



JOY FORGIVENESS FAITH RESPECT SERVICE PEACE STEWARDSHIP

NEWSLETTER

Monday 12th October 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

With two more weeks to go, we are nearly at the end of our first half term and what a half term it has been! We have loved being back together following such a long period of time away from school and everyone has adapted so well to the 'new normal'. My thanks go to our children, staff and parents for their resilience and determination.

School Fires

Many of you will have seen the sad news in relation to the fires at two local Derby schools. I would like to pass on our thoughts and prayers to staff, pupils and parents at St Mary's Catholic Academy and Ravensdale Infant school, who have both lost significant parts of their buildings. We will do all we can to help and have been praying for them this week. I know that both communities will come through this stronger together. The schools have asked that we donate any spare reading books that we may have at home. Please don't send them into school just yet, as the schools do not have storage space at the moment. Instead, if you could gather them together in readiness and then we'll let you know when to bring them into school! Much appreciated! ☺

Lovely news

On Thursday of last week, Mr Arthur and his wife had a baby boy – Thomas. Mum and baby are both doing very well. Mr Arthur is now on paternity leave and will join back with us just before the half term break. Mrs Alton is also ready to share her wonderful news as she and her husband are expecting their second child due in February. Mrs Alton will be going on Maternity leave in January 2021. I'm sure you will join us all in sending our love and prayers to both families.

First Holy Communion

A message from Father Michael: Normally at this time of year the Parish would be writing to ask if you want your child to join in our First Holy Communion preparation. Unfortunately, we won't be able to do this yet but as soon as we know that it will be safe to plan the preparation sessions and the FHC Mass too we will be back in touch with you to arrange everything.

Meet and greets

Thank you for virtually attending our meet and greets with class teachers and for watching our YouTube videos that introduced the staffing team here at St Elizabeth's.

A few popular questions raised by parents can be found below:

Are snacks allowed in school for break time? Yes, we actively encourage children to bring fruit in for their snacks, these can be pieces of fresh fruit/vegetables/salad items in a tub or a piece of fruit for them to eat.

Can the children drink water throughout the day? Yes, the children are allowed to bring in their own labelled water bottle and take drinks of water during the day. Please encourage your child to bring this to school daily so that you can wash it each night.

When does my child need to be in winter uniform? We have been flexible on a choice of winter or summer uniform to get everyone settled in to school and start back. With the weather turning colder we will expect all children to be in winter uniform after the October break.

Can my child wear coloured trainers for PE? Yes they can.

What testing has school done with my child and can I see the results? In reception we have tested baseline as usual. In Year 1 a selection of reading and maths tests have been done. Year 2, 4 and 5 have completed NFER tests. Year 3 and 6 have worked on past SATs papers. All the results can be discussed in the virtual Parent's Evening in November. Can we send more messages from school via email? Yes please let us have an up to date email address by emailing info@st-elizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk



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info@st-elizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
Company Number 7937154



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Applications for places in Reception class September 2021

Parents wishing to apply for a place in Reception starting in September 2021, can make their application from 9am on 9th November 2020 onwards. The National Closing Date is the 15th January 2021. To make an application you can visit Derbyshire County Council's website:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/education/schools/school-places/how-to-apply-for-a-primary-school-place.pdf> You will receive your offer on the 16th April 2021.

Remembering our Mother, Mary

As many of you will know, October is the month in which we spend time thinking about the life of Mary. The Rosary is a meditative prayer that we say with Mary the Mother of God.

