

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Mark 12:28-34**

#### **The Greatest Commandment**

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

<sup>29</sup> "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' <sup>32</sup> There is no commandment greater than these."

<sup>32</sup> "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. <sup>33</sup> To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

<sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

As we struggle with so many commitments and responsibilities, we too ask the same question as the scribe, 'Which of the commandments is the first of all?' What should be first in my list of priorities, what is my most important duty? Jesus' reply is simple, no wonder they did not dare ask him any further; let his reply echo in your heart, asking for the grace to understand what it means to put love as our highest priority.

#### **Scooters and Bikes on the Playground**

We are pleased with how many children are developing their physical skills and keeping active by riding their bikes or scooters to school. However, we have recently had accidents where children were injured on the playground due to bikes and scooters. **Please be reminded that no one (parents and children) is allowed on their bikes and scooters on the playground, this is dangerous.** Children and parents should get off their bikes and scooters when they enter the school gates and should not get back on their bikes and scooters until they have left the school gates.

#### **Parents' Conference Meetings**

The letters regarding parents' conference meetings for years 1-6 were sent out recently. These meetings will be held after school on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November; the meetings for Nursery and Reception will be later this term. The meetings will be face to face in your child's classroom. This will be an opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher about how they have settled back into school and discuss how you can support your child at home. There will be an opportunity for you to look at your



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child's books and see the work they have completed so far this year. **However, all parents will be required to wear a mask and sanitize their hands upon entry into the building.**

### Class Assembly

We are pleased to be able to restart class assemblies again! Our first class assembly will be on **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November at 9:05 am for class 6G**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend.

### Mini Choir Performance (KS2)

The choir have been working very hard and would like to perform to their parents! They will be performing on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November, at 4:15pm**. The concert will last 15 minutes, so the children will be dismissed at 4:30pm as usual.

We need to control the number of people in the building at the moment, so please indicate below if you would like to attend the concert. Only one adult to attend for each child, please.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1WmxIxQTguORvyB8zZbyuY22MgUK7RqJgGacERLI4bFY/edit>

### Anti-bullying Week

St Francis' will be celebrating Anti-bullying week from Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> November to Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> November. This year's Anti-bullying theme is **Kindness**. Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons, that 'One Kind Word' has been chosen as the theme of Anti-Bullying Week. The children will take part in variety activities across the week to explore the theme of kindness and to think about how they can ensure that they are being kind to others; the children will also be taught how to identify bullying and what to do if others are not treating them with kindness.

To launch the week we will be having an odd socks day on **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> November** where we will ask the children to come to school wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes them unique.

### Black History Performance

Thank you to the parents who supported the Black History performances before half term in years 1-6. Your child's class dub track is available for you to listen to on Google Classroom.

### Squid Game

It has come to our attention that some of our children have been watching a Netflix programme called '*Squid Game*'. This is a currently a very popular programme, however has been rated appropriate for viewers **aged 15 and older** and has content warnings including sex, violence and suicide. These ratings are in place to support parents in deciding what may be appropriate for their children to watch. Our children's brains are still forming and soaking in information based on the things around them including the programs they watch. It is important that as a parent, you are aware of what your children are watching and the impact that it may have on their well-being. Equally, children are likely to share the content of what they watch with their peers at school which of course has an impact on children whose parents have not given the same permission. We would not expect primary school children to be viewing this content; most importantly we do not expect them to discuss it with other children in school.



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### PE uniform

There is an optional sweatshirt as a part of the PE uniform; this is particularly helpful in the colder months for PE and for children who represent the school at competitions. The sweatshirt can be purchased in store or from the Ian Howard website; it is available in sizes up to 13 years. Please call Ian Howard to inquire about larger sizes at 020 8472 1729.

### Groundswell Project

The local authority (Newham) is promoting a new project called Groundswell Project. Groundswell Project aims to train and give mothers the tool they need to ensure their children are safe both on and off line. They aim to help mothers feel informed and able to tackle harmful and dangerous content and influences if face with them. Please see attached information.

### RE Survey

We would like your feedback about the religious education provision at St Francis'; please use the link below to complete a short survey. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmECiTUKnQ-vrFFANegs3VxzS2U1JkGQQtADVhgLJmKFIZA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmECiTUKnQ-vrFFANegs3VxzS2U1JkGQQtADVhgLJmKFIZA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### St Francis' Fund

St Francis' School Fund is a voluntary donation to the school for activities/resources to enhance the curriculum such as resources for our focus days, concerts and other events. The fund contribution is to £40 for the year. There is a payment item for this on ParentPay.

God Bless.



N. Scott  
Head Teacher



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