



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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14th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

The children had a great first full week back. We are looking forward to the week ahead when we will have some unseasonably warm weather that will allow the children to spend more time learning outdoors.

Information about Covid Systems within School

I understand that there is information being circulated on social media and possibly by email about schools testing children for Covid-19 and putting them in isolation rooms. **I would like to clarify that this information is inaccurate.** As a school we do not test children for Covid-19, we have been provided with a small number of tests that we can distribute to individuals in the exceptional circumstance that we believe an individual may have barriers to accessing testing elsewhere. These are not tests that we would administer to children. In St Francis' we have an isolation room which is a room within the school that is used if a child begins to display Covid symptoms while at school; a trained first aider would escort the child into this empty room and wait with the child while their parents are called, there would be no medical interventions during this process. This system is in place to ensure that if a child is symptomatic they can be safely kept away from other children with an adult in a self-contained room while their parents are contacted.

Recovery/Catch-up Curriculum

We have recently assessed the children in years 2-6 based on the previous year's curriculum in order to ascertain the topics that the children are confident with and the ones that they need more support with. The children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 have been assessed by the teachers through on-going observations and group work. The class teachers will now look carefully at this information in order to plan their lessons and homework activities. Children who appear to be struggling will be targeted for additional support in the afternoon sessions. We do not want any children to be worried or anxious because they feel like they have fallen behind, we are here to support all the children. Please contact your child's class teacher if your child feels anxious about the classwork.

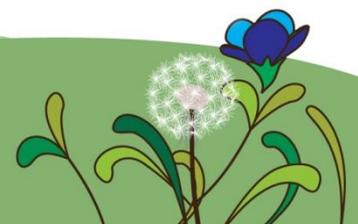
Bow Street Road Closure

Newham Council has introduced a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) scheme in the area surrounding the school. As part of the LTN scheme, the Council has placed access restrictions for motorised vehicles on certain roads near the school. Therefore, if you choose to drive your child or children to school you may need to take a different route than usual. However, you will still be able to drop-off and pick-up outside the school as normal.

Newham is one the worst boroughs for asthma sufferers and the Council is committed to improving air



Newham London



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

quality in the borough, particularly for children. The LTN scheme aims to also reduce traffic in the area and make the roads safer, while also encouraging people to walk and cycle, and support with social distancing.

For more information on the Newham and Waltham Forest LTN visit:

<https://newhamwalthamforestltn.commonplace.is/>

If driving, to access Maryland Park, Maryland Square and Bow Street please enter and exit via Forest Lane.

I realize that this road closure is causing some challenges for parents and visitors, unfortunately we were not involved or consulted about this change. If you are concerned about this road closure, please contact your local councillor.

Annual Consent Form

Your child should have come home with his/her annual consent form for the 2020-2021 school year; this allows your child to go on visits in the local area. Please sign this form and return it by Monday, 7th September.

Data Sheet

Your child should have come home with a data checking sheet, please update this sheet with any changes to your personal information and return it to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. If all the information is correct please simply sign and return the sheet to your child's teacher by Monday, 7th September.

September 2020

We will welcome all children back but will keep an eye on the scientific advice so we can adjust to the latest guidance. We will have children working in phase bubbles as follows:

- Nursery and Reception (EYFS)
- Year 1 and Year 2 (Key Stage 1)
- Year 3 and Year 4 (Lower Key Stage 2)
- Year 5 and Year 6 (Upper Key Stage 2)

Below are some of the changes from 1st September 2020:

- **There will be a one-way system on the playground for dropping off and collecting children and we ask that all adults follow this system strictly. The Bow Street and Maryland Park entrances to the school will be open for entering and exiting as usual.**
- **Adhere to social distancing by the classroom doors and do not go past the yellow lines that will be in place.**
- **Only 1 parent/adult from each household is allowed to drop off and collect children; please do not arrive with friends or other family members to drop off or collect your children**
- **Only 2 adults allowed into the school office at any point. Please email the school in the first instance or call if you have a query.**
- **Children will not be allowed school bags only a packed lunch bag and a drawstring bag for their PE kit. No rucksacks will be allowed.**



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- We will have online resources for children to read at home instead of sending home reading books. Homework will also largely be through Google Classroom. We will update you with more information about this once the term starts.
- We will ask all children in years 1-6 to bring an empty pencil case to school that we will use to store their equipment to ensure that children are not sharing equipment. The pencil case will remain in school each day.
- All children will need to have a water bottle as the water fountains will not be available to drink from.

Travelling to School

The latest advice from TfL is where possible please walk, cycle or scooter to school to help free up more space on public transport for others. As you know we have a bike shack and allocated spaces in the school to store bikes and scooters for the children. More travel advice information can be found at: <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/schools-and-young-people/travel-guidance-for-schools?cid=reopeningeducation>

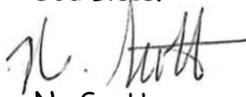
Newham Test & Trace Mobile App

Those of you that are Newham residents will know that Newham has been asked to trail The new Covid-19 NHS Test & Trace mobile phone app. The app has been developed by leading NHS medical experts working alongside Google and Apple. As you know Newham has experienced some of the most significant effects of coronavirus because of the health inequalities and vulnerabilities in the borough. That's why it's important that you download the app and help test it.

You should have received letters, emails, or texts, with a unique quick response (QR) code to allow you to easily install the app on your SMART phone. Please don't ignore them. The more people that use the app the better we will be able to stop the spread of this virus.

We ask that only children/parents displaying symptoms of coronavirus DO NOT enter the school premises. If you or your child have symptoms of coronavirus we will ask that you arrange for a test and share a negative result with us before your child returns to school.

God Bless.



N. Scott
Head Teacher



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