



**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](mailto:info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk)

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Matthew 5:1-12**

#### **Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount**

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

What the world sees as tragic or empty, Jesus sees as blessed: humility, mourning, gentleness, peacefulness and other virtues. Jesus lived by these qualities himself and we can notice them in his words and actions during his life with us on Earth. He could encourage us to live in the spirit of the Beatitudes because he himself lived them and knew that a life of integrity and honesty is indeed a blessed life. He lived what he said - that all of life is blessed, even the experiences we might never ask for. All those who live according to his way of life are - and will be - richly blessed.



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



## Coronavirus Update

During the half term break, we found out that the year 2 pupils had contact with an individual who later tested positive; as a result the year 2 children and some staff are currently self-isolating until Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November.

This news will cause an increased level of anxiety as we had been fortunate to have had no confirmed cases leading up to the half term break, unlike many of our primary colleagues. However, I would like to assure you that swift action was taken to deal with the situation and notify the affected pupils, parents and staff even though it was a school holiday. All government guidance has been followed and we have taken extra precautionary steps to try to ensure the safety of our families and staff. We recognize that there are vulnerable adults amongst us in the staff; in addition some children and parents will either be vulnerable themselves or have members of their families who are vulnerable. The health and safety of all the children, parents and staff is of paramount importance.

It is important that as a school we follow government guidance as they are the experts that have access to data and science that we do not have within the school; that is what we did. I realize that some may disagree with the guidance however we have to be guided by the information we are given and we are not in a position to alter that guidance based on our own interpretations.

We heard on from the Prime Minister on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> October that we will be entering another lockdown from Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

There is a back to Back to School booklet available with information in various languages at

[www.newham.gov.uk/backtoschool](http://www.newham.gov.uk/backtoschool)



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### After School Clubs

The new after school clubs (not including Chess) begin today Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

### 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.

### Parent's Conference Meetings Years 1-6

You will receive a letter about parent's conference meetings for children in years 1-6. The meetings will be held on **Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November**, however due to the current circumstances **the meetings will be via telephone with the class teacher instead of being in person**. Please ensure that you indicate the telephone number that 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 letter.

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](mailto:info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk) with a request for an appointment.

### 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, 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10:00 am**

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10:00 am**

This meeting will be a virtual meeting, there will be a letter sent out to parents about this shortly. Please complete the survey below to let us know your thoughts about online safety.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1czDiW0H6l1f\\_c5Mr9I9bJq1U-XBO4iLJ81XF6vQlBgo/edit?ts=5fa0045b](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1czDiW0H6l1f_c5Mr9I9bJq1U-XBO4iLJ81XF6vQlBgo/edit?ts=5fa0045b)

### 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.

God Bless.



N. Scott  
Head Teacher

