



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](mailto:info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with<sup>a</sup> water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with<sup>b</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire.

#### *The Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus*

<sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

It is often suggested that baptism was the moment when Jesus received his first inkling of his great calling. The Spirit and the word together gives Jesus the encouragement and strength he needs to begin his short public career.

The baptism story tells us where Jesus came from, who he is, and where he is going. As we make his story our own in our own prayers, and in our own baptism we should expect the fresh energy of the Spirit and the quiet voice which reminds us of God's amazing, affirming love and of the path of vocation that lies ahead.

### **Citizenship Weeks**

This year's annual Citizenship Weeks will be the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The theme is ***This is Me***. This is centered on **Ephesians 2:10** "You are God's work of art created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he has meant us to live". During these two weeks the children will be looking at the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and will explore the following:

- Gifts
- Talents
- The Rights of the Child
- Responsibilities
- Freedom

The celebration of citizenship will culminate in a **Mass on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 9:30**; parents are warmly invited to attend. We will also have our annual charity bazaar on the afternoon of **Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January** and would appreciate your kind donations - class teachers will give you more



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



information about this. Please ensure your child has money to spend for the charity bazaar. Money raised from the bazaar will benefit our two school charities, **Ihogbe College** and **Royal Initiative Against Poverty and Starvation (RIAPS)**.

### Class Assembly

There will be a class assembly for **2J** on **Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019** at 9:05 am; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

### 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.

### 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

