



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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7th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mark 13:33-37

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,^[a] the Son of God,^[b] ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"^[c]—

³ "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"^[d]

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with^[e] water, but he will baptize you with^[f] the Holy Spirit."

This is the second Sunday of Advent; John the Baptist preaches forgiveness. This is one of the special gifts of God, and one of the big celebrations of Advent. We are a forgiven people, and we welcome the forgiveness of God. We are firstly grateful for forgiveness - that we do not have to carry forever the burden of our sin, meanness, faults and failings. God covers them over in mercy.

New After School Club

The new after school clubs for the first half of the Spring term are available to book on ParentPay until Thursday, 17th December. **The last day for the current after school clubs is Thursday, 17th December.**

Christmas Break

The school will close at 2:00 pm on Friday, 18th December for the Christmas holidays. The Spring term starts on Tuesday, 5th January 2021 for all pupils.



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



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, 5th 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 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, 15th 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 on that day.

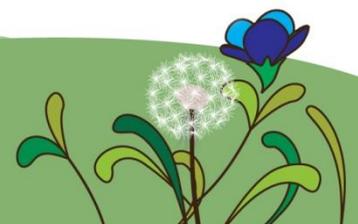
Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday, 17th 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.

Coronavirus Update

Lockdown has ended and we have returned to a system of 3 tiers; London is currently in tier 2 so we need to all be mindful of the restrictions within that tier. We need to continue to be vigilant to ensure that we all remain safe. Please continue to support the school rules and expectations to keep us all safe:

- ✓ When on the school premises please maintain a 2 meter 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

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