



2nd November 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

Mark 12:28-34

The Greatest Commandment

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

²⁹ "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'^[a] ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'^[b] ³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'^[c] There is no commandment greater than these."

³² "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

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As we struggle with so many commitments and responsibilities, we too ask the same question as the scribe, 'Which of the commandments is the first of all?' What should be first in my list of priorities, what is my most important duty? Jesus' reply is simple, no wonder they did not dare ask him any further; let his reply echo in your heart, asking for the grace to understand what it means to put love as our highest priority.

Parents' Conference Meetings

The information regarding parents' conference meetings for Reception to year 6 was sent out recently. These meetings will be held after school on 3rd and 4th November. This will be an opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher about how they have settled back into school and discuss how you can support your child at home. There will be an opportunity for you to look at your child's books and see the work they have completed so far this year. **However, all parents will be required to wear a mask and sanitize their hands upon entry into the building.**

Anti-bullying Week

St Michael's will be celebrating Anti-bullying week from Monday, 15th November to Friday, 19th November. This year's Anti-bullying theme is **Kindness**. Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons that 'One Kind Word' has been chosen as the theme of Anti-Bullying Week. The children will take part in a variety activities across the week to explore the theme of kindness and to think about how they can ensure that they are being kind to others; the children

will also be taught how to identify bullying and what to do if others are not treating them with kindness.

To launch the week we will be having an odd socks day on **Monday, 15th November** where we will ask the children to come to school wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes them unique.

Black History Performance

Thank you to the parents who supported the Black History performances before half term in years 1-6. It was lovely to have parents back in the school to celebrate with us and as expected the children's performances were amazing!

Squid Game

It has come to our attention that some of our children have been watching a Netflix programme called '*Squid Game*'. This is a currently a very popular programme, however has been rated appropriate for viewers **aged 15 and older** and has content warnings including sex, violence and suicide. These ratings are in place to support parents in deciding what may be appropriate for their children to watch. Our children's brains are still forming and soaking in information based on the things around them including the programs they watch. It is important that as a parent, you are aware of what your children are watching and the impact that it may have on their well-being. Equally, children are likely to share the content of what they watch with their peers at school which of course has an impact on children whose parents have not given the same permission. We would not expect primary school children to be viewing this content; most importantly we do not expect them to discuss it with other children in school.

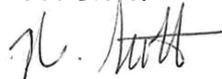
Groundswell Project

The local authority (Newham) is promoting a new project called Groundswell Project. Groundswell Project aims to train and give mothers the tools they need to ensure their children are safe both on and off line. They aim to help mothers feel informed and able to tackle harmful and dangerous content and influences if faced with them. Please see attached information.

Birthdays

Now that restrictions are easing, we are reintroducing some of our previous system, one very important one is celebrating birthdays. We will celebrate with your child on his/her birthday, but as we are a healthy school, children may bring in a healthy snack, such as raisins, fruit bags etc. to share with their class mates at the end of the day. Please do not send any party bags, sweets or cakes in on their birthday as these will be returned to you.

God Bless.



N. Scott
Executive Head Teacher