



25th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Introduction

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled^[a] among us,² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. 16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

*18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."^[a]*

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Jesus is the servant king. We are called to be the same. In our giving and receiving as one Body, we enable each other to experience enrichment (overcoming poverty), vision (banishing our blindness), and freedom (removing oppression).

Citizenship Fortnight

The week beginning 10th January and 17th January 2022, we will celebrate our annual Citizenship Fortnight. The theme this year is 'Building Bridges'. There are many reasons why we build bridges:

- To direct traffic over an obstacle
- To connect people in different communities, allowing them to interact for work or play
- To improve relationships between people who are very different or do not like each other

During Citizenship Fortnight we will be focusing on building bridges between people by celebrating our differences and showing tolerance and understanding towards those who are different to us. We will focus on the principles of **Catholic Social Teachings (CST)** through our current RE topic.

We will also share some of the ideas in Pope Francis' *Fratelli Tutti (all brother and sisters)*; this offers a blueprint for a world after coronavirus. It turns the world upside down, placing human dignity at the centre; it links back to the message of connectedness which was also at the heart of *Laudato Si'* (praise be to you). *Laudato Si'* is a personal invitation to everyone to pray and act to cherish God's creation and strive for justice for the world's poorest people.

Last Wednesday, the children took part in a Danceathon to raise money for CAFOD. The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) is an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It stands beside people living in poverty - whatever their religion or culture. The children recently came home with sponsor forms that are due on Thursday, 27th January; any support you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Class Assembly - Class 6

We will celebrate the work that Class 6 is doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Friday, 28th January 2022 at 9:30 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend. Due to the current circumstances we can only allow one parent per child to attend.

Class Assembly - Class 5

We will celebrate the work that Class 5 is doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Friday, 10th February 2022 at 9:30 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcomed to attend. Due to the current circumstances we can only allow one parent per child to attend.

Free School Meals

Please check to see if your child is eligible for free school meals; eligible children may receive holiday vouchers to support with food purchase during holiday times. Please check to see if your child is qualified <https://www.newham.gov.uk/schools-education/free-school-meals/2>.

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-michaels.newham.sch.uk/parents-and-carers/school-uniform/>

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As I am sure you are aware, we are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. In honour of this, there are two bank holidays on the 2nd and 3rd June (during the school's half term break). As a result, schools have been asked to set aside an additional day in their school calendar for this additional bank holiday; **therefore, on Monday, 6th June the school will be closed for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We will reopen on Tuesday, 7th June 2022.**

Coronavirus Update

As we continue to deal with the unprecedented increase in positive cases of coronavirus, it is important that we continue to be vigilant and ensure that pupils do not attend school if they have any symptoms.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the above symptoms, please take a lateral flow test (LFT). Please ensure that your child remains at home while he or she has tested positive. If your child has a negative lateral flow test (at least 24 hours apart) on day 5th and 6th of their isolation, they can return to school on the 6th day. Please see the attached flowchart for more information.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Scott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

N. Scott
Head Teacher