



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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19th November 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Gospel Reading Mark 13:24-32

²⁴ "But in those days, following that distress,
"the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light;

²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,

and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.^[a]

²⁶ "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it^[b] is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

The Day and Hour Unknown

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

In today's church, many Christians seem to think, "Since the time of Jesus' coming cannot be known, we need not think much about it." Mark draws the opposite conclusion: since the timing is unknown, we should think about it all the time!

Modern Christians often think, "Since the time is unknown, it could be hundreds, or thousands, or millions of years from now." Mark draws a very different conclusion: since the timing is unknown, it could be today! Maybe this evening, or at midnight, or when dawn breaks.

The season of Advent invites us to wait impatiently for the consummation of hope, longing to know God as fully as we have been known; to see no longer through a dark pane, but face to face; to love as we have been loved; to experience Jesus Christ *as he is*, and in so doing, to become like him.

Assembly

There will be a class assembly for **4R on Friday, 30th November 2018 at 9:05 am**; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



Pantomime

For pantomime this year, the children will visit Theatre Royal, Stratford East to see Sleeping Beauty. The cost of the visit is £10.80 which includes the entrance fee and an ice cream. The classes will be visiting on the following dates:

Years 1-3 Thursday, 6th December 2018

Years 4-6 Friday, 7th December 2018

We expect the children to arrive back at school at about 5:00 pm so please make arrangements for someone to be at the school ready to collect your child.

Christmas Events

As we draw closer to the end of term there are a number of school events to celebrate Christmas. We look forward to celebrating with you, please make note of the dates and times below:

Wednesday 12th December 2018 at 9:15 - Year 2 nativity performance

Wednesday, 12th December 2018 - Christmas lunch (unfortunately parents are not able to attend)

Thursday, 13th December 2018 at 9:15 am - EYFS nativity performance

Friday, 14th December 2018 at 6:00 pm - KS2 (Years 3-6) Carol Concert **at St Francis Church**

Wednesday, 19th December 2018 - Christmas class party celebrations

Thursday, 20th December 2018 9:30 -End of term Mass **at St Francis Church**

Parental Contributions

Thanks to your parental contributions for the last academic year, we raised a total of £3,620. Your contributions are vital in ensuring that building works and improvements to the school premises take place. Please ensure that you pay your parental contribution of £40 through ParentPay.

Birthday Celebrations

We welcome the opportunity to congratulate your child on their birthday and are happy to accommodate parents by handing out small gifts/party bags for your child's birthday. However, these need to contain healthy snacks or age appropriate gifts. We will not hand out chocolate, sweets or any other unhealthy snack. We would suggest healthy snacks such as raisins, bagged fruit slices, cereal bars, etc.

Admission Consultation

We are currently consulting on our 2020 admission criteria, which is available on our website at:

<http://st-francis.newham.sch.uk/parents-carers/admissions/>

We would be pleased to receive any comments in writing to the school office by 5pm on Friday 23rd November 2018.

N. Scott
Head Teacher

