



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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12th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. ⁴ "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶ The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸ "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹ So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' ¹⁰ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless. ¹³ "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ "For many are invited, but few are chosen.

The parable of the wedding in today's gospel was spoken when Jesus saw that his own people were moving to reject him. The story is symbolic. But the invitation to us is a real one. It is an invitation to aim at the good life. The invitation to the kingdom of heaven is cast wide, yet we are free to say yes or no. No matter how low a standing I seem to have in life, I am welcome. I ask God to help me to respond as best I can to this real invitation.

Half Term Break

The October half term break will be from Monday, 26th October to Friday, 30th October. School will re-open as normal on Monday, 2nd November.

After School Clubs for After Half Term

The new after school clubs for after half term will be available on Parent Pay until Thursday, 22nd October. The new clubs begin on Monday, 2nd November.



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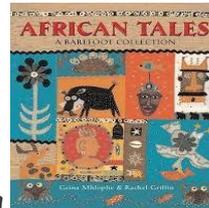
Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

Black History Celebration

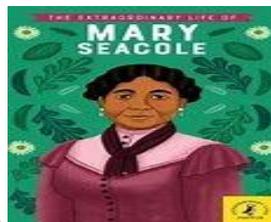
We began our annual black history celebration on Monday, 28th September. The theme this year is Journeys:

- ✚ Journeys of progress
- ✚ Journeys of migration
- ✚ Journeys of endurance

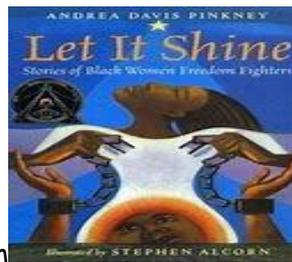
Each year group will focus on a different journey:



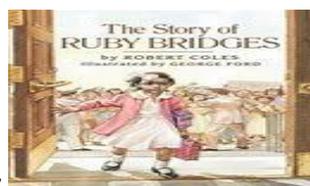
Nursery, Reception and Year 1 - The Journey of Story Telling



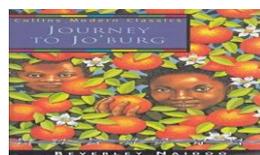
Year 2 - The journey of Mary Seacole



Year 3 - The Journey to Freedom



Year 4 - The Journey to Equality



Year 5 - The Journey of Nelson Mandela



Year 6 - The Journey to Britain



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Due to the current situation we are not able to have an assembly to share what the children have learned with parents/carers this year, however the children will be making recordings of their learning that we hope to share on the school's website.

Catholic of Certificate Practice for Secondary School Applications

Parishioners of St Francis Church who need their catholic of certificate practice signed by the priests should call the parish office (020 8534 1964) to make an appointment. We are aware that due to the current situation Mass attendance has not been the same for many people and the priests will be taking that into consideration. **If you are not able to get your form signed please do still complete an application to the Catholic secondary schools.**

Parking Complaint

A complaint was sent to the Mayor of Newham recently that expressed concerns about (amongst another things) the parking practices of parents at dropping off and collection time. I do realize that we are in incredibly difficult times and the new low traffic neighbour road closure is causing some difficulties in delays and congestion around the school. As I have said in previous letters, if you are concerned about this please contact your local councillor. The school was not involved in the consultation around this and does not have the authority to make any changes to this.

We realize that many of our parents/carers are in a hurry to get to work, school, etc after dropping off their child (we also realize that many of our parents are key/critical workers). We know that these are incredibly challenging times and for many public transport is not an option. However, as parents you represent the school in your behaviours in and around the school. Therefore it is important that all parents are following the rules of the Highway Code and are remembering to be considerate in their parking and driving habits; this includes parking in the Maryland Square/Thorogood Gardens entrance, and blocking in other cars and making it difficult for cars to turn round.

We encourage parents to walk or cycle to school if possible. We will begin cycle proficiency training with some children in KS2 after half term and we are also investigating cycle schemes that the school may benefit from.

We want to make this work so that parents are able to bring their children to school without barriers and for our neighbours to not be inconvenienced by our behaviours. I am happy to discuss this further with parents, please let me know if you have any ideas to improve this situation.

Recovery/Catch-up Curriculum

You will be getting a recommended reading lists of books this week for your child depending on the year group they are in. A copy of this list will also be available on the school's website <https://st-francis.newham.sch.uk/learning/>

Coronavirus Update

We heard from the prime minister that we are at a "turning point" across the United Kingdom in our



journey to stop the spread of coronavirus. We all have a role to play in this effort and it means we need to work together for the collective good of the entire community.

Thank you to the parents who are supporting our efforts to ensure that our school remains Covid secure. However, we ask that parents remember the following:

- ✓ When on the school premises please maintain a 2meter distance from other parents, children and staff. Do not go past the yellow lines at the classroom doors unless instructed by a member of staff.
- ✓ Follow the one-way system on the playground for dropping off and collecting children.
- ✓ Parents need to drop off and collect their children promptly. **Please do not stay in the playground to talk to other parents, any conversations need to happen away from the school premises.**
- ✓ There should be one parent dropping off and picking up
- ✓ If your child has a symptom of Coronavirus please keep them at home:
 - you have a high temperature
 - you have a new, continuous cough
 - you've lost your sense of smell or taste or it's changed

If a child has symptoms of coronavirus they should get a test. If this is not possible, then self-isolate for 10 days. If your child is not in school, please call the school to let us know why they are not in school so we can track absences and follow up as appropriate. **If your child is off with coronavirus symptoms we need to know for the safety of the entire school community.**

We will be reviewing our current systems and will make changes as necessary to ensure that the children, staff and parents on site remain safe. **As a result, from after half term we will run our after school sports clubs in bubbles only; this will mean that we will run less clubs than normal. We will be sending out the club offer letter next Monday so parents have enough time to make child care arrangements if their child does not get into a club.**

Party bags

Due to the current situation, we are temporarily unable to accept party bags for children's birthday. I know this will be disappointing, but I hope you understand the need to avoid having too many items from home coming into school.

Twitter

St Francis' is now on Twitter! Our Twitter handle is **@CatholicFrancis**. Our tweets can also be accessed on the home page of the school's website site.

God Bless.


N. Scott
Head Teacher



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