of the week, we enjoyed a quiet liturgy in the hall, led by Miss Simmons, reflecting on Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary.

Earlier in the week, Year 3 completed their geography topic called Three Giant Steps by writing information leaflets including all the facts they have learnt about The White Cliffs of Dover, France and Canada.

In literacy, the children showed off their journalist skills again. This time they weren't reporting on an invasion on flying frogs, but on the good news of Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth to share their joy at being chosen by God to be mothers to Jesus and John the Baptist.

On Tuesday we spent the day with Mrs Rauf. Mrs Rauf loved meeting the children and they made her extremely welcome. She was very impressed with their maths skills and enjoyed hearing about what they've learnt already this year. She told me she was very excited to become their class teacher in January.

On Wednesday, the children showed off their enthusiastic and beautiful singing voices as we recorded Christmas carols in the hall. The day was started with calming yoga and as always Mr Borgeous was impressed by the children's behaviour.

A creative Christmas buzz has been in the air all week, as we've enjoyed Christmas activities such as decorating our class tree, designing cards (giving Clinton's a run for their money!), making decorations, listening to festive music, Christmas art and topped off with a party on Thursday and a visit from Santa!

It has been an absolute pleasure to finish my very special time at St Elizabeth's with year 3. It has been an honour to be part of a brilliant school, with wonderful teaching staff and fabulous children and families. Happy Christmas to you all from year 3, Mrs Capper and Miss Dwan.



### Year 2

Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed our History topic 'Jurassic Hunter' and learning all about Mary Anning. It was fascinating to find out about her amazing fossil discoveries and her contribution to science.



In our Science topic 'Animals including Humans' we have learnt about how we can keep our bodies healthy. We carried out an investigation into how germs spread through handshakes – the results were very interesting!

Our Design Technology project required the children to design and build their own moving vehicle toys. We loved designing our own vehicles and the children were very pleased to make their own working toy.

Our Religion topic this half term focussed on the Christmas story. The children have produced some lovely work based on the Nativity story and, as always, it is a very special time of year when we come together to celebrate.

We ended the term by having great fun at our Christmas party! We played lots of games and even had a visit from Santa himself.





## Attendance

### Attendance Expectations

100% - 98%	0 - 4 Days off	Good
98% - 95%	4 - 10 Days off	Requires Improvement
95% - 90%	10 - 20 Days off	At Risk of Persistent Absence
Below 90%	20+ Days off	Child in Persistent Absence

### Attendance WC 12<sup>th</sup> December

Year	%
Nursery	84.8%
Reception	72.5%
Year 1	86.9%
Year 2	79.7%
Year 3	91.7%
Year 4	86.3%
Year 5	93.3%
Year 6	84%

There were 131 pupils with 100% attendance this week. Well done.

Congratulations to Year 5 with the best attendance this week.

The whole school attendance this week was 85%

Although absence still is higher than usual, we have seen a good increase in attendance from last week. Many children who were poorly have returned to school this week.

Let's hope the Christmas holiday is a chance for children to rest and recover as we cannot wait to see everyone back fit and well in January.

Please be assured as the past two weeks have been extraordinary circumstances we will ensure the past two weeks are taken into account when awarding children's attendance.

## Article of the Fortnight



### Article 26 (social security)

Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must provide social security, including financial support and other benefits, to families in need of assistance.



### Article 27 (adequate standard of living)

Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.



## Breakfast Club

From January, Breakfast Club will be provided through EDSTART. The cost of Breakfast Club will remain at £2 per session. Breakfast must now be booked via the EDSTART booking system.

The same breakfast items will be available each day, the only difference the children will notice is a wider offer of activities as an EDSTART coach will be running the club so expect an active start to the day! There will still be the usual board-games and activities so there's plenty of choice for the children.

**Learning today, winning tomorrow**

**Start tomorrow right with EDSTART**

Breakfast clubs  
Every day  
8 - 9 am  
£2.00



## Top Tweets



Please look at the tweets below, they give a great sense of what St. Elizabeth's is all about! If you don't already follow us on Twitter you'll find us at @stelizabethsm22.



**St. Elizabeth's MCR** @stelizabethsm22 · 12 Dec

It's week 3 on our Advent Journey, we've lit the third candle: Joy. Our hearts are filled with anticipation as we await His coming. This week is a reminder to us all that the Christmas message is one of rejoicing.

#Advent2022

@EducationShrew



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**St. Elizabeth's MCR** @stelizabethsm22 · 17h

Year 2 were delighted when Santa walked into their classroom. They couldn't believe he'd brought each of them an early Christmas present!

#ThankYouSanta

#ThankYouPTA



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**St. Elizabeth's MCR** @stelizabethsm22 · 2s

Look at the faces of our Nursery children when Santa came to visit. He was very impressed with our children's manners!

#ThankYouSanta



**St. Elizabeth's MCR** @stelizabethsm22 · 17h

Our Christmas Dinner was DELICIOUS! Thank you to Michelle and her wonderful team! @TaylorShawUK



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### Dates for your diary:

#### January

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – INSET Day

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** – Children return to school

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** – Independent Living Café

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** – Feast of the Epiphany

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** – Flu vaccination catch-up

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>** – Year 4 Swimming

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Gold Award assembly at 9:05am

