



St Francis' Catholic Primary School  
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20<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **John 1:29-34**

#### **John Testifies About Jesus**

*29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."*

*32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. 33 And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."*

What a blessing it is if we take this announcement as a reminder that we too are called to be like John the Baptist to other people. Pope Francis often warns of the dangers of being "self-referential", of putting ourselves at the centre of everything, the centre of our own thoughts, desire and hopes. John the Baptist stands before us as an inspiring example. Filled with love for Jesus, he is always ready to deflect attention from himself in order to direct it towards Jesus.

### **Childcare Payments**

If you are going through Student Finance to pay for your childcare please contact the School Office for the school's registration number.

### **Parent Workshop**

The information for the parent workshop that was held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 regarding vocabulary teaching and the use of Bug Club is available on the school website <https://st-francis.newham.sch.uk/learning/>.

### **Citizenship Weeks**

During the week beginning the 13<sup>th</sup> January and the week beginning the 20<sup>th</sup> 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:



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Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



### **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.

These weeks will culminate in a **Mass celebration on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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 **5R on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020** at 9:05 am; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

N. Scott  
Head Teacher



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