



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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16th December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is our last week in school for this term. **School closes on Friday, 20th December 2019 at 2:00 for the Christmas holidays; there will be no afterschool clubs or Tea Time Club on Friday.**

Monday 6th January is a teacher training day so the school will **reopen on Tuesday, 7th January 2020 as normal.**

I would like to thank all of our parents, carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles for their support this term. The children have given some amazing performances in the last week in their Christmas plays and Carol Concert. During this Advent season, we ask for God's blessing on each of us. Free us from any worry or distress that we may have and help us to welcome the light of Christ into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of hope. May this hope fill our hearts, our minds and our homes. May we joyfully and prayerfully prepare for the birth of the Christ Child, foretold by the message of an Angel. We give thanks that the message of an Angel to the servant heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, over 2,000 years ago, gives us all hope. May we seek to open our hearts to the will of God in the same way.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2020!

Afterschool Clubs

The last day for afterschool clubs this term will be Thursday, 19th December. The new after school clubs begin on Tuesday, 7th January 2020.

End of Term Mass

We will have an end of term **Mass on Friday, 20th December at 9:30** in St Francis Church; parents/carers are warmly welcome.

Carol Singing at Maryland Station

The choir will be singing carols at Maryland Station on **Thursday 19th December, 4:45pm - 6pm**. All children who are performing are expected to attend in full school uniform; all very welcome to come and support, in the ticket hall at Maryland Station.



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



Christmas Raffle

The unclaimed prizes from the Christmas raffle that took place on Friday, 13th December during the Carol Concert can be claimed at the school office. We raised a total of **£648.25** from the raffle.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday, 19th 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. **We're asking pupils to make a £1 donation.** The money they raise will go to one of our chosen charities - *the Donkey Library in Ethiopia*. The donkey library has a mission of helping children in Ethiopia to read for pleasure at school and at home. In 2015, UK Literacy Association's Project Connect, supported a donkey library project based in Bishoftu, near Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia. The funds will enable Link Ethiopia to add to the library's stock, providing books in Amharic for children to borrow and enjoy.

Advent Appeal

You should have received a recent letter about our Advent appeal this year; at St Francis' School we believe that small changes make a big difference. As a result, we are asking each child to make a small change by donating one of the items stated in the letter to the school for the NEWway Homeless Project.

This charity opened its doors to the homeless people in Newham seven years ago. Alongside running a winter night shelter, serving hot dinner and breakfast, they offer day services where their guests can have their basic needs met: have a shower, wash their clothes and take fresh clothing. Our parish church - St Francis, currently operates one of the winter night shelters.

From Monday 2nd December each class will have a large box set up that we would like to fill with donations by **Wednesday, 18th December**.

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, 18th December 2019 at 9:15 am - EYFS nativity performance

Thursday, 19th December 2019 - Christmas class party celebrations/Christmas Jumper Day

Friday, 20th December 2019 9:30 -End of term Mass at St Francis Church

St Francis' School Fund

There is a payment item on ParentPay in regards to a voluntary donation to the school for activities/resources to enhance the curriculum such as resources for our focus days, concerts and other events. **The suggested fund contribution is to £40 for the year per family.** This will allow us to provide extra activities for your children to make the curriculum more hands on and practical through workshops, educational visits and special visitors/workshops in the school.

N. Scott
Head Teacher



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

