



20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Matthew 25:14-30**

**The Parable of the Bags of Gold**

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' 23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

28 "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

All who would follow Jesus are to preach the good news of the kingdom to the whole world by going about the work that the master has called them to do. This work includes visiting the sick, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, and feeding the hungry. Those who are found faithful may hear their Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

### **Anti-Bullying Week**

This week (16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November) we celebrated Anti-bullying Week at St Michael's. Current research shows that since lockdown there has been an increase in incidents of bullying, especially online bullying; so we need to be more vigilant than ever. The theme this year is **'United Against Bullying'**. This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge. Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channeling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. We all have a part to play in coming together to make a difference. We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.

### **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/>

### **Parent's Conference Meetings - Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Thank you to all the parents who made themselves available for their parent's evening Zoom call last week Wednesday (11<sup>th</sup> November) and Thursday (12<sup>th</sup> November). If you missed your call please contact your child's class teacher to arrange a new day and time.

### **Coronavirus Update**

Unfortunately, we started another lockdown on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> 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.**

#### **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.

#### **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