



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

20th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

End of term wishes

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, it has been a busy and challenging term. We leave for our Christmas break with increasing Covid cases and some uncertainty about the possible restrictions in the coming weeks. I will be watching government guidance over the break and will update you on the impact of any new restrictions to school life as soon as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank for your continued support and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a healthy 2022!

School Uniform

I know many parents often use the Christmas break to replenish their uniform stock as children can grow so quickly! Please note the school uniform expectations on the school's website

<https://st-francis.newham.sch.uk/parents-carers/school-uniform/>

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.**

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



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. Please ensure that your child remains at home while he or she is awaiting the results of their PCR test.

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.



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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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