



5th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Matthew 5:1-12

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

What the world sees as tragic or empty, Jesus sees as blessed: humility, mourning, gentleness, peacefulness and other virtues. Jesus lived by these qualities himself and we can notice them in his words and actions during his life with us on Earth. He could encourage us to live in the spirit of the Beatitudes because he himself lived them and knew that a life of integrity and honesty is indeed a blessed life. He lived what he said - that all of life is blessed, even the experiences we might never ask for. All those who live according to his way of life are - and will be - richly blessed.

Coronavirus Update

We heard on from the Prime Minister on Saturday, 31st October that we will be entering another lockdown from today, Thursday, 5th November. While this will be worrying and cause additional stress for many of us, it's important that we all do our part to fight this virus. As the Prime Minister said, schools will remain open and we will of course update our procedures in order to reflect any new government guidance that is given.

- Please ensure that you are practicing social distancing at the gate in the morning and for pick up at the end of the day.
- Parents need to drop off and collect their children promptly.
 - ❖ Nursery - 8:30 - 11:30
 - ❖ Reception - 8:30 - 3:05
 - ❖ Years 1 and 2 - 8:40 - 3:15
 - ❖ Years 3 and 4 - 8:40 - 3:15
 - ❖ Year 5 and 6 - 8:50 - 3:25

Please do not enter the school premises if you or a member of your household are showing symptoms of coronavirus; this includes if you are waiting for a test result. The most common symptoms of coronavirus are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- a high temperature and/or
- a loss, or change in, your normal sense of test of smell (anosmia)

If your child does develop symptoms at any point during the school year you should seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/or-by-phoning-111>.

If a child has symptoms of coronavirus they should get a test. If this is not possible, then the child should self-isolate for 10 days. If your child is not in school, please call the school to let us know why they are not in school so we can track absences and follow up as appropriate. **If your child is off with coronavirus symptoms we need to know for the safety of the entire school community.**

New School Website

We have a new school website, we hope that you will find it easier to navigate and find more information about what is happening in the school. Please do take a moment to have a look <https://st-michaels.newham.sch.uk/>

Google Classroom and Reading Eggs Guide

A step by step guide was emailed before the half term break with instructions on how to access Reading Eggs and Google Classroom. Please ensure that you are using Reading Eggs for your child's reading at home and are checking Google Classroom each week for homework activities for your child.

Individual Pupil Photos

The individual photos for this academic year will be taken **on Friday, 6th November**. Please ensure that your child is dressed in full school winter uniform. In light of the current Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be taking sibling group photos this year.

Black History Celebration

The children had a fantastic celebration for Black History Month; hopefully you have had an opportunity to see some of their work in our new half termly St Michael's Messenger. The children have also created a video that we hope to share on the website.

Sick Children

If your child is unwell we would recommend that you keep them at home. If your child has cold symptoms (runny/blocked nose, sore throat), we would recommend that they stay at home for 48 hours. For children who have had sickness or diarrhea they should be clear of symptoms for 48 hours before returning to school.

God Bless.



N. Scott
Head Teacher