



JOY FORGIVENESS FAITH RESPECT SERVICE PEACE STEWARDSHIP

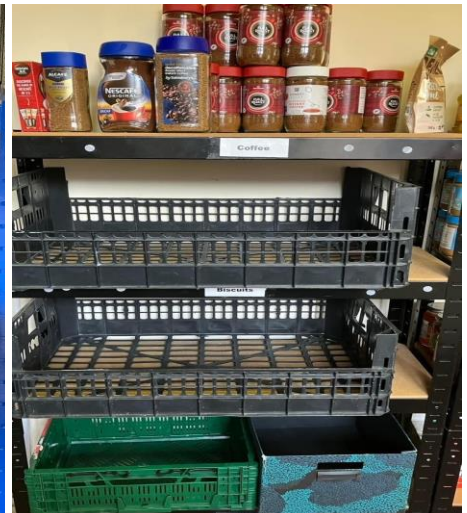
NEWSLETTER

Thursday 26th October 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your incredibly generous harvest donations! These have all been delivered to the Hope for Belper Food Bank – and most gratefully received. If at any point you can continue to support this charity, please send any donation in to school which we can put on the “Donation Station” in the office entrance (underneath the St Elizabeth display). This is available for anyone in the school community to come and collect from if needed and then sent down to Hope for Belper by our Faith in Action children in years 5 and 6. As you can see from the photos below the foodbank still need donations.



Admissions for Reception Class 2024

Do you have a child (or maybe know a friend/neighbour/family member) who needs a place in Reception Class for September 2024? If the child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 it is time to apply to Derbyshire County Council for a primary school place. The admissions process will begin on Monday 6th November and closes at midnight on Monday 15th January 2024. Full information is available in, “How to apply for a place at primary school – a guide for parents 2024/5” you can read the guide at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions. If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) you can contact the county council’s SEND Central Team at Education.SENAdmin@derbyshire.gov.uk or ring 01629 537479.

All application forms are available online at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions which is quick and easy to do. A telephone application can also be used if you are unable to apply online, using the number 01629 537479. Supplementary forms can be collected from the school office at your convenience or downloaded at [Admissions - St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust \(srscmat.co.uk\)](http://Admissions - St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust (srscmat.co.uk)).

If you apply online you can log in to change or update your application up until the closing date. You can log in to get the result of your application on 16th April 2024, you will also be emailed on that date by Derbyshire CC to be notified of your child’s school place.



St Elizabeth's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Matlock Rd, Belper, Derbyshire, DE562JD
info@st-elizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Please recommend our school as we know verbal recommendations from our parents to others is far better than seeing leaflets and posters.

First Holy Communion 2024 – message from the Parish

To parents/families of baptised children year 3, 4, 5 or 6, Our Lady's Parish is running a great preparation course for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (confession) and Communion starting in a few weeks time. It is for both children and parents and will be starting soon. Please get in touch to be included on the programme and to receive further updates. Sacraments of First Holy Communion will be offered in May/June 2024.

Please contact Brenda Davies (Parish Ambassador) 07980763942 or Email: Lovepeaceandlight@googlemail.com

Teams 4 U Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Our annual shoebox appeal has begun. If you are new to this charity they support children in parts of Europe and Africa in order for them to receive a Christmas present. You and your family may want to donate a shoebox with gifts for a child or provide a homeware box for a family. Please, take a look at the link below and your family can make a decision as to the contents of your box.

[Teams4u](https://www.teams4u.org.uk/)

We do understand with the cost-of-living crisis that donating items for a whole box may be difficult, teachers will have a box in the classroom which small donations can be put in and the children can decorate the boxes and work together to collect copper coins for the £3 needed to send the box to the charity. Thank you for your support with this, the last day for donations will be 23rd November. Please look out for leaflets coming home this week.

Reminder INSET days

Our half term break starts soon, we have our last day of this half term on Friday 27th October. We then have 2 INSET days on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th November, the children's first day back will be on Wednesday 8th November.

Science STEM roadshow visit

We are very proud to be inviting into school BAE Systems, The Royal Air Force, and The Royal Navy to deliver an engaging theatre roadshow celebrating STEM on Monday 27th November. This workshop is aligned to the National Curriculum, includes a 50-minute performance to inspire and engage our children. We can offer this at no cost in order to enhance our science curriculum and speak about career opportunities with children in KS2 to inspire them to consider their future jobs. The theme of the show is 'From the depths of the oceans to outer space.' We will be examining the engineering challenges that are faced when travelling to the most inhospitable places and discover some of the innovative solutions to these problems.

Maths escape rooms for KS2

On Friday 17th November we have organised maths escape rooms for KS2 classes from a visiting educational company, which should be great fun as well as motivational, engaging and an exciting way to learn maths. For this event we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £5 from each child in KS2 (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) in order to support this event. This payment will appear on ParentPay.

School meal prices

We have held our price for school meals at St Elizabeth's very successfully at £2.30 per lunch. However, despite our best efforts, this no longer covers the total cost of meals, resulting in us subsidising the cost of these meals from other areas of our already stretched budget and it is no longer viable. This means that we have now reached a position where we must raise the cost in order that the money available for teaching and learning is not impacted.

