



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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Dear Parent/Carer,

Matthew 21:28-32

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹ "'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

³¹ "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

As Christians we have said "yes" to God, and so we are reminded in this parable that we need to come through on our commitment. We need to make sure we are working in the vineyard, doing God's will; using our gifts and doing all that God tells us to do.

Coronavirus Update

Last week 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**



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



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.

Recovery/Catch-up Curriculum

We are working hard to support children in school to catch-up on the learning they missed during lock down. We ask parents to support their child's learning by doing daily reading at home. We are working on an online programme for reading, however until then please encourage your child to read the books you have at home or go the local library to borrow books; we will be providing a recommended reading list shortly.

In addition, complete a daily Maths activity such as Times Tables Rock Stars (TT Rock Stars). They are other useful websites to support parents on the learning section of the school's website (Maths Learning at Home) <https://st-francis.newham.sch.uk/learning/>

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.

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 isolations 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.

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 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.

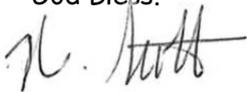
For more information on the Newham and Waltham Forest LTN visit:

<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.

God Bless.



N. Scott
Head Teacher



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