



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
Maryland Park
Stratford
London E15 1HB

Tel: 020 8534 0476
Fax: 020 8555 3068
Email: info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk

22nd January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mark 3:22-30

²² And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

²³ So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

³⁰ He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

In this reading scribes are accusing Jesus of accomplishing his healing miracles by the power of "the ruler of the demons" (v. 22). They are seeking to discredit him in the eyes of the people by planting the idea that Jesus is working by Satan's power instead of God's power. How can we accomplish good ends by evil means? Ends do not justify means. How could Jesus cleanse a man of his unclean spirit, as he did in Capernaum (1:21-28)? He could do so only by first overpowering Satan—the ruler of demons.

Our faith will always be tested by naysayers because if you don't stand for something you will fall for anything. We need to be firmly rooted in the scripture with a true understanding of our faith so we can support our children to develop their own belief and understanding.

School Start Time

Over a year ago we introduced what we call a "soft start" at St Francis'. This means that class doors are open and children are invited to go into their classrooms from 8:45. We are pleased that so many children are arriving at 8:45 and maximizing their learning time. I realize that perhaps some parents are confused about when school starts. The official start time for school is 8:55 that means at 8:55 we expect children to be in class having put their coats and bags away ready for the Morning Prayer. Children who arrive after 8:55 will disrupt learning time and can find it upsetting if they feel that they have missed out, therefore we would encourage all parents to aim to get their child to school for 8:45.

Citizenship Weeks

During the week beginning the 22nd January we will be celebrating the second week of our annual Citizenship Weeks. The theme this year is '**Made for Life-Being Prepared**'. We will use Mathew 25:1-



Newham London



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

13, The Parable of the Ten Virgins as the foundation for our work. We will talk to the children about their physical, educational, moral and spiritual preparation for life. The charity we will be supporting is the Red Cross. **We will also have our annual charity bazaar on Friday, 26th January and would appreciate your kind donations – class teachers will give you more information about this. Please ensure you're your child has money to spend for the charity bazaar.** Additionally you are warmly invited to our Citizenship celebration **Mass on Friday, 26th January at 9:30 in St Francis Church.**

School Uniform

We had a uniform scrutiny on Friday and were pleased that there were a very small minority of children who were not compliant with the uniform expectations. Next time, we expect to have 100% of children compliant.

Just a reminder for parents that girls should have natural coloured hair extensions, and hair accessories should be functional and practical in navy blue, white or black. Equally, children should be wearing school shoes, not trainers or boots.

Class Assembly

There will be a class assembly for **4R on Friday, 2nd February 2018 at 9:05 am**; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

Foundation Governors

Are you interested in being a foundation governor at St Francis' Catholic Primary School?

Being a Governor is a rewarding and effective way of making a voluntary contribution to your community and to the lives of local young people. A foundation governor is appointed by the local Bishop to represent his education policy in his school. They preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school.

What are Governors?

Governing Bodies are strategic leaders in schools. Governors meet a minimum of twice a term and include parents, teachers and support staff at the school, local council representatives, community representatives, and Foundation Governors. The Head Teacher is accountable to the Governing Body whose role is to set the aims & objectives of the school (together with the Head Teacher) in line with national guidelines and to monitor progress.

Have you got?

- An interest in our children's future
- Time, energy and enthusiasm
- A desire to make a difference
- Readiness to accept responsibility
- An ability to work as a team
- Are you happy to ask questions, listen and learn?

If you are interested in becoming a foundation governor please contact the school office at info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk to arrange a time discuss your interest further.

N. Scott
Head Teacher

