

St. Francis Catholic Primary School

18th September 2012. (Newsletter No.1)

Welcome back!

Welcome back to all, and especially to our new Reception children and their families and those who are joining St. Francis' School for the first time in other classes throughout the school. A very warm welcome!

We hope that the year ahead will be a successful time for our school.

Headteacher

I'm sorry to tell you that this will be my last term at St Francis' School as I will be retiring as Headteacher in December. It has been a privilege to work with this wonderful community for 12 years and I will find it very difficult to say goodbye when the time comes.

However the school governors are very busy with the process of advertising and recruiting at the moment, and they hope to appoint a new Headteacher very soon. Of course, we will be keeping you informed about progress with the appointment.

Parent Governor Election

The Governing Body has a vacancy for a parent governor and we are requesting nominations from parents to fill this vacancy.

The note with this newsletter explains what being a governor involves. You can also get information from the School Office or look at the Newham Website – School Governors section at:

<http://www.newham.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/Schools/SchoolGovernors/>.

If you decide to stand for election, you must be a parent or guardian of

a child currently on roll at this school. You should sign the form and provide a personal statement of no more than 100 words which will be circulated to all parents if a ballot is required.

The signed form must be returned to the School office by the closing date which is 10 am on Thursday 27th September.

House Captains

We have a House Points system in School and children are awarded points for the House they belong to whenever they demonstrate good behaviour, lovely work or kind or helpful actions.

There are four Houses named, St Bernadette, St Hilda, St Martin de Porres and St Vincent.

We elect House Captains each year whose role is to lead and inspire others and contribute ideas and suggestions.

It is also an important opportunity for children to learn about citizenship and democracy.

I would like to congratulate the new House Captains who were elected last Friday:

St Bernadette:

Anthony Aka and Gabrielle Aimee.

St Hilda:

Orient Mylla and Ada Onyido.

St Martin:

Tamilore Odunsi and Christian Adun.

St Vincent:

Jaya St Rose and Chiquitta Kamara.

Congratulations to each of them!

School Council

Well done, also, to those children who have been elected by members of their class as School Councillors.

Their role is to meet with Mrs Ikwueke and represent the views of pupils throughout the school, to raise issues that they would like to bring forward, and to provide their views about the curriculum and the provision for pupils at our school:

Our new School Councillors:

Year 2:

Micah Baidoo, Sheryl Boahen-Addai
Enrico Angol, Nikaiyah Findlay

Year 3:

Andrew Simmons, Tianne Williams
Zoe Citalois, William Rabuya

Year 4:

Georgina Odunsi, Chike Agbanyim
Samuel Julia

Year 5:

Daniel Bampoe-Parry, Faythe Desousa
Clementina Odewole, Kelli Lynch

Year 6:

Corinne Ferguson, Hayden Amarr
Ijeoma Agbanyim, Theo Mentenot

Parents' Questionnaire

We would like to invite you to give your views about how this school is managed and organised, and about how things work from your point of view as parents.

A questionnaire has been given to your child in the last few days for you to complete.

You can give your name if you wish or just let us have your views. There will be a box in the school entrance for the return of the forms.

We would be grateful if you could let us have your completed questionnaires back by Friday 28th September.

At the beginning of October we will once again be giving the children in Years 2 upwards a similar form so they can also give their views about school.

Responses will be considered very carefully by the Governors and Staff, and I will let you know about the range of issues raised, in the near future.

Parental Contribution Fund

Thank you to those families who have already made their contribution to this important fund.

Each family is asked to contribute £30 per year to enable the school to carry out essential maintenance, repairs and improvements.

Each contribution is acknowledged and a receipt will be provided.

Reception Applications

Applications are invited from parents whose child's birthdate falls between 1/9/08 and 31/8/09 as you should **now** apply for a place in our Reception Year for next year.

Secondary Transfer Meeting – Year Six.

Children in Year Six must apply for a Secondary School place before half term.

We are having a meeting about Secondary Transfer for all Year Six parents, **tomorrow** Wednesday 19th September.

The meeting will begin at 6.30 pm in the Junior Hall.

We would like every Year Six pupil to be represented at this important

meeting so please make a note of the date.

Meeting for Reception Parents

I would like to invite parents of children who have just started in our Reception classes to a meeting on Thursday 4th October, at 6.30 p.m. The meeting will last about half an hour.

At the meeting we would like to tell about what we are doing in school, what topics the children will be learning about and how, together, we can help them develop their numeracy and literacy skills.

We also want to give you some information about how you can support your child's learning at home.

Family Support Worker

If you would like a chat and advice about any aspect of childcare, parenting, including behaviour at home or school, or any issues to do with families including financial, housing or relationship issues, you are welcome to come and talk to Suzy de Freitas on Monday or Tuesday, in school.

SATS results

Last year's Year Six pupils achieved very good results in the SATS tests that they took in May, with 90% of the group achieving level 4 and above in English and 81% in Maths. These results were the best for the last four years, so, a huge 'well done' to all concerned!

Attendance

Good attendance contributes directly to our pupils achieving well in school and the average rate of attendance last year was good at 96.2% and higher than the year before.

We are aiming higher still next year as the target set by governors is 97.5%

Please support your child by ensuring that you let us know if your child has been at home ill, and by ensuring that they do not take time off school unnecessarily.

St Francis' Choir

The children in the choir deserve a special mention because they gave a wonderful performance during August in St John's Church, Stratford as part of the Summer Music Festival.

They performed again at John's on Friday 7th September, with a PA system outdoors, entertaining shoppers and people enjoying their lunch hour in the sunshine.

Thank you to parents and to the staff for arranging for them to take part.

Dates

Thursday 4th October

is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. The children will attend Mass and have a day of art activities in school.

Monday October 22nd

– School Training Day. Nursery will be closed too.

Parents Evenings

are on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th October.

School Photographer

will be taking individual and family group photos on Friday 26th October.

Half term

Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November