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8th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back! We hope that you had a Merry Christmas with family and friends and are looking forward to the year ahead. We would like to take the time to thank you for your unwavering support, and we look forward to another year of collaboration and success with each and every one of you. May 2024 be a year of accomplishments, happiness, and fulfilment for all.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy New Year!

Mark 2:13-17

Jesus Calls Levi and Eats With Sinners

¹³ Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

The crowds who listened to Jesus were made up of different kinds of people, many of whom had little in common with each other, some of whom scorned each other. As Christians, we need to aspire to be tolerant of diversity in the way that Jesus was.

The sick and those in need usually approach Jesus boldly and directly. Much as we rely on others, let us be reminded always to bring our needs and questions to Jesus, who has all the time in the world for us.

RE Newsletter

Please see the attached RE newsletter with the topics/themes that the children will be covering in Religious Education for the Spring term.

Class Assembly

We will celebrate the work that **3R** are doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 11th January 2024 at 9:05 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcome to attend.

We will celebrate the work that **6B** are doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 25th January 2024 at 9:05 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcome to attend.

Citizenship Fortnight

The week beginning 8th January and 15th January 2024, we will celebrate our annual Citizenship Fortnight. The theme this year is *'Equality Matters: Wonderfully Made'*

Why has this theme been chosen?

We know that children notice and wonder about the world around them and have many questions that may go unanswered and lead to misconceptions which if left unchallenged, can result in them discriminating against others not understanding other people's needs.

- **Focus on concrete thinking:** Young children internalise most information literally, so build concrete thinking skills by focusing on facts, not imaginations or implicit biases.
- **Identify differences and similarities:** Just as children may be able to see visible differences, they can point out traits they share with others.
- **Humanise others:** When a child takes notice of a person who is different from them, encourage the child to introduce themselves and ask the other person's name
- **Balance curiosity with respect:** Remind them that it's OK to ask questions, but they should be thoughtful and respectful.

We will continue to develop the children's understanding of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act of 2010. In particular, we will focus on the following:

Nursery and Reception	Years 1 and 2	Years 3 and 4	Years 5 and 6
Age	Disability	Religion and Culture	Race

The children will be taking part in sponsored 'Welly-Throwing'; more information will follow shortly.

School Uniform

It is important that children are wearing the correct school uniform. Please note the school uniform expectations on the school's website <https://st-francis.newham.sch.uk/parents-carers/school-uniform/>

Christmas Jumper Day Fundraisers

Thank you for your support for Christmas jumper day. We raised a total of **£214.00** for charity.

God Bless,



N. Scott
Head Teacher