



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

Tel: 020 8534 0476
Email: info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk
Website: www.st-francis.newham.sch.uk

6th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Luke 3: 1-6

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God's salvation."^[a]

Our own role is like that of John the Baptist. Like him, each one of us has a mission to communicate the Spirit of Christ and his message of hope, love, freedom and peace to others. To help people fill their valleys and make their rough paths smoother. A word of affirmation, encouragement and a simple smile can work wonders.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As I am sure you are aware, we are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. In honour of this, there are two bank holidays on the 2nd and 3rd June (during the school's half term break). As a result, schools have been asked to set aside an additional day in their school calendar for this additional bank holiday; **therefore on Monday, 6th June the school will be closed for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We will reopen on Tuesday, 7th June 2022.** Please see updated term dates for 2021-22.

In addition, we have had to change our last staff training day to Friday, 25th February 2022.

Christmas Jumper Day

We will be celebrating **Christmas Jumper day Monday, 20th December.** We ask that children come to school in their Christmas jumpers that day and donate a £1 via Parent Pay which will be donated Marian Missionary Sisters of the Poor. Please see attached information about this charity.



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

Peace, Love, Knowledge



Class Assembly – 4K

We will celebrate the work that 4K is doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 13th January 2022 at 9:05 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend.

Coronavirus Update

As you are aware there is a new variant of concerned called the Omicron variant. As a result, the Department for Education (DfE) guidance has changed and staff are required to wear a face covering in communal areas (but not in the classroom), visitors are also required to wear a face covering when in the school as well as pupils in year 7 and above.

As a school, we decide to return to wearing face coverings at the end of last week due to the rise in Covid cases in schools; we are reviewing our Covid measurements to ensure that we are keeping everyone as safe as possible. However, it is vital that you do not send your child to school if they have any Covid symptoms.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the above symptoms please schedule a PCR test.

Christmas Events

As we draw closer to the end of term there are a number of school events to celebrate Christmas, please make note of the dates and times below:

Wednesday 15th December 2021 at 9:15 - Reception nativity performance

Thursday, 16th December 2021 at 9:15 am - Year 2 Christmas performance

Thursday, 16th December 2021 - Christmas lunch (unfortunately parents are not able to attend)

Friday, 17th December 2021 at 1:45 pm - KS2 (Years 3-6) Carol Concert at **St Francis Church**

Monday, 20th December 2021 - Christmas class party celebrations

Due to the current situation we are only able to extend the invitation to the events above to one adult per child.

For the Christmas Carol concert we will ask parents to express a desire to attend, but we will have to limit the number of parents that can attend due to the current situation. However, we will live stream the event from the Church. Please click on the link below to express your desire to attend.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRwATK-gQZhr7Qm-wrV3R8ah6phMliG7V9ZC0GYqYHJaTXw/viewform?usp=sf_link



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Cycle Confident

The London Borough of Newham is committed to making cycling a safe, enjoyable and practical method of transport in the borough. Anybody who lives, works or studies in the borough is entitled to the following free services:

FREE Cycle Skills: Get tailored training at a level suited to your needs, or book a lesson for the family (with up to three participants)! Choose from Basic (off-road environment), Urban (quiet local roads) or Advanced (complex junctions and busy roads).

<https://www.cycleconfident.com/sponsors/newham/>

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 children are not allowed on their bikes and scooters on the playground, this is dangerous.** Children 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.

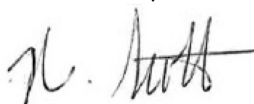
PE uniform

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.

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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