



St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
A Voluntary Academy

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



26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you were all delighted to hear the announcement from Boris Johnson that we can, once again, open fully to all children on Monday 8th March. It will be fantastic to be back together again as a whole school family. Obviously, we will continue to follow Government guidance, our Covid-19 Risk Assessment and we will continue to monitor and adapt our procedures as necessary over the coming weeks. I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank you for your support over these past few weeks and for the support you have given to your children. We do not underestimate how challenging this has been for many of you juggling so many new roles and changing circumstances such as working from home, supporting learning at home, not seeing extended family and friends etc.

I also must state how proud I am of the way all of our staff have committed themselves to the high-quality remote learning alongside the teaching of our Key Worker children. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that we have a truly exceptional staff team here at St Elizabeth's and I thank them all for their hard work and dedication through this past extraordinary year.

I was fortunate enough this week to take part in a virtual spiritual reflection morning for school leaders which was led by David Wells. We took time to reflect on the many challenges which schools have faced during this pandemic and thought about what we can take from it. Something I took from it was that once this is all over that we can all live in a better world, where we can appreciate the small things that we once took for granted, a world where we are kinder to each other, where we can smile more (without a face covering!), where we can support the less fortunate and refocus our priorities in life. The season of Lent gives us a wonderful opportunity to consider this.

World Book Day

You will all have received the letter regarding World Book Day activities next week. For those at home, please try to do your best to participate as World Book Day is always such a fun event at St. Elizabeth's and we don't want anybody to miss out. I hope you have fun creating your outfits this weekend!

Lenten Fundraising Activities

We are planning our fundraising activities for Lent and you will receive a letter outlining these once we have finalised them. You may be aware that CAFOD are encouraging a 'Walk for Water' where people are being encouraged to walk 10,000 steps each day. Whilst this may be difficult for us to complete daily in school it is a wonderful opportunity for our weekend exercise so why not get out, exercise and donate to CAFOD's appeal. We will be looking at a way in which we can take part in school.

Wider Opening on Monday March 8th

The arrangements for opening on March 8th remain as they were in the Autumn Term. We will continue to have staggered starts at both the beginning and end of the school day in order to limit the number of people arriving at school. We expect **ALL** parents and carers to arrive wearing a mask when dropping and picking up children unless you are exempt. We also expect people to continue to observe social distancing and remain 2 metres away from other people.

We are now able to allow lunch boxes back into school. I know many of you have asked me about this in the Autumn term and will welcome this.

Unfortunately, whilst the Prime Minister did say that breakfast club and after school provision may commence this has to be with children in the same bubble. As we have limited space, we are unable to offer this provision at the current time. We will continue to allow the drop off from 8.30am for all children including nursery from 8th March.

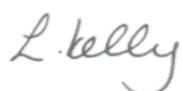
Below is a reminder of the times and gates for the end of the day.

Class	Arrive	Finish	Calve Croft Road Gate	Carling Drive Gate
Nursery	8:30 – 9:00	2:40		✓
Reception	8:30 – 9:00	2:40		✓
Year 1	8:30 – 9:00	2:55	✓	
Year 2	8:30 – 9:00	3:00	✓	
Year 3	8:30 – 9:00	2:50	✓	
Year 4	8:30 – 9:00	2:50		✓
Year 5	8:30 – 9:00	2:55		✓
Year 6	8:30 – 9:00	3:00		✓

Finally, I would like to end by saying that we have done this once before. We welcomed all our children back from the first lockdown back in September. I remember the joy I felt as the children skipped, ran and excitedly walked into school with happy smiling faces. Despite anxieties that parents may have felt at this time our children, who had developed life skills of perseverance, patience, resilience and independence were absolutely fine and I am sure this time will be no exception. Staff across our school will be well prepared for your child’s return and are equipped with the skills needed to spot gaps in learning so please do not worry about this. First and foremost, we want your child to return to school feeling safe and well and most importantly, happy to be back in the classroom with their teachers and friends.

Have a lovely weekend everybody and enjoy the final week of home learning next week!

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Kelly
Headteacher

Let Your Light Shine

