

October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be able to write to you just before we finish for half term to keep you all updated on developments towards St Elisabeth's CE joining the St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust, which is due to happen officially on 1st November 2019.

The St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust is a very successful local trust that is responsible for three schools already in South Manchester. As a result of this success, Manchester Diocese and the DFE asked the trust to consider welcoming St Elisabeth's CE Primary School into its family of schools following St Elisabeth's Ofsted judgement in November 2018.

After a thorough due diligence period the Board of Directors of the Trust decided that St Elisabeth's CE joining the St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust would benefit the schools currently in our Trust: Didsbury CE, St Wilfrid's CE and West Didsbury CE and that as a Trust we were in a good position to have a positive impact on St Elisabeth's CE. This followed a very similar experience with St Wilfrid's CE who had a very poor Ofsted in 2015 but earlier this year received a 'good' judgement.

Should you wish to find out more about St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust please have a look at our website on: <http://stjamesandemmanuel.org/st-james-emmanuel-academy-trust/>

For St Elisabeth's CE to join St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust is quite an undertaking and requires a lot of legal work on land and buildings, whilst also supporting staff transfer to our Trust. I am pleased to be able to inform you that St Elisabeth's CE is due to join our Trust officially on 1st November 2019.

There will be far more information about this in our next Trust newsletter just before Christmas and the Together magazine which will be published and distributed in December- a great Christmas read!

So when St Elisabeth's CE becomes an academy what will change?

St Elisabeth's will become one of four schools who work closely together to ensure that we deliver great lessons and opportunities in a loving caring school which promotes Christian Values and engages with the community.

Although there will not be changes to the uniform colour or school name, the logo will be changed slightly to fit in with our other Trust schools and as such letterheads, website and logo on uniforms will change over time. A new logo has been chosen by our Governing Body recently but please be assured that these will be gradual changes.

We are very happy that children come to St Elisabeth's in uniform and look so smart and uniform being the old logo will be absolutely fine for as long as the uniform is functional. We will be launching a new website just before Christmas and will share this with you as it develops. The website will contain lots of information about our school and we look forward to promoting our school via our new website over the next few months.

We will also be focussing on the quality of the teaching and learning and I am sure that you will hear lots about the exciting things your children are having as St Elisabeth's CE becomes an academy school rather than a local authority School.

In the meantime, enjoy your half term holiday and we look forward to a busy and eventful second Autumn half term as part of the Trust.

Yours sincerely

Matt Whitehead