



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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3rd December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Gospel Reading Luke 21:25-28 34-36

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Christian readers, confused over the passage nearly two thousand years later, are often at a loss to know what it can say to them. For us, the destruction of Jerusalem, an act of great pagan brutality, is far away in the past, and we know of so many other subsequent crises that the church has faced that we are likely to think of it as relatively insignificant. We, however, live and preach the gospel in a world which, as Jerusalem did to Jesus, often refuses the call of peace. We have a duty to warn our contemporaries that to reject God's invitation may well lead to disaster. And in the meantime we must continue to practice patience. We never know when we shall need it.

Inset Days - Teacher Training Days

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

Assembly

There will be a class assembly for 3R on Friday, 7th December 2018 at 9:05 am; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

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 ticket this week. 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.



Newham London



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

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.

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.

N. Scott
Head Teacher



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

