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Dear Parent/Carer,

Matthew 25:1-13

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

25 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

⁹ "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

Readiness, being alert, a sense of expectancy and hope, these are all things that Jesus tries to communicate through some of his parables. The foolishness of the five was not only that they forgot to bring extra oil, but because they assumed the exact time that the groom was going to come. Let's ask ourselves: Who am I in the parable? Am I willing to wait on God even when I don't know how long it will take? Let's speak to Jesus in prayer about these things.

Google Classroom

This academic year we have moved our homework on to Google Classroom; with the prevalence of technology it was inevitable that homework would eventually take to an online platform (this is very common in secondary schools), however the pandemic brought that change forward. Thank you and well done to all the parents who have made this move successfully and ensure that their child is completing homework each week.

However, we are disappointed to see that the number of children completing homework has fallen considerably across the school (in some classes only 50% of children are completing and turning in their weekly homework). In addition, the standard of the homework that is being completed has fallen dramatically. This is concerning as it indicates that some parents may no longer be participating in their



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Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

child's learning through completing homework and some parents may not be checking that their child has completed their homework to a reasonable standard before they submit it. **The children who regularly complete homework with effort and pride are the children who do well in school.** Homework is an important part of the children's learning for many reasons:

1. It improves your child's thinking and memory
2. It helps your child develop positive study skills and habits that will serve him or her well throughout life
3. Homework encourages your child to use time wisely
4. It teaches your child to work independently
5. Homework teaches your child to take responsibility for his or her work
6. It allows your child to review and practice what has been covered in class
7. Homework helps your child learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and computer Web sites to find information
8. It allows your child to extend learning by applying skills to new situations
9. Homework helps parents learn more about what your child is learning in school
10. It allows parents to communicate about what he or she is learning

As a parent, I know we have competing priorities and often feel pulled in different directions with our commitments, however the investment in your child's learning is an important one. We are asking that parents complete the weekly homework set on Google Classroom, if you are unsure about something in the homework, send the teacher a private message to clarify. Once your child has completed their homework please review it before your child turns it in to ensure that it is of a good standard. If you have any concerns about Google Classroom please do not hesitate to let us know. The Online Safety Workshop this week (see information below) will provide an opportunity for parents to learn more about the expectations of Google Classroom. There is also a step by step video on using Google Classroom on the school's website <https://st-francis.newham.sch.uk/learning/>

Online Safety Virtual Workshop

We realize that more and more children are spending an increased amount of time online due to the current restrictions and the need to complete educational activities. However, there is also an increase in children being targeted online and parents need to be more vigilant than ever to keep their children safe. As a result we are holding a virtual online safety meeting for all parents as follows:

Tuesday, 10th November at 10:00 am

Thursday, 10th November at 10:00 am

The Zoom link, guide and protocol for Zoom meetings has been emailed to parents for this workshop. We are looking forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Parent's Conference Meetings Years 1-6 - Wednesday, 11th and Thursday 12th November

Due to the current restrictions, this week we hold parent's conference meetings for years 1-6 via telephone. A letter was recently sent out about this. If you have not already booked an appointment please speak to your child's class teacher. Please ensure that you indicate the telephone number that



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you would like your child's teacher to call you on - there is a space for you to put in your telephone number on the parent's evening form.

If you do not live with your child and did not get a letter but would like a parent's evening appointment please email the school at info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk with a request for an appointment.

Coronavirus Update

We heard from the Prime Minister on Saturday, 31st October that we will be entering another lockdown from Thursday, 2nd November. While this will be worrying and cause additional stress for many of us, it's important that we all do our part to fight this virus. As the Prime Minister said, schools will remain open and we will of course update our procedures in order to reflect any new government guidance that is given.

However, we ask that parents remember the following:

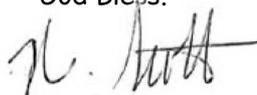
- ✓ When on the school premises please maintain a 2meter distance from other parents, children and staff. Do not go past the yellow lines at the classroom doors unless instructed by a member of staff.
- ✓ Follow the one-way system on the playground for dropping off and collecting children.
- ✓ Parents 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.**

Black History Celebration

The children enjoyed a fantastic Black History month celebration. They created some impressive poems, songs and drama that we will be sharing with parents/carers shortly.

God Bless.



N. Scott
Head Teacher



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