As a result, we have taken the decision that the **price of a school meal will increase to £2.85 per meal from December 4th 2023**. This is in line with other local schools within our Trust and is lower than other local Derbyshire schools who charge £3.25 per meal.

This change will not affect those who are entitled to free school meals through the Universal Free School Meals programme in Reception, Year 1 and 2. It will also not affect children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who have access to free school meals. If you are unsure about your eligibility for this, please speak to the School Office who would be happy to assist you.

If your family would be entitled to free school meals but you have chosen not to register your eligibility, there are many benefits to making an application and we would encourage you to do so. Again, if you would like to know more, please contact the School Office or click on this link. [Free school meals and Pupil Premium funding - Derbyshire County Council](#)

This decision has not been taken lightly and we will continue to try to keep our costs for school meals as low as possible for as long as possible in order to be able to support our families.

Safety poster

Please take a look with your child at the safety poster below which is from Derbyshire Police.



SEA Events

Our SEA held their AGM on 19th October (as previously advertised). This was a successful meeting confirming the members of the committee and planning for activities and events this academic year. Also discussed was allocation of funding to specific items to benefit as many children as possible, including KS2 playground repaint (happening during half term), new football goal posts, the year 6 leaver hoodies to name a few.

The committee is made up of:

Chairperson – Neil Green

Alison Groombridge SEA Secretary

Catherine Elvins SEA member

Clare Nightingale SEA Treasurer

Lauren Bounds SEA member

Thank you to all members and volunteers of the SEA.

Parish website

The link to our Parish website for updates of times and services at Our Lady's on Gibfield Lane, Belper or St Joseph's, Ripley or St Margaret's, Duffield is <https://catholic-ambervalley.uk/parish/belper/>

Calendar of events

Please remember to scroll down and see the calendar of events, this does get updated regularly and some dates may change so please continue to check this throughout the school year.

Thank you all for your continued support, have a wonderful half term and God Bless,

Mrs Clemens.

Headteacher.

Calendar of Events for St Elizabeth's – 2023-24

	2023/2024	
Thursday 26 th October	Y2 leading liturgical prayers	All pupils, parents of Y2 welcome
Friday 27 th October	Break up for half term	
Monday 30 th October to Friday 3 rd November	Half term holiday	School closed to all pupils
Monday 6 th November	INSET Derbyshire admissions open for new starters to St Elizabeth's in Sept 2024	School closed to all pupils
Tuesday 7 th November	INSET	School closed to all pupils
Wednesday 8 th November	Back to school	All pupils
Wednesday 8 th November to Friday 10 th November	Y6 residential to Willersley Castle	Y6
Monday 13 th November	Maths week starts with TT Rockstars Day	Dress as a rockstar on Monday, all pupils – and staff too!
Tuesday 14 th November	World Diabetes Day	
Friday 17 th November	Maths Escape Rooms	KS2 children (Please see parent pay for payment)
Monday 27 th November	Lamda Exams	Lamda pupils
Monday 27 th November	Science STEM roadshow visit "From oceans to outer space"	KS2 pupils
Monday 11 th December	Nativity performed to school	All pupils
Tuesday 12 th December	2pm KS1 Nativity performed to parents	KS1 and their families
Wednesday 13 th December	6.30pm KS1 Nativity performed to parents	KS1 and their families
Friday 22 nd December	Break up for Christmas holiday	

Monday 25 th December to Friday 5 th January	Christmas holiday	School closed to all pupils
Monday 8 th January 2024	Back to school	All pupils
Monday 12 th February	2.45pm Whole school celebration of the word with Jon Grattidge from CAFOD introducing the Big Lent Walk	All pupils
Tuesday 13 th February	Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras celebrations (Building the Kingdom)	All pupils
Wednesday 14 th February	10.15am Mass	All pupils and Parish welcome
Friday 16 th February	Break up for half term	
Monday 19 th February to Friday 23 rd February	Half term holiday	School closed to all pupils
Monday 26 th February	INSET	All pupils
Tuesday 27 th February	Back to school	All pupils
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day	All pupils dress up as their favourite character from a book
Tuesday 26 th March	2pm Easter Play by Y3 and Y4 performed to parents	All Y3 and Y4 parents and family members welcome
Wednesday 27 th March	2pm Easter Play by Y3 and Y4 performed to parents	All Y3 and Y4 parents and family members welcome
Thursday 28 th March	Break up for Easter	
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday	School closed to all pupils
Monday 1 st April to Friday 12 th April	Easter Holidays	School closed to all pupils
Monday 15 th April	Back to school	All pupils
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday	School closed to all pupils
Monday 13 th May to Thursday 16 th May	SATs	Y6
Friday 24 th May	Break up for half term	
Monday 27 th May to Friday 31 st May	Half term holiday	School closed to all pupils
Monday 3 rd June	Back to school	All pupils
Thursday 6 th June	Sport's Day	All pupils
Friday 28 th June	INSET	School closed to all pupils
Wednesday 3 rd July	Transition Day	All children move to next class
Monday 22 nd July	Leaver's Mass	Y6 pupils and their families
Tuesday 23 rd	Leaver's Assembly at 10am in the school hall	Whole school and Y6 parents
Tuesday 23 rd July	Break up for summer	Last day for all pupils