



JOY FORGIVENESS FAITH RESPECT SERVICE PEACE STEWARDSHIP

NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

The Good News of Jesus gives us reason to be joyful at all times of year, but especially during Advent, when we look forward to Jesus' coming at Christmas and at the end of time. John the Baptist's words preparing his followers for Jesus' ministry are as true for us today: 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight.' (Matthew 3: 3)

Our Advent assemblies and liturgies over the past fortnight have shown the children how to prepare their hearts for Christmas by:

- Loving and caring for others
- Thinking of others before themselves
- Remembering Jesus' love for them

Our children and RE team, led by our deputy Mr Ward, surpassed themselves this year in creating a moving and uplifting Advent liturgy. If you haven't yet seen it, (or you'd like to watch it again), you can watch it via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/Jv2db4feMA4>

I would also like to say a huge thank you to the KS1 team, for preparing such a wonderful performance of this year's nativity play, 'Lights, Camel, Action 2: The Sequin'. It never fails to bring a tear to the eye as the children retell such a poignant and pivotal story with such simplicity and love. This link will be with all KS1 parents via email on Wednesday 16th December.

Dear Jesus,

As we prepare for Christmas with our friends and family, we ask you to be present in our lives.

Help us know your love and forgiveness.

Give us courage to share your message of peace with those around us.

Amen

Teaching Arrangements in Year 3

As you are all aware Mrs Alton is expecting baby number 2 and we are delighted to tell you we have a wonderful new teacher who will be starting with us to cover the whole of Mrs Alton's maternity leave. Miss Hickling will be with Year 3 on Weds mornings, Thursday and Friday. I know you will all join us in welcoming her to our school community.

SENCO Cover

Mrs Heath (our SENCo) is absent from school at the moment. Mrs Clemens will be supporting SENCo during this time. Please contact your class teacher in the first instance if there is something you would like to discuss and Mrs Clemens if further support or advice is needed.

Behaviour Policy

We have made some small changes to our behaviour Policy. We have shared the changes and details with the children this week. The policy has been ratified by our Local Governing Body and is now on our website for you to view. There



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is also a YouTube clip which you may want to view which explains the changes. You can access this clip on the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hn_vck1ykF4

Communication Policy

Our new Communication Policy is on the website for you to read. The chart below will clarify who to get in touch with and how to do so for a variety of circumstances.

Lines of Communication

Topic	Person	Method
General enquiries or absence messages	Mrs Donna Hyde	01773 822278 info@st-elizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
Class, curriculum or pupil specific matters	Class teacher	[insertclassname]@st-elizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
SEN matters	SENCo – Mrs Heath (Support Mrs Clemens)	senco@st-elizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
If your enquiry warrants further support or clarification beyond the remit of the class teacher	The relevant phase leader (All are members of the Senior Leadership Team) EYFS and Key Stage 1 – Mr Ward (Deputy) Year 3 and Year 4 – Mrs Alton and from January, Mrs Fitzpatrick (Phase lead for Upper Key Stage 2) Year 5 and Year 6 – Mrs Fitzpatrick	deputy@st-elizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk phaseuks2@st-elizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
If your enquiry warrants further support or clarification beyond the remit of the phase lead.	Head of School	head@st-elizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
Head of School will refer further matters beyond this remit to the Executive Headteacher		

Christmas Cards

As you know Christmas has felt very different this year, but we have been trying to maintain as many traditions as possible whilst adhering to the guidance we are given. The final day for children sending Christmas cards in to their class was today (as communicated earlier in the week via text). These will now be quarantined and given out to children on the last day of term for them to bring home. If you missed the deadline your child could bring in one card written to the whole class for display inside the classroom.

Pingle Lane Footbridge

The developers of the housing at our Pingle Lane entrance have informed us that the footbridge will be out of use from 10am on Friday 18th December for the rest of the weekend. This may affect you for home time on Friday 18th December, we recommend you use the Pingle Lane access as an alternative for this collection time.

COVID related absences

We have had a few enquiries about our attendance policy regarding COVID. I would like to clarify that any COVID related absence, either from a positive case or from self-isolating, does not affect the attendance figure of any child.

St Ralph Sherwin Hardship Fund

The St Ralph Sherwin Trust, a family of 25 Catholic academies, acknowledges the difficulties faced by many of the families we serve, particularly in light of the adverse effects of the Coronavirus in 2020 on the community. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce the launch of the Trust Hardship Fund.

The Hardship Fund is a source of financial help available to all registered full-time students of our academies and intended to help students who are experiencing difficulty through hardship in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits, and residential courses
- Uniform, shoes, or sports kit
- Other materials or equipment required for academic studies
- Attendance at seminars, interviews, or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expenses

There is also potential for relieving hardship during recognised Academy holidays by providing access to one free school meal each day for those students.

Students may be eligible to apply for grants from the Hardship Fund if:

- Their household income is less than £25,000 per year
- Their parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits, including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit/Income-Based Employment and Support Allowance/Universal Credit...provided the student is not entitled to Free School Meals
- At the sole discretion of the Headteacher - any student who does not fall under the categories above but considers themselves to be in a state of financial hardship

Letters went out via class emails and a text was sent to all known numbers the school office holds. For further information please see the policy on our website and phone school on 01773 822278.