How to pray the Rosary

As many will know, the main part of the rosary is divided into parts or 'mysteries': the Joyful, the Sorrowful, the Glorious, and Mysteries of Light. Each of these 'mysteries' is divided into five 'decades' (ten beads), usually following one 'Our Father' and ending with 'Glory be'. All are taken from sacred scripture and tradition, and encompass our main beliefs in who Jesus Christ is and what he's done for us. All involve Our Lady, Jesus's mother Mary, in some way or another. When we pray the rosary, we're invited to see Jesus with the eyes of Mary and to be drawn into his divine life. As Mary was closer to Jesus in his life on earth than anyone else she points the way for us and shows us that we, the Church, God's family on earth, are also called to be like her eventually in the glory of heaven but also in our lives here on earth.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew about family life first hand; they knew about being displaced (the flight into Egypt soon after Jesus's birth); they knew about conflict (when Jesus, as a teenager, was lost and when found by Mary and Joseph, he implied that he now had to make his Father's will a priority). If our family life includes similar tensions and more we can be sure that real help and support is right there in the prayer that is the rosary. Placing our trust in the Lord, we are sure to find a way through what seems humanly impossible.

The Joyful Mysteries

Ten Ten has prepared a resource for praying the rosary with children, during October we will be focussing on praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary in our classrooms. Click here to access the resource (hold down Ctrl and click):

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/2020-10-parents-joyful-mysteries/>

Maintaining Social Distancing at the end of the school day

We now need to tighten up a little more on maintaining the integrity of our bubbles as we leave the school site. For this reason, we must request the following:

- **Please only wait in playgrounds when it is your time slot to collect. Waiting in areas in advance of your time slot causes unnecessary congestion on the playground.**
- **Whilst waiting for children to come out of school, please do not allow your children to run around the playground or use the trim trail and mix more widely whilst waiting to pick up siblings. They need to stand next to you and be ready to leave the school grounds/car park etc promptly.**

Termly Learning Conferences (Parents' Evenings)

We have decided to trial a new system for hosting our Termly Learning Conferences, called 'School Cloud'. This system will allow for online booking of appointments and video calls to be made from staff to parents. This should allow us to share work and have a face-to-face discussion in a secure way. More information will be sent out to families next week, detailing how to log on, book appointments and use the system. Appointment booking will now go live on Monday 2nd November to allow for more time to become familiar with the system. Our virtual termly learning conferences will take place on Tuesday 10th November and Wednesday 11th November (3.30pm until 6.30pm).

E-Safety Information – TikTok (Video-sharing app)

This app is one which is well known to many pupils and on the surface, has a reputation for being unusually free of trolling and danger. But you may have seen news reports or heard concerns about some users harassing children for nude images and videos. TikTok allows users to upload and share short videos of themselves lip-syncing to songs or acting out comedy sketches and add special effects. They can gain followers ('fans') and browse other people's videos. Users cannot exchange images and videos via in-app messaging, but once they've made contact they often move on to another platform to trade, such as Snapchat.

You may have heard of the app by its previous name: Musical.ly. Everything that was on Musical.ly is now on TikTok. If your child previously had a Musical.ly account they will be able to access their content on TikTok. **The age recommendation is 13 and above.** However, you don't have to prove your age when creating an account, so younger children can still use it easily. It's most popular with under-16s.

Parents should look out for the following:

- User profiles which talk about 'trading' or swapping pictures/videos
- Use of emojis that are commonly considered to be sexually suggestive



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- Hashtags, such as #tradefortrade, which clearly suggest the user is looking to trade illicit content
- The lyrical content of some songs – parents have raised concerns that it's not always age-appropriate

What safety options are available to parents?

- Control who can view your child's videos
- Set your child's account to 'private' so that your child can control who sees their videos or keep them completely private. Your child will be able to approve or deny people as 'fans', and will only be able to accept messages from followers.

