



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
Maryland Park
Stratford
London E15 1HB

Tel: 020 8534 0476

Fax: 020 8555 3068

Email: info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk

16th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' 23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

28 "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

All who would follow Jesus are to preach the good news of the kingdom to the whole world by going about the work that the master has called them to do. This work includes visiting the sick, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, and feeding the hungry. Those who are found faithful may hear their Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



Anti-Bullying Week

This week (16th - 20th November) we will celebrate Anti-bullying Week at St Francis'. Current research shows that since lockdown there has been an increase in incidents of bullying, especially online bullying; so we need to be more vigilant than ever. The theme this year is '**United Against Bullying**'. This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge. Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channeling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. We all have a part to play in coming together to make a difference. We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying

The children in KS2 (Years 3-6) will also have lessons about the Black Lives Matter protests that took place earlier this year and how we can be united against racism.

Read Write Inc (RWI) phonics workshop for Reception parents

There will be virtual workshops for parents with children in Reception to learn more about Read Write Inc., this school's phonics programme. You will be given practical ideas about how you can support your child's phonetic development at home which supports their early reading.

Tuesday, 24th November at 10:00 am

Thursday, 26th November at 10:00 am

The Zoom link, has been emailed to **Reception** 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

Thank you to all the parents who made themselves available for their parent's conference phone call last week Wednesday (11th November) and Thursday (12th November). If you missed your call please contact your child's class teacher to arrange a new day and time.

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 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

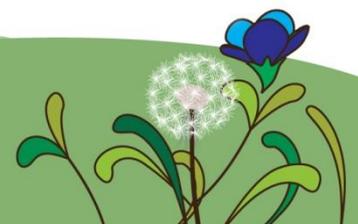
As a parent, I know we have competing priorities and often feel pulled in different directions with our commitments, however the investment in your child's learning is an important one. We are asking that parents complete the weekly homework set on Google Classroom, if you are unsure about something 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/>

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.**

God Bless



N. Scott
Head Teacher



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

