



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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Dear Parent/Carer,

Matthew 23:1-12

A Warning Against Hypocrisy

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: 2 "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. 4 They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

5 "Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries[a] wide and the tassels on their garments long; 6 they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; 7 they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.

8 "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. 10 Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. 11 The greatest among you will be your servant. 12 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Jesus' disciples are not to make a big display of religion nor are they to seek honourable titles like 'father' and 'teacher' and 'rabbi'. Our teacher is God, and the true disciples learns only from God. We find very often in Jesus a dismissal of showy religion. He calls on his followers to be humble. Our church is to be a humble church, as we are to be in our dealings with each other. For this we need prayer which inserts us daily into the mystery of being loved and called by God in Jesus Christ.

Poppy Appeal

We have poppies available in the school office. We are asking for a donation of 50p for a poppy, which will go the Royal British Legion.

As I am sure you are aware, Poppies are worn as a show of support for the Armed Forces community.

The poppy is a well-known and well-established symbol, one that carries a wealth of history and meaning with it. Wearing a poppy is still a very personal choice, reflecting individual experiences and personal memories. It is never compulsory but is greatly appreciated by those who it is intended to support.

Parents' Conference Meetings

We will hold parent conference meetings for year 1 to year 6 on Wednesday, 15th November, and Thursday, 16th November, please book an appointment to see your child's class teacher to see how he/she is settling into the academic year on School Ping.

Christmas Gifts

As a school, we are very aware of the many challenges that face society now, in the cost of living crisis and other pressures on our time and well-being. Though the role of working in schools is an increasingly challenging one, it is also rewarding to be able to watch the children grow and reach their potential. We will soon be entering the 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.

As was the case last year, we would like to ask parents, do not buy us Christmas gifts again this year, instead please donate to charity on behalf of the school. 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.

Anti-bullying Week

During the week beginning 13th November, we will be marking Anti-Bullying Week. The theme this year is *'Make a Noise About Bullying'*. We know that:

- Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter'. It doesn't have to be this way.
- Of course, we won't like everyone and we don't always agree, but we can choose respect and unity.

At St Francis' during Anti-Bullying Week, we will come together to have discussions about what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying. We know that, together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying.

We will start the week with Odd Socks Day on Monday, 13th November. We ask that all children wear odd socks of any colour to school that day to show their commitment to standing up against bullying.

From the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, let's make a noise about bullying.

Class Assembly

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

We will celebrate the work that **5B** are doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 23rd November at 9:05 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcome to attend. 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.

Educational Visits

This year we 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

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.

God Bless,



N. Scott
Head Teacher