

Faith

Kindness

Love

Persevere

St Elizabeth's Primary & Nursery School

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Learn Together, Laugh Together, Be the Best You Can!

Enjoyment

School Newsletter 3, Nov 2019

Respect

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our November Newsletter. You will find details of our Christmas Activities further in this newsletter. Please note we have had to change the date of our planned nativity from the 12th Dec due to the election. We are now planning to have our Christmas performances on **Tues 10th Dec.**

As you know, our newsletter has now gone paperless but anyone who still needs a paper copy is welcome to take one from the foyer of our school.

Best wishes everyone
Yours sincerely

Miss Christine MacPhee
Head Teacher

School Information

You can always find further information about our school and our children on our Twitter page (@stelizabeths), our School App, our web site and our Facebook page – all have frequent updates in between newsletters to help keep you as up-to-date with school news. Many thanks to our members of staff and parents who help update and maintain these sites for us.

Weekly Assemblies

Thank you to all families who have been able to make it along to our Thursday Assemblies from **2.15-2.45pm** to celebrate the wide range of good news and achievements in our school. It is wonderful to have you with us and we hope you are enjoying hearing our great news. We also hope you are enjoying getting a House Token for your child's house!



House System

Our House System is working very well and the children are getting to know more about each Saint during our weekly Assembly. Our St Margaret House Mass on Friday 15th November to celebrate St Margaret's Feast day on the 16th Nov was lovely and we all enjoyed celebrating with a piece of cake. St Andrew House will attend Mass on the 29th Nov to celebrate his feast day on the 30th. Our Token System is working very well and the children are proudly receiving tokens throughout the school day for many kind acts and for great work. Well done to all our boys and girls.

Christmas Celebrations this year will be a Christmas Café and Market

This year we have had to reschedule our planned nativity programme due to the General Election being on the 12th Dec. We are now planning to have a Christmas Café and Christmas Market on Tues 10th Dec. Our classes are busy preparing lots of goodies to sell at our Christmas Market this year and we will also have a variety of hampers and raffle prizes on sale. The Christmas Market will be held in our dining room and our Christmas Café will take place in our gym hall. The hall will be transformed with tables and chairs and parents and families are invited along to see our children perform. You are welcome to come along for your particular class or to stay all day to enjoy the various performances. **The cost of a ticket is £2.00 and is now live and payable through Parent Pay.** Each class has been given a time slot to help make it easier for you to come and go as you desire. The plan for the day is –

9.00am Christmas Market Opens and runs until 3.00pm

9.20-9.30am P6 perform on our stage

9.35-9.45am P2 perform on our stage

9.50-10.00am P4/5 perform on our stage

10.15-11.00am P1 Nativity

11.15am – 11.25 P3/4 perform on stage

11.30-11.40am P 3 perform on stage

11.45-11.55am P5/6 perform on stage

12.00-12.10pm P7 perform on stage

1.30 2.15pm P1 Nativity

Our Recent Fundraising

Our Sponsored Walk raised a fantastic total of **£1, 542.11** and our Hallowe'en Fun Afternoon raised a grand total of **£567.93**. Thank you so much to all our families and friends for helping to support these events so tremendously. This money will be used to buy resources for our school and our School Fund Committee will meet to decide how best we can spend this money to help enhance our school and our children's experiences.

Student Teachers

Our student teachers for this term have been with us now for the past couple of weeks and we have thoroughly enjoyed having them with us in school. We warmly welcome Miss Shilton to our P1 class from Thurs 28th Nov for a 2 week period and we look forward to having her working with us in our school.

Milk and snack

Our milk and biscuit/snack idea is back in our classes and going well by all accounts. The children order milk to enjoy in their classroom every morning. This is done through Parent Pay as you know. They may bring a small healthy snack to eat at this time or can purchase a small biscuit (digestive/rich tea or cream cracker) to enjoy. The cost of the biscuit is **20p per week** and children need to please bring the correct money on a Monday for the week as the ordering of biscuits is not on Parent Pay!

P7 Residential Trip

We have booked a Residential Trip to Lockerbie Manor for our P7 children for **September 2020** and also for our P7 children in **September 2021**! Next year's P7 children will go from **Mon 24th Aug to Fri 28th August 2020** and the following year the children will go from **Mon 20th Sept to Thurs 23rd Sept 2021**. Payment for either of these Residential Trips can be made from now and is open on Parent Pay.

Homework Diaries and Sharing Learning

Many thanks for your continued use of our homework diaries – we really appreciate you taking the time to write a note/sign the diary and it helps us all with another level of communication. Each week, a green stamp is put in the diary for all our children who have been green for that whole week. If there have been any unfortunate times that a child has received a yellow or a red card, a dot of that colour is put in the diary on that day to help inform you that this has happened. No dot means they have been on green and this is celebrated with the green stamp at the end of the week. All of this is communicated through the use of our diaries.

