



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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2nd October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Matthew 21:28-32

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹ "I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

³¹ "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Jesus is really challenging us in this gospel. Many of us have said yes to God by our baptism and membership of the Church, but can we say that we always carry out what God is asking us to do? Do we think that because we are practising Catholics we are in a privileged position? Do we spend a lot of time praying in church but not doing much loving outside of it? Do we find ourselves speaking in a critical or condescending way of less devout Christians or of people who do not seem to be very moral by our standards?

Possibly, after some honest reflection, we may have to admit that we are not really in a position to sit in judgement of others. As Christmas approaches, let us be followers of the Lord in deeds as well as words.

Parent Governor Vacancy

There is one vacancy for a parent governor(s) to serve on the governing body of this school. We are very keen to encourage parents (or people with parental responsibility) of registered pupils/students to nominate themselves to fill these places by Monday, 9th October 2023. If you would like more information about the role please email the school at info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk

Educational Visits

This year we are aiming to develop our educational visits so that the children can see how the things they are learning inside the classroom connect with things outside in the world. We are very fortunate to be based in London that has a wealth of museums, theatres, historic sights and places of interest.

It is also very important to have the adequate supervision when learning outside of the school premises and for that reason we sometimes ask parents to support us by joining us.

This is not limited only to your child's class; you can also support other children on their educational visits. So if you are prepared to support St Francis' children across the school in this matter please let us know by completing the form below. If you indicate you are willing, we will be able to contact you with plenty of time to ask for your availability.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckzr9kZSsu9WH693dm5PyxULVxIJoSsofBCjSkJrNq3-dL_A/viewform?usp=sf_link

Black History Topic - Windrush

For our Black History topic this year, we are focusing on the 75th anniversary of the Windrush arriving at Tilbury Docks.

The study of the Black History topic will culminate in a performance for parents and carers for years 1-6. Please see the information below on the performance dates and times:

Thursday, 19th October 2023 at 2:30 pm -Years 1, 2 and 3

Friday, 20th October 2023 at 2:30 pm - Years 4, 5, 6

Feast of St Francis of Assisi

This week we will celebrate the Feast Day for our patron saint, Francis of Assisi. Francis was known for his love of nature and animals. There are many stories about Saint Francis and his preaching to animals. It is said that one day he was talking to some birds when they began to sing together. Then they flew into the sky and formed the sign of a cross.

There are many stories about St Francis and his love for animals. But there is also a famous account of St Francis and the leper:

One day while riding his horse on the plains below Assisi, he encountered a man with leprosy. A voice within Francis spoke out so loudly that he leapt off his mount and embraced the man.

This profound experience transformed his life, as Francis found himself freed from his prejudices against others. He could now be a brother to all people through his Christian faith.

Francis left his family and comfortable lifestyle to begin a new life of poverty. He wanted to follow what he considered to be God's call. Francis preached about returning to God and obedience to the Church. Slowly others started to join him, men who wanted to follow his life of sleeping in the open, begging for food and loving God. His followers came from all walks of life, from the country and towns, noble and common, from universities, the Church, and the merchant class.

We pray that God will teach us to be more like Francis.

We have our Mass to celebrate our patron saint, Francis of Assisi on Wednesday, 4th October at 9:30 am at St Francis Church.

Pantomime

The letters for this year's panto for years 1-6 were sent out recently. The children will make their annual trip to Stratford Theatre Royal to see this year's panto, Jack and the Beanstalk. The dates for the panto performances are listed below and more information can be found in the letter that is available on School Ping:

Wednesday 6th December at 2:00 p.m - Years 1, 2 and 3

Thursday 7th December at 2:00 p.m - Years 4, 5 and 6

Half Term Break

The school will be closed for half term from Monday, 23rd October to Friday, 27th October; school will re-open as normal on Monday, 30th October.

Curriculum Meetings

Over the next few weeks, we will be holding curriculum meetings for Nursery.

The Nursery meeting will provide information about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, what your child will be learning throughout the year, how you can help your child at home and applying for full time school for children currently in Nursery.

The meetings is as follows:

Thursday 12th October 2023 at 5:30 p.m. - Nursery (please note the new meeting date)

Unfortunately, crèche facilities are not available for these meetings.

Nuts in School

Just a reminder that St Francis' does not allow food containing nuts in school; we have an increasing number of pupils in our school who have nut allergies. Anaphylaxis (allergic reaction) can occur as a result of digestion, inhalation or any other contact with nut-based products. For their safety, all nut-based products have been banned from the school premises.

Please do not send your child into school with any nut-based product for packed lunch or for a special birthday treat- this includes products that may contain traces of nuts.

Potential allergens could include the following:

- Spreads, e.g. chocolate spread
- Cereal bars
- Some types of biscuit containing nuts
- Condiments, e.g. satay sauce
- Cakes containing nuts
- Some snack pots containing nuts

It is important that you check the labelling of food products before sending your child in to school with them - it is not always apparent that products contain nuts or traces of nuts.

Due to the severity of the allergy, if any pupil is found with a nut-based product, the school will confiscate it and contact parents straight away.

We appreciate your continued support to ensure that our children remain safe.

School Uniform

Please ensure that your child is dressed in full school uniform.

Nursery

- white polo shirt
- navy joggers
- navy sweatshirt
- black school shoes

Years Reception to Year six:

- navy blue blazer (Years 1 - 6)
- white shirt
- school tie
- navy blue trousers, skirt or pinafore
- girls may wear white socks or navy/black tights
- boys may wear navy/black socks
- black school shoes
- grey cardigan/jumper (optional for winter uniform, but compulsory for Reception)

For girls:

- hair bands, clips and ribbons should be in white, navy blue or black
- hair styles should be simple and age appropriate (no coloured hair)
- no nail varnish or make up of any form
- small studs earring are allowed but no hoop or dangly earrings

Boys are asked to have their hair trimmed in a sober, age appropriate manner for school so there should be no:

- pony tails, mohawks, coloured hair patches
- no symbols or brand or designs cut into the scalp
- no earrings for school

All children should wear black school shoes no trainers are allowed.

God Bless,



N. Scott
Head Teacher