



St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

***Weekly Update* from Jane Hines, Headteacher** **16th December 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It might have been cold outside but our final week of the term has been filled with warmth and Christmas spirit! We all enjoyed the whole school Christmas lunch on Tuesday and then on Wednesday our KS2 pupils went to Richmond Theatre to see the pantomime while our KS1 pupils had a visiting pantomime in the school hall.

On Tuesday we had our 'World Cup Countries Challenge' when the staff went head to head in a tight competition to name the countries, flags and capitals of the World Cup Countries. This was all part of the whole school World Cup fundraiser in aid of CAFOD. We are extremely pleased to announce that through donations at our Nativity, Carol Service and the World Cup fundraiser we have raised an incredible amount which we will confirm in the new year.

Finally, yesterday we celebrated our Mass in anticipation of Christmas. We would like to thank Fr Brian from St Winefride's for being with us for Mass, and for Y3 pupils for leading the readings and prayers. In the Mass, Fr Brian reinforced what the children have been learning, that Christmas is a time of peace, love and hope.

Online Safety

We are very pleased that Mr Peter Cowley, Lead Adviser for Online Services and Safety at Achieving for Children, will be coming into school to hold both pupil and parent workshops on Thursday 26th January. We will confirm the time and arrangements nearer to the date.

Ahead of this, we have received information from Peter Cowley and another Online Safety organisation about keeping your children safe online. This is especially important if your child is receiving a new device over Christmas. Please do look at the attached document and follow this link for information about setting up parental controls on new devices and setting boundaries with children.

https://ineqe.com/2020/12/14/day-5/?utm_campaign=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=237303966&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9VdFI21vDbgfbnXsyrN-Oqo5wJZwFiZs1tlUNq8kskFAilTyJxtnwOrSXM3N63LXUmLiNo5k9yF8nmLI8XXY1UnYltKrvK2kFCtxgJKOsC3KD8iKQ&utm_content=237303966&utm_source=hs_email

Cost of Living Support

The increase in the cost of living is having a wide impact on families. This can be especially hard at Christmas time. Richmond Council has a Cost of Living Hub on their website with useful information about support available in the local area as well as advice on reducing bills: https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/cost_of_living_hub

Please do also contact the school in confidence if you would like to check if your child is eligible for Free School Meals or the Pupil Premium Grant.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

You can check if you are eligible for Free School Meals by completing the online form at this address: https://www.richmond.gov.uk/free_school_meals

Upcoming Dates in the Spring Term

Children return to school on Wednesday 4th January.

On Friday 6th January at 10am, there is a Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church.

The full calendar of events and curriculum information for the Spring Term will be sent out after Christmas.

School Values

Congratulations to the following children who have received a Values Award this week:

Reception – Lewis

Y1 - Sophie

Y2 – Hugo

Y3 – Audrey and Aleksandra

Y4 - Maya

Y5 – Thomas and Matthew

Y6A - Emilia

Y6T – Carter

Million Word Readers

Many congratulations this week to Dearbhla and Honor in Y3, and Alexa in Y4 who has read a million words. Well done!

Reading Cup

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the Reading Cup for the last half term is Y4. Congratulations to Miss McCrossan and all the children in Y4. We would greatly encourage all pupils to complete the reading challenge and we look forward to announcing the next winning class.

Thank you from the PTA ...

The PTA wish to thank all of the parents for their continued support this term. So far, the PTA has raised over £13,000 from our social, bingo night, Christmas morning and Christmas discos as well as our various sales.

Our class reps have put in great effort to ensure their success and that they were hugely enjoyable. In addition, we have had some parents who have provided their expertise to help us develop and sell photos, calendars and nearly new uniforms. We will publish a newsletter in 2023 with more detail on our fundraising, how your generosity is funding various school activities and equipment, as well as some dates for your new school calendar.

And finally, on behalf of all the staff and governors at St Elizabeth's, we wish you and your families a very happy and holy Christmas.

Kind regards,

Jane Hines