



St Francis' Catholic Primary School  
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10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Advent Prayer

God of heaven and earth, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus, whom we are preparing this Advent season. We are amazed and humbled that you took on human likeness in the person of Jesus. Help us to see just how much you love us, and let us never take the magnitude of your love for granted. Your coming to us as a helpless baby signifies your willingness to be vulnerable and shows us that you long for closeness with us, not power and dominance.

Lord, teach us to be like Jesus in all that we say and do. Let us be people of love and forgiveness not hate and resentment. We have so much to learn, Lord, about what it means to be happy. Show us that the path to peace lies in following the ways of your Son, Jesus.

As we ready ourselves to celebrate with joy, the birth of Jesus we ask that you help us bring your people one step closer to the truth of your love for us. Renew in our hearts and in the hearts of those to whom we minister that Jesus is with us now and forever.

This we pray in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus. Amen.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 9:15 - Year 2 nativity performance

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

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 9:15 am - EYFS nativity performance

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 6:00 pm - KS2 (Years 3-6) Carol Concert at St Francis Church.

**Children in years 3-6 need to return to the church for 5:30 pm.**

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018 - Christmas class party celebrations

Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 9:30 -End of term Mass at St Francis Church

### Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December the Mini Vinnies (Mini Vincent de Paul Society) are inviting all pupils to take part in St Francis' Catholic Primary School Christmas Jumper Day. The whole school will be taking part by wearing a festive Christmas jumper and donating £1 for the day. **The children are expected to wear their normal school uniform with the Christmas jumper in place of their grey jumpers.**



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



### **Maryland Christmas Light Switch On**

On Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December children from the St Francis' choir will be performing at the Maryland Christmas Tree Light Switch on from 4:45 - 6:00. Please come along with your family and friends to celebrate and support the children.

### **Christmas Break**

The Christmas break will be from Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 to Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019. **The term will end at 2:00 on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm; school will re-open as normal on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

### **Inset Days - Teacher Training Days**

We have had a change in our school calendar to our teacher training days; therefore Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 will be a normal school day where the school will be open to all pupils. However, on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 the school will be closed to pupils and will re-open on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 from the Easter break.

### **Christmas Raffle**

The letter regarding this year's Christmas raffle was sent via email recently; your child should have come home with a strip of raffle tickets. Please support this fundraising event by purchasing one strip of tickets for one pound (£1). There are additional raffle tickets for sale in the school office.

### **Term Time Holiday**

Any absence affects your child's learning, and the more they miss the harder it will be for them to catch up. Research has shown that for every percentage point of absence, attainment is significantly lower. Even the brightest and most enthusiastic learner will find it hard to keep up with their work with these levels of absence. We will become concerned if your child's attendance drops below 95%.

**95% attendance equates to half a day off every two weeks**

**90% attendance equates to a day off every two weeks**

**85% attendance equates to one and a half days off every two weeks**

**80% attendance equates to one whole day off every week**

That is why we encourage the highest attendance possible. As a result, this school's policy is not to authorize holidays during term time.

### **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.

N. Scott  
Head Teacher