In order to help further share our pupils' learning with you, we will shortly be sending home a folder that will have samples of your child's work for you to look at. Folders and jotters will need to be returned to school on the Monday please for the children to continue to use. Any worksheets may be kept at home for you to enjoy.

Breakfast Club

We run a breakfast club each day in our school and this takes place from 8.15am until 8.45am. This is free of charge and open to all pupils in our school. Children should come to the front door of the school where a member of staff will register them and let them through to our dining hall for breakfast. Please note that children are not permitted before 8.15am.

Our Houses

As you know, we have 4 houses in our school and each child is a member of one of these. The house colours and names are St Andrew (Blue); St Columba (Green); St Mungo (Red); St Margaret (Yellow). We have recently received a House Token Collector which our Community Partnership have paid for - thank you to all of you for helping to contribute to this through the Community Partnership Fundraising events. Also, many thanks to everyone who has been able to come along to our Family Events this term – we hope you enjoyed playing games with your children. We have our final House event of this term on Friday for our St Margaret's Families. Please come along if you can.

Coffee Afternoon

We have a Coffee Afternoon planned for next **Fri, 29th November from 1.30-2.30pm**. Come along and enjoy hearing our children singing some Scottish songs for us. We look forward to seeing you...wear something tartan too if you like!

Community Partnership

The next meeting of our Community Partnership is **Wed 27th Nov at 7pm** in our school. **This is open to all parents and carers of children in our school and everyone is very welcome.** Please come along if you can and find out more. Thank you to all families for contributing to and supporting all Community Partnership events for our school.

Contacting our School

Please note our office staff are delighted to help you in any way and, as you know, do a wonderful job keeping our busy school office running smoothly. It is not always possible to get messages to children **after 2.45pm** due to them being in various parts of the school and this has caused a bit of anxiety for our office staff in trying to do so. Our answering machine is switched on **from 2.45pm until after 3pm** in order to try to help reduce the hustle and bustle at what can often be a frantic time of day. Should you have a message that needs passed on, please contact our school office as early as possible in the day. Please, please only call the school office in an emergency. Many thanks for your help with all of this.

Can you help?

If you would like to be a parent helper in our school, please let us know. We are always looking for help with trips and events as well as activities in school and would be delighted to have your support.

Important School Information

***Nut allergies** – just a reminder to everyone that we are a nut free school. Children should not bring any snacks or items to school that may contain nuts or nut based ingredients. Thank you.

***Fizzy drinks** – fizzy drinks are not permitted in our school as they contain a vast amount of sugar which affects children's attention and behaviour.

***Health Promotion** – we are a health promoting school and encourage our children to think about what they eat and drink. This includes snacks at playtime and lunchtime. Milk is available each week at a cost of £1.00 and a biscuit can be bought for each day of the week for the total cost of 10p. We are looking to set up a healthy tuckshop and more information about this will follow.

***Absences/Lateness/Leaving Early** - If your child is to be absent from school, please phone our school office as soon as possible to inform us. We have an answering machine for your use. All children should be in the playground before the bell rings at 9am each day and we now have a bell ringing at 8.55am as a reminder to our children that 9am is fast approaching! The legal requirement is that children attend school from 9-3pm each day. If they are required to leave early, please bring your appointment letter to our office staff who will then note this. Lateness, absences and leaving early are recorded daily and if either of these become detrimental to any child's time at school, the council procedure is that an attendance officer will be asked to contact you to discuss further.

We monitor absence levels, lateness and leaving school early very closely. You will be informed if your child's attendance drops below 95% or if lateness/leaving early is becoming an issue. It would be really helpful for any appointments your child may have to be scheduled for out with school hours as leaving school early can have a detrimental effect on their learning in many ways. We appreciate your support in helping to ensure any disruptions to your child's learning are minimum throughout the school year.

***Contact Details** - If your telephone number or e-mail address change throughout the course of the year, please do let our office staff know to allow us to update our records. This also applies to emergency contacts.

***Head Lice** – We ask all parents and carers to please check hair regularly and if there is any case of head lice, it is helpful if you let the school know as soon as possible please.

***School Uniform** – the children are very smart in our school uniform and we thank you so much for your great support with this. Please note that trainers are not part of our school uniform and named items such as Nike, etc should be kept for home. Children need a full PE kit each week and will also require joggers and a warm top as each class has a timetabled slot each week for outdoor PE. Children are not allowed to wear jewellery during PE due to Health and Safety and earrings should be removed or covered. I am delighted to see the majority of our children wearing the appropriate PE kits, thank you. The wearing of school uniform in our school is also excellent and the children wear it with pride.