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Dear Parent/Carer,

John 4:5-42

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" ¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." ¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." ¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." ²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him. ³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." ³³ Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" ³⁴ "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don't



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you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Many Samaritans Believe

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

When Jesus says, "If you knew...", he reveals his desire to draw us into knowing God as he does. His open and generous heart is the heart of God, inviting us all to rest where we are known and loved, to find enduring life and lasting refreshment.

Mothers' Day Mass

One of our aims this year as a school is to create more opportunities whereby we continue to develop, enhance and foster the links within our school and church community. We want our school presence to be more visible within our church. With this in mind, members of the Mini Vinnies and the Junior Leadership team will be leading the 10:15 am Mass on Sunday March 19th. As this is a small group, it is not a true representation of the entire school. We are therefore inviting pupils to join the celebration wearing their full school uniform, where they will lead in the singing and readings on that date. As it is also Mothers' Day, the children will be hosting tea and coffee after the Mass.

Stations of the Cross

The children of St Francis' have also been invited to lead the **Stations of the Cross Service** at St Francis of Assisi Church in Stratford. This will take place on Friday 24th March 2023 at 7:30 pm. During the service, the children will do the readings for each station, as we lead the singing on the evening. All parents and pupils are invited.

Parents Conference Meetings for years 1-6

We will be holding parents' conference meetings for years 1-6 on Wednesday 29th March and Thursday, 30th March afterschool. Please book via School Ping if you have not already done so. We would like to see all parents to discuss your child's progress so far and how you can support them further at home.

EYFS Parents' Conference Day

There will be a parent's conference day for children in Nursery and Reception on Monday, 27th March. This will be an opportunity to speak to your child's key worker about how they are developing and how you can support them at home. **There will be no school for children in Nursery and Reception on this day.**



Big Walk Wheels 2023

We are taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2023 the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 20-31 March. It's free and we would love everyone to be involved.

What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

Why we are taking part

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best way to bring down these pollution levels. Plus there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!

Useful resources

To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide to walking, cycling or scooting to school. It is packed with advice to help you have a hassle-free journey to school.

[Download your free family guide](https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide/) using this link: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide/>

For more information about the event go to www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk . Enjoy the challenge!

Assembly

We will celebrate the work that **6B** are doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 16th March 2023 at 9:05 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend.

We will celebrate the work that **2P** are doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 23rd 2023 at 9:05 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend.

School Uniform

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps pupils to feel pride in their school. It also helps prepare the children for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work.

There are a number of children who are not wearing the correct school uniform. It is important that all children are compliant with the uniform expectations. I would like to remind parents that the children should be wearing school shoes not trainers or boots; hair beads are also not permitted as a part of the school uniform.

The uniform policy is available on the website for further reference



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

We will be issuing reminder letters to children who are not wearing the correct uniform to remind parents and ask that you support the school by ensuring that your child wears the correct uniform each day.

Holy Week Assemblies

In order to focus our minds on the Passions of Christ the children will remind us of the very important moments including his death and resurrection in a series of assemblies as follows:

Monday, 27th March 2023 - Year 3 Holy Week assembly
Tuesday, 28th March 2023- Year 4 Holy Week assembly
Thursday, 30th March 2023 - Year 5 Holy Week assembly
Friday, 31st March 2023 - Year 6 Holy Week assembly

Parents are warmly invited to attend their child's assembly. The holy week assemblies begin at 9:05am.

Year 1 Easter Performance

In KS1, the year 1 children will also remind us of the sacrifices made for us during this special time in their KS1 Easter performance on **Wednesday, 29th March 2023 at 9:15 am.**

Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend.

UKHSA Advice

Please see the recent advice from the UK Health Security Agency:

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said: *It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.*

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

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



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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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