



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year and hopefully a return to a normal way of working!

I hope you all had a lovely summer holiday whether enjoying a staycation, day trips out or for some lucky people an overseas holiday. At last it felt good to begin to return to a slightly more normal way of life and enjoy special times with family and friends. That said, it is still important for us to remain vigilant as the virus is definitely still part of everyday life.

It was a joy to welcome the children back yesterday where, the vast majority of them, came skipping happily through the gates and were eager to meet their friends and see the staff. I also enjoyed my first assemblies with children in the hall rather than on a screen.

### **Nursery Intake**

We have been pleased to welcome both our new Nursery children and their parents for their initial visits and look forward to getting to know them in the coming weeks.

### **Drainage work**

I am delighted to report that we have finally been able to address the drainage issues that have been causing problems at St. Elizabeth's for many years. I am sure you will agree, if you have passed by, that the play area at the back of Year 5 & 6 certainly looks more aesthetically pleasing. Of course, the proof will be in the pudding once we have heavy rainfall so let's keep our fingers crossed.

### **Daily Mile Track**

We have also had a daily mile track installed around the field area which will allow use of the field all year and hopefully encourage our children to become even fitter by taking part in a daily mile.

### **School Meals**

Manchester Fayre ceased trading on 31<sup>st</sup> August and are no longer our school meal provider. Taylor Shaw are the new company who are now providing school meals. New menus and branding have arrived and the children have enjoyed the meals so far. We will send out copies of the menu once it has been finalised.

### **Times of the School Day**

As you are aware, during the pandemic restrictions we were unable to provide breakfast club and as a result organised a soft opening from 8.30am each morning to help working parents who would usually use our breakfast club. We are hoping to re-open breakfast club in the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> September and will provide further details next week. Therefore, next week we will continue with the 8.30-9.00am start for Reception – Y6 children. The end of the day will revert back to 3.00pm for ALL children. The gates will be open at 2.55pm and parents will be allowed to walk on to the school grounds to collect children from their external classroom door.

Once breakfast club restarts, school start time will be between 8.45 and 9.00am. Children will continue to use their designated gates and staff will continue to meet them daily.



### **Covid-19 Update**

As you will be aware from media coverage schools no longer need to send class bubbles home when a positive case is identified. Please continue to keep your child off school should they develop Covid-19 Symptoms and book a PCR test.

With regard to face coverings, public health advice is to continue wearing them if you find yourself in a crowded area, on public transport or mixing with people who you wouldn't normally mix with. We will leave this to your discretion and will no longer be insisting you wear a face covering.

A number of parents have asked if children are able to bring school bags to school. These are now permitted but we ask that they are a reasonable size as it is not necessary for a large back and our cloakroom can become cluttered with oversized bags.

We will continue to ask children to come in their PE kits on a Wednesday.

### **National Read a Book day**

On Monday we will be celebrating National Read a Book Day and encourage all children to bring a book from home to enjoy reading throughout the day.

Finally, I wish to inform you that I have been called for Jury Service for 2 weeks beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September. I will be in regular contact with school throughout this period. However, should you have any concerns please see Miss Simmons during this time who will be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support in all school matters.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Kelly  
Headteacher