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1st October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Gospel Reading Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Whoever Is Not Against Us Is for Us

³⁸ "Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us."

³⁹ "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

Causing to Stumble

⁴² "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out.

⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.

⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where "the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched."^[a]

We know that the passage above must not be taken literally; no one would be expected to cut off their hands or pluck out their eyes. Instead it refers to precious parts of our personality - to aspects of one's full humanness - which may from time to time cause us to stumble, which may, that is bring one's ruin as a follower of Jesus. The immediate meaning seems to be that John and the others had better watch out in case their desire for honour when Jesus becomes king prevents them in fact from being his disciples at all. Anything that gets in the way must go.

Black History Celebrations

We will begin our Black History Weeks celebration from Monday, 8th October 2018 to Friday, 19th October. This year we will be looking great African civilizations including Mali, Egypt and Benin. We will have a variety of activities for the children including assemblies, focused art work and day of traditional African singing with the Voices Foundation. **We have a special workshop for parents to look at *How Black ethnic identity raises educational achievement for Black students* on Wednesday, 10th October at 9:15 and 5:30 (a separate letter will follow about this).**



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



MacMillian Cancer Support Coffee Morning

Thank you to all those who supported the MacMillian Cancer well-being coffee morning on Friday; it was lovely to see so many parents attending.

Class and Individual Photos

The class and individual photo proofs were sent home with your child at the end of last week. We would encourage parents to place their orders online. If ordering via school please note that the school is not able to give change so the correct money must be placed in the clear envelop provided and the envelope must be sealed. **All orders must be placed by 4th October.**

Feast of St Francis

On Thursday 4th October we will be celebrating the feast day for our patron saint, Francis. During this week will be looking closely at the life and work of St Francis and special places that he visit included Assisi and Gubbio; we will have a whole school Mass on **Thursday 4th October at 9:30 at St Francis Church** - parents are warmly invited to attend.

Assembly

There will be a class assembly for **6CK on Friday, 5th October 2018 at 9:05 am**; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

Curriculum Meetings

We have held most of our curriculum meetings; thank you to the parents who made an effort to attend. We still have our Nursery meeting in October (see information below). The Nursery meeting will provide information about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, what your child will be learning throughout the year, how you can help your child at home and applying for full time school for children currently in Nursery.

The meeting is as follows:

Thursday 4th October 2018 at 5:30 p.m. - Nursery

Unfortunately, crèche facilities are not available for this meeting.

Annual Consent Form

If you have not already done so please return your child's annual consent forms for the 2018-2019 school year; this allows your child to go on visits in the local area. Please sign this form and return it to school as soon as possible.

N. Scott
Head Teacher

