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7<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy<sup>[a]</sup> are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

<sup>7</sup> As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup> Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Advent is a time of waiting. John the Baptist has been patiently waiting for the Messiah and sends messengers to ask Jesus if He is the One he has been waiting for. Jesus replies that the people should look at the signs of healing, raising from the dead and the bringing of the Good News. Do we see the signs of God's presence in the world today? Are we 'seeing' as Jesus told his disciples? This Advent may our eyes be open to the signs of God's presence in the world today.

### **Scarlet Fever and Streptococcus (Strep A)**

I am sure you have heard about the very worrying increase in scarlet fever and strep A recently. We continue to practice good hygiene with hand washing our catch it, bin it, kill it procedures. Below is some public health information.

#### **What is Scarlet Fever and Group A Streptococcus?**

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious.

Look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel.

On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but skin will have a sandpapery feel.



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Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

Scarlet fever should be treated with antibiotics, so if you see those symptoms Contact NHS 111 or your GP. Early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection.

If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours (1 whole day) after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called group A streptococci. These bacteria also cause other **respiratory and skin infections such as strep throat and impetigo.**

In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS). While still uncommon, there has been an increase in invasive Group A strep cases this year, particularly in children under 10.

The antibiotic used to treat scarlet fever is usually Pencillin V, sometimes Amoxicillin or Azithromycin for those with penicillin allergy. NICE treatment guidance is here:

<https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/scarlet-fever/management/management/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

#### **How do I prevent it?**

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

Here is a link with more information about preventing common infections in children

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/10/25/5-ways-to-protect-your-under-5s-this-winter/>

#### **How do I know if my child or a child in my care has the invasive version?**

As a parent, or carer if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable
- 

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing - you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes



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- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

### **Festive Uniform Day - Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

We will celebrate Christmas with our school Christmas lunch on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. As a part of this day we would like the children to accessorize their uniforms so they are more festive. This could include adding a Santa hat, elf hat, sparkly headband, tinsel, baubles, or by adding a Christmas jumper for the day. The children still need to wear their normal school uniform with these accessories. **We believe that even in these difficult times, it is important that we think of those who are less fortunate than ourselves; therefore, we are asking that the children donate a £1 on ParentPay for accessorizing their uniform on festive uniform day and all the money raised will go to a local charity.**

### **Give and Gain Event**

St Francis' works with many organizations to support the school and the community, including the Steve Browne Foundation. The foundation tries to give young people the support they need in order to shape their lives and that of their communities. As a part of this work they are hosting a Give and Gain Event at St Francis' on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December from 4:30 - 7:30. Families are able to purchase a ticket on Parent Pay for £10. This allows you access to the event were you able to pick up to five items that are new or nearly new. There will be a variety of items including adult and children's clothing and shoes, home furnishing, toys and household items.

### **Class Assembly - 5J**

We will celebrate the work that **5J** is doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023** at 9:05 am. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend.

### **Christmas Presents**

We will soon be entering the joyous season of Advent leading to Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Christmas is an opportunity for you to remember the joy that was experienced at Jesus' birth. This year will be a different Christmas for many of us because of all the current challenges of the cost of living crisis; more than ever it's a time for us to be grateful for all that we have.

As staff at St Francis', we are grateful for each day we get to spend with your child(ren) and grateful that we are able to be a part of their educational and spiritual journey. It is a wonderful gift to be able to work with the children at St Francis'. In light of this, we have decided as a staff team that is enough for us; **therefore, we ask this year that you do not buy us (staff) any gifts; any Christmas gifts that are sent into school for staff will be returned.** The greatest gift that you can give us is a kind word and encouragement. We are humbled that we get to do what we do. **If you want to show us your appreciation please encourage your child to make a card.**

This year the true meaning of Christmas will be even more important. We look forward to celebrating with you over the coming weeks.



### Parents' Conference Meetings

There is a parents' conference day for the children in Nursery and Reception on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022. This will provide an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher and/or your child's key worker. **These appointments are held as a part of the working day so there is no school for Nursery and Reception on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December.**

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 9:15 - Reception nativity performance

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 9:15 am - Year 2 Christmas performance

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - Christmas lunch (unfortunately parents are not able to attend)

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6:00 pm - KS2 (Years 3-6) Carol Concert at St Francis Church

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - Christmas class party celebrations

**The Autumn term ends on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2:00 pm for all pupils. There will be no after school clubs or tea time club on that day.**

### Parent Advice and Support

We are in difficult times and need to try to support each other as best as we can. The school website has an advice and support section with links to organizations that can provide legal advice, debt management advice and food banks.

<https://st-francis.newham.sch.uk/parents-carers/advice-and-support/>

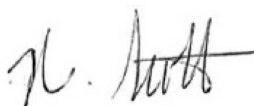
If you need further advice or support please go to the school office and request an appointment with the Head Teacher.

### Newham Libraries

There are ten libraries across Newham, each offering a range of services and community activities. As well as a fantastic selection of books and other reading material of course. **The libraries also provide free computer and internet access.**

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/libraries-arts-culture/newham-library-services>

God Bless,



N. Scott  
Head Teacher



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