

Faith

Kindness

Love

Persevere

St Elizabeth's Primary & Nursery School

Head Teacher, Miss Christine MacPhee
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Learn Together, Laugh Together, Be the Best You Can!

Enjoyment

School Newsletter 4, Dec 2019

Respect

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our December Newsletter. We have had so many successes and achievements this term and we cannot believe how quickly time has flown by!

We wish all our families a happy and holy Christmas and every good wish for the new year.

Best wishes everyone and Merry Christmas!



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 this term. It has been lovely to see you and to have your feedback about our assemblies. The children have been delighted to have you join us too and even more chuffed to receive a House Token. Please note, there will be no Assemblies now until January due to Christmas Parties taking place next week.



House System

Our House System is now up and running and has been a great success. Our Community Partnership recently gave us some money to buy more Gold and Green Tokens and this is greatly appreciated by our children. 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. Our recent House Masses have also been lovely, thank you very much to Father O'Farrell for organising these with us.

Christmas Celebrations - Christmas Café and Market



We had a wonderful day on Tuesday and hope you enjoyed being entertained by our classes. We were very proud of our P2-P7 classes as they sang their beautiful songs and our P1 children as they led us beautifully through the nativity story. Special thanks to Kian Hainie for coming along to support us with his piano playing and for giving up his time. Thank you so much to all families and friends who managed along to this event, to our children for making such fantastic Christmas Crafts and to our staff who donated all the items for the beautiful Christmas Hampers. It was a lovely, relaxed day with the children enjoying seeing their families in the hall and having a wee chat with you. We have raised a fantastic amount of £1811 for our school funds – this is just terrific and our school fund committee will meet early in the new term to discuss what we should spend the money on for our school. Initial thoughts are perhaps a new set of microphones for our hall as we have been having a few technical issues with our current ones. Nevertheless, the ‘show must go on’ as they say and our children certainly did not let any small hitches with microphones deter them from entertaining us all so well. Thank you once again.

Our St Andrew’s Day Coffee Afternoon was a great success and raised £142.72. This money will be donated to St Andrew’s Hospice who are very grateful for our generosity. Once again, the children thoroughly enjoyed entertaining us and I know you will agree they all did so well.

Christmas Parties

Our Christmas Parties take place next week – Mon is P1 and P2, Tues is P3 and P4, Wed is P5 and P6 and Thurs is P7. Any donations of goodies for these parties would be warmly welcomed and enjoyed by the children! Please hand any items in to our school office – thank you for any help you can give. Children can be collected from school at 12.00pm on the day of their party if you would like to take them home to get ready. Alternatively, they can put their party clothes on in school after they have had their lunch.

Student Teachers

Well done to our student teachers for successful placement with us, we have thoroughly enjoyed having them in our school and getting to know them. Miss Shilton’s placement with our P1 class ends next Fri, 20th Dec and she will then return to us in January for the second part of her placement.

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.

We had hoped to have the new Home/School Learning Folders home to you before now but due to a delay with the order, this has not been possible. However, we are good to go with these now and the pupils will bring their folder home for the first time on Fri 10th January. The folders will contain maths and language jotters and may also have worksheets/samples of their learning in other areas. Worksheets can be removed and kept at home but jotters will need to be returned to school on the Monday please for the children to continue to use.

Breakfast Club

As you will perhaps know, 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.

Sacramental Workbooks

Our children in P3 and P4 who will be receiving Sacraments this year have now received their Family Workbooks and we will begin to use these in January. The children are very excited about beginning their preparation and we look forward to working alongside our families to prepare them well for their Sacraments.

Swimming

Our P5 children have now begun their 12 week block of swimming lessons taking place at Hamilton Water Palace. We know this is an important life skill for them and hope they all have success with their swimming skills. Many thanks to David McIntosh for coming along each week to help us with this.

Choir

Our choir will be treating the residents of some local Care Homes to beautiful singing next week as they go along and entertain them. I'm sure you will agree that the children sing beautifully and are rightly very proud of themselves. Many thanks to Miss Costello for the work she does with them each week and well done boys and girls.

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). Many, many thanks to everyone who has been able to come along to enjoy our Family Events this term and to our support staff for organising the hall so beautifully for us– we hope you enjoyed our events and we look forward to seeing you at the ones we have planned for next term. Our Yearly Calendar is available on our School App

Community Partnership

The next meeting of our Community Partnership is **Wed 29th Jan 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.

Milk and snack

Our milk and biscuit/snack idea is continuing to go well by all accounts and the children enjoy having this back. 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!

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. Many thanks to all parents who have offered to help in our school, it is great to have you involved.



P1 Enrolment Week

Our P1 Enrolment Week takes place the week beginning the 13th January 2020. Should your child be 5 years of age by the 28th Feb 2021, they will need to be enrolled for starting school in August 2020. You may be considering applying for a deferred year for your child and, if this is the case, the paperwork for this now needs to be completed by 20th January. In previous years it has been the middle of March so it is now much earlier.

During enrolment week, we operate a 10 minute appointment slot – please phone our school office on 01698 285080 to arrange a suitable time. We have many appointment times available throughout that week and are happy to accommodate working parents as much as possible.

When you come to enrol, please bring along the child's full birth certificate and 2 proofs of address. The name of the parent who enrolls must be detailed on the birth certificate.

We look forward to seeing you during that week and ask that where possible your child comes along too as we like to meet them and give them an enrolment gift.

And finally...

Many thanks for your continued support of our school and our work. We have had a successful term in so many ways and the evidence of this is in our daily work and our children's achievements. The support we receive from families and friends is invaluable and helps to enhance our school greatly. On behalf of all the children and staff, I wish you a really wonderful Christmas.

Best wishes



Miss C MacPhee
Head Teacher