



28th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Luke 6:39-45

³⁹ He also told them this parable: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit?" ⁴⁰ The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

⁴¹ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" ⁴² How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

A Tree and Its Fruit

⁴³ "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

The lesson we learn today is about pride. Pride makes us see the minor faults in others instead of seeing the serious faults that we obviously have. Pride blinds us completely and prevents us from having an honest self-reflection and an examination of our conscience. Pride hides the truth from us. It covers us with a false mask such that we are unable to see ourselves in the light of truth, therefore, preventing us from seeing the log in our own eye. This ugly sin of pride makes us focus on the tiny and insignificant faults of our neighbours and friends. These tiny faults are the splinters in our brothers' eyes.

Ash Wednesday

We will have an Ash Wednesday liturgy with the priests from St Michael's on Wednesday, where the children will have an opportunity to reflect on Lent, pray for each other, ask for forgiveness and receive their ashes.

Altar Servers

There is a registration and initial training session for those wanting to be altar servers on **Monday 28 February at 6.45pm at St Michael's Church**. The prospective servers will need to have already received their First Holy Communion and so this would be for those in Year 4 and above.

World Book Weeks

During the weeks beginning the 21st February and 28th February we will be celebrating World Book Weeks. This year's theme is *Fantastic lands*. When you open the pages of a book you step into a parallel universe. You can discover new worlds, fantastic lands or even see reflections and alternative versions of the real world in the stories that you read.

During these two weeks the children will engage in a variety of activities to celebrate reading and our love of books. The books that the children will be focusing on are below:

Nursery - Cinderella, Jack and the Giant Beanstalk

Reception - Jack and the beanstalk/ Rapunzel

Year 1 - The Journey

Year 2 - The Twits

Year 3 - The BFG

Year 4 - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis

Year 5 - Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo

Year 6 - Alice in Wonderland

This will culminate on Thursday, 3rd March 2022, when the children will dress up as a character from a fantasy land story.

Class Assembly - Class 4

We will celebrate the work that Class 4 is doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Friday, 11th March 2022 at 9:15 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.

SchoolPing

St Michael's will be changing the way we communicate with parents. Currently we use Eduspot (teachers2parents) but from 14th March 2022 we will be moving to SchoolPing.

This system is app based so you will no longer receive texts or emails as all communication will be through the app. This system allows both parents to receive messages and has many new functions, which we will introduce slowly, to improve our communication with parents. You will receive further communication shortly with a link, guide and information about setting up your account.

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

From Monday 21st February 2022 the government announced a new set of guidelines for 'Living with Covid-19'. We are very grateful for your support over the last two years, and we are very proud of the way our pupils and families have conducted themselves during this difficult time.

The current guidelines are:

Self-Isolation

You are still advised to stay home after a positive test for 5 full days, and then only end isolation after two negative test results (i.e. on Day 5 and Day 6). Please contact the school and let us know if your child is isolating due to Covid-19. Work will continue to be provided on GoogleClassroom for children self-isolating from a positive Covid test.

Close Contacts

There is no need to test daily or self-isolate if a close contact regardless of vaccine status. However, if your son/daughter is a close contact you might want to test them regularly to ensure that they are not Covid positive.

Symptoms

If you are displaying any of the symptoms Covid-19, you are to stay at home and arrange a test. You should not attend school with any Covid-19 symptoms until you have got a negative test result.

Face Coverings

These are no longer a requirement, but they are still recommended currently on public transport.

God Bless,



N. Scott
Head Teacher