



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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13th January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Matthew 3: 13-17

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Jesus' baptism is essential and a step of righteousness is confirmed by the divine voice. God's approval is unequivocal. Jesus is reaffirmed as God's child as he begins his journey to the cross. Moreover, God's love for Jesus is reaffirmed as well. Though Jesus' life will be characterized by temptation and suffering, God's love is no less real. He and John together have acted in obedience to God at this moment, and now Jesus will certainly not turn away from the straight path laid before him.

Citizenship Weeks

During the week beginning the 13th January and the week beginning the 20th January we will be celebrating our annual Citizenship Weeks. This year's theme is **Change Starts With Us** - 'A small change can make a big difference'. During these two weeks we will challenge both ourselves and the children to embrace the Gospel Values by making a small change which can make a great difference. Our focus will be on the following three scriptures:

Matthew 25:34-40

What you do for the least among you, you do for Jesus

Luke 4:16-21

Jesus proclaims his mission to bring good news to the poor

Luke 6:20-23

Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

We will also reinforce to the children that the British Values (Rule of Law, Democracy, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance) are the same as the Gospel Values that we try to live by every day.



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



These weeks will culminate in a **Mass celebration on Friday, 24th January 2020 at 9:30 at St Francis' Church led by year 3**; all parents are warmly invited to attend. **We will also have a charity bazaar on the afternoon of 24th January 2020 where children will be asked to make donations of items that can be sold for charity.** The children will need money on that day to purchase items for charity; class teachers will give you more information about this.

Parent Workshop

In response to your feedback on the parental questionnaire, we would like to invite you to a workshop on **teaching vocabulary and home school reading**. Both of these are highly important to your children's education and so we would like to liaise with you so that you know how to best support your child at home. The parental workshop will be on **Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 9:00 am** and it would be great if you could join us.

Our Neighborhood

We had a very disturbing phone call from a local resident on our last day of term in December. The resident called to express her frustration at the way that some parents behave in their cars while dropping off and picking up their children. In particular, this resident was concerned about the lack of consideration that is shown by some of our parents and the honking of car horns early in the morning. I was very disappointed, but not surprised to hear this. I have witnessed on several occasions parents behaving in a selfish and appalling manner at the Maryland Park Entrance to the school. This kind of behavior does not set a good example for our children and does not put the school in a good light with members of the public.

I am asking that parents show more consideration, respect for themselves and others while dropping off and picking up children. If this matter does not improve, will need to look at all the options available to the school to provide a safer and more pleasant environment for the children of St Francis' as well as the local residents.

Class Assembly

There will be a class assembly for **2K on Friday, 17th January 2020** at 9:05 am; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

There will be a class assembly for **5R on Friday, 31st January 2020** at 9:05 am; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

N. Scott
Head Teacher

