



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

Tel: 020 8534 0476

Fax: 020 8555 3068

Email: info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk

21st April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy Easter! We hope you had a peaceful and Holy Easter break. Welcome back to the summer term. The summer term is always a busy time so please do ensure that you are reading the newsletters and looking at the school's website so that you know what is happening in the school.

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then



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Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

I pray that we are able to recognise that Jesus is at our side, even when we are sure he is far away. We are not directly aware of his presence, because he is walking at our own pace, patiently waiting for us to open our heart to his words and to the words of the Bible.

NEU Strike

The National Education Union has announced two further strikes on Thursday, 27th April and Tuesday, 2nd May. St Francis' will be open as normal on those two days.

Science Day

The children at St Francis' love Science. The science curriculum aims to develop **natural curiosity** in each pupil, provide **opportunities for developing their scientific enquiry skills** and inculcate respect for living organisms and the physical environment around them. Therefore, on Friday, 28th April, the children will spend the day exploring 'Connectivity'. There are connections all around us, which makes it an excellent starting point for our celebration of this year's theme! Throughout the day, the children will have Science lessons and activities that explore the theme of 'Connectivity'.

In addition, at playtime and lunchtime every day starting on Monday, 24th April 2023, there will be a science gadget shop in which the children will be able to purchase a variety of scientific toys and gadgets. **These will range from £1.00 to £3.50. Please ensure that you send your child with money at some point during the week to so they are able to purchase a Science gadget.**

Use of Mobile Phones

Inappropriate use of mobile phones by children creates a never-ending list of issues both at home and at school. Many children write and post pictures about one another that are harmful and have long lasting consequences. Scientific research shows that the frontal lobes of our preteens' brains are not fully developed, which contributes to the impulsive and often inappropriate choices kids can make, related to social media.

In addition, it is not uncommon that many children go to bed with their phone next to their head, staying up all hours of the night, chatting and/or accessing the web. We have recently seen an increase in the number of issues that we are dealing with in relation to the inappropriate use social media on mobile phones.

So... what can you do about this?

- Check your child's phone regularly to see whom they are communicating with and whether or not the communication is appropriate
- Speak to your child about the responsible use of mobile phones
- Consider adding parental controls to your child's phone so you can monitor what they are doing

We are asking parents to take greater responsibility in regards to the child's use of mobile phones and other such devices.



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RE Newsletter

Please see attached this term's RE curriculum newsletter with the topics that will be taught in RE this term.

Assemblies

We will celebrate the work that **2A** are doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 27th April at 9:05 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend.

We will celebrate the work that **1K** are doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 4th May at 9:05 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend.

We will celebrate the work that **Reception O** are doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 25th May at 9:05 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend.

Bank Holidays

Please be aware that there is an additional bank holiday for the King's Coronation on **Monday, 8th May 2023**, therefore there will be no school on this day. This is in addition to the usual bank holiday on **Monday, 1st May 2023**.

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
<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.

As you replenish your child's school uniform over the next few months and in September please be aware of acceptable school shoe. Please be aware that boots are not acceptable school shoes. We allowed boots during the period of snow and ice, however children need to return to wearing their school shoes.



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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 a member of the senior leadership team.

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