Instructions for this are here:

[Setting up a private account, TikTok](#)

<http://support.tiktok.com/knowledge-base/setting-up-a-private-account>

Remember, accounts are set to 'public' by default. Public profiles can be viewed by anyone! Even with a private account, your child's profile information can be seen by all users. Make sure your child doesn't reveal personal information on their public profile. Make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate behaviour. Your child can use the app to report content that makes them feel uncomfortable, including accounts, videos, comments and chats; you can too. Instructions for this are here:

[Report inappropriate content, TikTok](#)

<http://support.tiktok.com/knowledge-base/report-inappropriate-content>

Remote Learning

Next week, letters will be emailed out to you with log in information for pupils in KS2 in relation to the 'Century' online learning platforms. This is a remote learning platform and will be used when/if children need to self-isolate or in the case of a bubble closure. It can be used alongside Purple Mash and MyMaths. These online learning platforms are really engaging, fun and provide comprehensive curriculum coverage; whilst allowing work to be submitted to the class teacher. Platforms can also be used for additional home learning should you wish.

Winter PE Kit

PE will still take place during the colder months, but children are allowed to wear black plain jogging bottoms and a yellow sweatshirt with a school logo on (available online from Loopwear). They should also wear their yellow PE polo shirt underneath. Children will require trainers as well as pumps. Please do ensure all items are labelled.

Year 7 Admissions to St Benedict's For September 2021

Applications close on 31st October 2020. St Benedict's have been oversubscribed for the last 5 years so apply now to avoid missing out. To apply visit <https://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions/secondary-school-admissions/apply-year-seven-secondary-school/>.

You must also complete the supplementary form with all applications. An online copy can be found on St Benedict's admissions page. These must be returned to Ruth Darby at rsdarby@saintben.derby.sch.uk together with a copy of a Baptism certificate, if you are of the Catholic faith, or any further evidence of faith/worship to support your application.

A survey has gone out via text message to all Year 5 and 6 parents requesting details of which school you are hoping your children to attend in Year 7. Mr Gritton (Headteacher at St Benedict's) is keen to be in touch with anyone who is undecided or who would like to know more about St Benedict's. There is space on the survey to indicate whether you would like a phone call from him.

Please note this will be the last time paper copies of the newsletter will be sent home. All future copies will be emailed from your child(rens) class email address and as always there will be a copy on school's website.

Calendar of Events – 2020/2021

Mon 26th October – Friday 30th October	Advent Half Term	School Closed
Monday 2 nd November:	Return to school	All pupils
Monday 9 th - Friday 13 th November:	RE – Judaism Week	All pupils
Tuesday 10 th and Wednesday 11 th November	Parents consultation evenings	All parents, meeting via School Cloud, details to follow in letter
Friday 13 th November: All day	Non uniform day in support of Children in Need	All pupils - n exchange for £1 donation
Thursday 17 th November	Feast day of St Elizabeth of Hungary	
Monday 23rd November: INSET All day	INSET	School Closed
Friday 27 th November: All day	Non uniform day in support of NYCDS (Briars team) in exchange for £1 donation	All pupils
Friday 4th December: INSET All day	INSET	School Closed
Tuesday 8 th December: 1.30pm	Key Stage 1 Nativity	It is highly likely that this will be a virtual event and will be subject to whether the latest guidance allows singing indoors in large groups.
Wednesday 9 th December: 1.30pm	Key Stage 1 Nativity	
Friday 10 th December:	Christmas lunch	All pupils
Friday 18 th December: All day	Christmas Jumper Day (wear with jeans) in exchange for £1 donation for our Parish	All pupils and staff
Friday 18 th December: 2-3pm	Carols around the Tree	TBC – due to guidance
Monday 21st December – Fri 1st January	Christmas Holidays	School Closed
Monday 4th January 2021	All pupils return for the start of the Lent term	All pupils
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February	Lent Half term	School Closed
Monday 22nd February	All pupils return	All pupils
Friday 2nd April – Friday 16th April	Easter Holidays	School Closed
Monday 19th April	All pupils return for the start of the Pentecost term	All pupils
Monday 3rd May: All day	May Bank Holiday	School Closed
Monday 10 th May – Thursday 13 th May	Key Stage 2 SATs Week	All Year 6 pupils
Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June	Pentecost Half term	School Closed
Monday 7th June	All pupils return	All pupils
Thursday 22nd July 2021 INSET –	Summer Holidays	School Closed