



**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)

1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Mark 13:33-37**

<sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

<sup>35</sup> "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back— whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

The attention Jesus encourages us to have is not a passive approach to life in the sense of "wait and see what happens." The Lord invites us to be vigilant. It is not enough to just pay attention to Christ. We are invited to look at all things together with Christ. He wants our hearts and minds to be transformed in him and his words. He wants us to be willing to work with Him in His saving work in us and in the world. Those who are always willing to work with Him will not be disappointed. During this season of Advent as we prepare for the birth of Christ we must be on alert so we did not miss all the blessings that surround us, even in these difficult times.

### **School Bags**

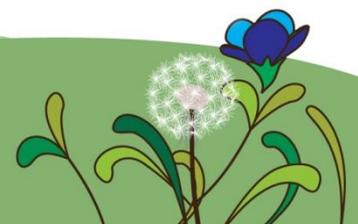
We realize that the children have found it very difficult not taking home reading books. The school has invested in lots of books to develop children's reading independence and to develop their love of reading, so it's really important that we are able to share these books with the children. As a result, from Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020, we will return to having school bags in school. The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are encouraged to have the St Francis' school bag; children in years 3-6 may bring rucksacks; however bags will be used only for reading books and essential letters/notices at this point. Due to the current circumstances, we need to try to mitigate any risks associated with bringing in items from home; therefore the following procedures will be in place:

- In Reception, Years 1 and 2 children will receive two books; a book that is at their reading level that they can read to their parents and a book for pleasure that parents can read to them.
- In Years 3-6 most of the children are free readers so will choose a book that they would like to read.

We will not be sending home reading records at this point for parents to sign and return when they have



Newham London



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

read with their children. **Reading books will be handed out/changed on Mondays only and need to be returned on Thursdays only. Books will not be dealt with outside of these times.**

### **Christmas Cards**

Unfortunately, we are not able to allow the exchange of Christmas cards this academic year due to the current circumstances. Never the less, Santa will visit the children this year with a Christmas surprise. I realize that some parents may want to exchange gifts with other children or thank the teachers with a token Christmas gift. The staff do not expect gifts and would be perfectly happy with just a kind word that acknowledges their effort particularly at this difficult time.

### **Christmas Lunch**

This year the children will be having their Christmas lunch on **Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December**. The children will eat Christmas lunch with their teachers in their bubbles. It will be a festive event and we would encourage all children to have a school dinner that day.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Christmas Jumper Day On Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December the Mini Vinnies (Mini Vincent de Paul Society) are inviting all pupils to take part in St Francis' Catholic Primary School Christmas Jumper Day. We're asking pupils to make a £1 donation.

### **Year 1 and Year 2 self-isolating**

As you are aware from the letter that was sent recently, the children in years 1 and 2 are currently self-isolating due to a positive case in year 2. Unfortunately, year 2 have had to isolate previously (though the two cases are not related) and have another disruption to their learning. I know many parents will find this news disturbing; we have had only these two confirmed cases in the school and we are aware of the need to be vigilant in all that we do. The school's risk assessment continues to be reviewed regularly to ensure that children, staff and parents are safe and risks are being mitigated as much as possible during this very challenging time.

We hope that all our year 2 pupils, staff and families will remain safe and we look forward to their return on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### **Coronavirus Update**

We heard from the Prime Minister on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> October that we will be entering another lockdown from Thursday, 5<sup>th</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. **While you are waiting for the results of your test your child needs to self-isolate.** 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

