



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

20th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mark 9:30 -37

Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Maybe the disciples were afraid to ask Jesus because they didn't want to know anything more about the future which would involve death and resurrection. This little bit of knowledge of Jesus' future was almost too much for them. However, we know we can ask God anything. Through our honest questions, let us draw near to God. Trusting that when we do, God will draw near to us. And believing that one day, all our questions will be answered.

Black History Month Celebration

This year we will begin our annual black history focus from the week beginning 23rd September 2024.

The theme this year is journeys and in particular we will explore the following with the children:

- **Journeys of progress**
- **Journeys of migration**
- **Journeys of endurance**

Each year group will focus on a particular journey as described below:

- **Nursery, Reception and Year 1 - The Journey of Storytelling**
- **Year 2 - The Journey of Mary Seacole**
- **Year 3 - The Journey to Freedom**
- **Year 4 - The Journey to Equality**
- **Year 5 - The Journey of Nelson Mandela**
- **Year 6 - Journeys: the story of migration to Britain**

Please discuss the topics with your child so that they can tell you about what they are learning. We hope to share some of the learning with you in a celebration before the half term break.

Uniform Giveaway

During the summer term there was a uniform giveaway event provided by the Steve Browne Foundation; the foundation would like some feedback on the event for future planning and work with our school.

Please provide feedback using the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/9EC9RVvyCW>

Toiletry Donations

We have received donations of toiletry items such as toothpaste, shampoo, bath soap and toothbrushes.

If you are interested in collecting one of these donated packages, please email the school office at

info@st-francis.newham.sch.uk by **Friday, 27th September 2024** to express your interest.

Term Dates

Please see attached the term and holiday dates for the 2024/25 academic year. These can also be found on the school website:

<https://st-francis.newham.sch.uk/our-school/term-and-holiday-dates/>

Thanksgiving Mass

It was lovely to see so many families in attendance at the Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday. It was a great celebration of our community, our faith and our appreciation for each other. Thank you to all the families that were able to attend to support the children.

Mass

We have our Mass for our patron saint, St Francis of Assisi on **Friday, 4th October 2024 at 9:30 am** in St Francis Church. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

Uniform

Please be reminded that the school uniform colour is navy blue not black, so the children should wear navy blue trousers/skirt or pinafore dress. Equally, hair accessories should be in either navy blue, white or black and no other colours.

All children are expected to comply with the uniform requirements.

Curriculum Meetings

Over the next few weeks, we will be holding a curriculum meeting 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.

Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 5:30 p.m. - Nursery

Unfortunately, crèche facilities are not available for these meetings.

Class and Individual Photos

The class and individual photos for this academic year will be taken on **Tuesday, 24th September**. Please ensure that your child is dressed in full school uniform. Family pictures will be taken from 8.00am on a first come first serve basis.

God Bless,

N. Scott
Head Teacher