Maintaining Social Distancing at the end of the school day

As we are currently in tier 3, we continue to require **all adults** to wear masks (unless medically exempt) and to **maintain the 2 metre social distance rule** during drop off and collection of pupils. Let's also make sure that we continue to **exit play grounds** as soon as you have collected your child/ren. We also continue to ask that **just one adult per family** come onto the school site to drop off/collect. We do this to protect our pupils, staff and families.

Adverse Weather Conditions

Please do send your children to school with hats, gloves and coats (named) so that they can continue to access outdoor learning and play. I do not anticipate that we should need to close school due to snowy conditions any time soon, but if this is ever the case, we shall contact you as close to 7.15am as possible on the day of closure (or earlier if possible) via a text message. Our website will also prominently display this information on our homepage.

Winter School Uniform – Appropriate Footwear

In snowy/wet weather, boots may be worn to school but must be changed for school shoes before lessons begin.

E-Safety Information – Instagram

What's the problem?

- There have been lots of media stories about bullying on Instagram, and children seeing harmful images and advice about weight loss, self-harm and suicide
- It's the top platform for online 'grooming' – gangs use it to recruit children, and strangers can use it to contact your child and ask them for naked pictures, or to send photos to your child



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- Children can feel pressure to look a certain way – for example, feeling like they should look like other users who share weight-loss content
- **The minimum age to have an account is 13**, but it's easy to pretend to be older to sign up
- In August 2020, Instagram launched a new feature called 'reels', where users can share short videos with effects and music with their followers and with other Instagram users, similar to TikTok. If your child has a public account, their 'reels' might appear on Instagram's 'Explore' page, meaning strangers could watch and comment on a video they've shared

3 steps to help keep you child safe on Instagram

1. **Set profile to 'private' to limit what strangers can see** - Instagram accounts are viewable by anyone, by default. Change this to 'private' so that only people who your child approves will be able to 'follow' them and see content they share, including 'reels'. Anyone can send you a photo or video directly, though. To do this, go to 'Settings' (tap the person icon in the bottom-right of the app home screen, then tap the 3 lines in the top-right and choose 'Settings'), then go to Privacy > Account Privacy, and turn on 'Private Account'. Tell them to only 'approve' people they know and trust in real life.
2. **Restrict comments and interactions on posts to limit harmful interactions** - Open 'Settings', go to 'Privacy', and then (iPhone) 'Comment controls' or (Android) 'Comments'. Here, your child can:
 - On iPhone only, choose who to allow comments from (under 'Allow comments from')
 - Block specific people from interacting with their posts (under 'Block comments from')
 - Automatically hide comments that might be offensive (under 'Hide offensive comments') – also known as the 'anti-bullying filter'
 - Choose words and emojis they never want to see on their posts (under 'Manual filter')
3. **Make sure your child knows about restricting, blocking and reporting** - Restricting is a feature meant to tackle bullying, that's a bit of a halfway house to blocking someone. If you restrict someone, other people won't see their comments on your posts, and you won't be notified about their comments or messages from them either. You can still view their comments and approve or delete them. They also won't see when you've read their messages.

To restrict someone:

- Swipe to the left (iPhone) or tap and hold (Android) on a comment they've left on your post, tap the exclamation mark, and then Restrict; or
- Go to their profile, tap the 3 dots in the top-right, then choose restrict Young people are often reluctant to block others, so reassure your child that blocking and reporting is anonymous.
- To block an account, tap the 3 dots at the top-right of the person's profile (to get there, tap their username at the top of a post), then choose 'Block', then tap 'Block' again to confirm
- To report a photo in a feed, tap the 3 dots icon at the top of the post, then tap 'Report'
- To report a comment, tap the speech bubble below the post, then swipe to the left (iPhone), or (Android) tap and hold on the comment. Tap the exclamation mark, choose whether it's spam or inappropriate, and then select a reason why
- To report an abusive photo, video or message that they've received directly, open the conversation, tap and hold the abusive message, then tap 'Report'. Choose a reason for reporting the message, then tap 'Report' again
- To report a profile, tap the 3 dots in the top-right of the user's profile, then tap 'Report'. Follow the on-screen instructions and choose a reason for reporting the profile

**Finally, from all of us at St Elizabeth's we wish you and yours a very happy and peaceful Christmas Time.
God bless.**

Calendar of Events – 2020/2021

Monday 21st December – Fri 1st January	Christmas Holidays	School closed
Monday 4 th January 2021	INSET	School closed
Tuesday 5 th January 2021	All pupils return for the start of the Lent term	All pupils
Wednesday 6 th January at 9am	Epiphany Liturgy	A link to our liturgy will be sent out to you.
Thursday 14 th January	Year 2 Class Liturgy	A link to our liturgy will be sent out to Year 2 parents.
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February	Lent Half term	School closed
Monday 22nd February	All pupils return	All pupils
Monday 22 nd February: 8am	Termly Learning Conference booking goes live	More information to follow
Thursday 4 th March: All day	World Book Day	Dress up as your favourite book character in exchange for £1 donation towards restocking our reading shelves.
Monday 8 th March: 3:30-6pm for KS1 and 3:30-7:30pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	Virtual appointments delivered through 'School Cloud'
Monday 8 th March: 3:30-6pm for KS1 and 3:30-7:30pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	Virtual appointments delivered through 'School Cloud'
Wednesday 10 th March: 3:30-5.30pm for KS1 and 3:30-6pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	Virtual appointments delivered through 'School Cloud'
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



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