



St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
A Voluntary Academy

Headteacher:
Mrs L. M. Kelly, B.Ed.



27th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and children,

I wrote this newsletter before I left school last night and upon arriving home, I was saddened to learn that we have now reached 100,000 deaths through the Covid-19 pandemic. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have been affected and particularly to those in our own school community. It also seems poignant that we think about these significant numbers on Holocaust Memorial Day, a time to reflect on the genocide of millions of Jews and other victims during the Second World War. The theme this year also somewhat poignant is *"be a light in the darkness"*. Tonight, we are all invited to light a candle and place it in our window as people from across the world come together to light the darkness and to stand against prejudice and hatred today.

Special thanks

I would like to start by thanking everyone in our school family for their support and patience during what has been another challenging start to 2021. When we closed for our Christmas holidays in December, little did we know we would be back to another national lockdown and remote learning. It is hard to believe we are now in the middle of our fourth week!

As always, our school community have worked together to make the best of the challenges we face. Our staff team have been incredible and we have received a number of lovely comments both through Tapestry and the weekly telephone calls. These comments really boost us so please keep them coming! As you are aware our school continues to be open for children of key workers and vulnerable children and we have approximately 90+ children accessing this provision. Staff are planning for both school and remote learning alongside offering support and feedback via Tapestry or phone calls.

Home Learning

I hope the children have all been enjoying the high quality of home learning that has been uploaded with the daily welcome videos which outline the day's work. I am not only grateful to the staff in school for their hard work in this area but our external staff too. We are aiming to ensure that those at home are still receiving the activities which take place in school so for this reason we have uploaded lessons from our Music teacher Sam Morris, our Gymnastics teacher Mr Borges, our Spanish Teacher, Senôra Esparaza and our IT curriculum provider Junior Jam.

I would also like to tell you that you are all doing an amazing job with managing home learning, work and busy family life. We continue to be truly impressed by the children's resilience and how they have adapted to these new ways of teaching and learning. I have been spending time accessing Tapestry myself and by half term I hope to have viewed all classes and given each child a comment or like!

Be kind to yourself!

In these times it is more important than ever that we are kind to ourselves and do not worry about getting everything done. There will be good days and not so good days and that is ok. Please continue to have breaks in the day and take opportunities for physical exercise and fresh air. Remember we are still allowed an hour of exercise outside each day albeit not too far away.

We came across a quote recently which I feel is very apt for us right now –

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can!

New Appointment

I am pleased to inform you that we have appointed Mrs Fletcher's replacement and are pleased to have appointed Miss Libby Gavin as our new Admin Assistant. Miss Gavin is relocating from Scotland and we look forward to welcoming her in the coming weeks.

Online Library Resource Free to all – <https://library.thenational.academy>

This is a new resource for parents and their children to use and access books free of charge through any electronic device.

Online Safety

There are some very useful tips for parents on setting up the right controls and privacy settings to ensure children stay safe online. Listed below are a number of websites that give detailed advice on staying safe online.

www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls

www.net-aware.org.uk

www.getsafeonline.org

February Half-Term

We have received information from the DfE which states that schools are not expected to remain open during the February Half Term. This means school will be closed to all vulnerable and key worker children in the week beginning Monday 15th February.

Finally, once again thank you for your support and we continue to keep you and your families in our thoughts and prayers. I will end with a reflection which has recently been shared with me. It struck a chord with me both as a parent and also as a Headteacher.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Kelly
Headteacher

Shout out to the Children!

Let us applaud our children.

These heroes, big and little have stayed indoors more than they have ever known in their lives.

Their whole worlds have literally been turned upside down.

All these rules they have never known.

A life they could not have imagined.

All the things they love like sports, being with friends, going to school, or just being children have all been taken away from them.

Adults talking about others becoming unwell, the news reporting death after death.

Their poor minds must be racing.

Every day they get up and carry on despite all that is going on.

So, here's to these heroes: today, tomorrow, forever.

Dear Lord, we thank you that our vocation brings us in touch on a daily basis with children and we ask you to help us to do all we can to reassure them, care for them and lead them to a brighter tomorrow.

We ask this prayer through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.