



20th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

A belated Happy New Year to all our families! We wish you good health, peace and happiness for 2023.

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus Begins to Preach

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴ to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

*¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—*

*¹⁶ the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned."^[a]*

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the Jewish synagogues. His preaching consisted of the proclamation of the nearness of the Kingdom and that was illustrated by his healing of all kinds of sicknesses. Healing means restoration to wholeness and the goal of the Kingdom is a restoration to wholeness.

May we too experience a deep desire for restoration to wholeness and also experience the healing power of Jesus in our lives so that we may become agents to heal and restore others.

National Education Union (NEU) Strike Action

You may be aware from media coverage that the National Education Union have declared strike action, which will take place on:

- 1st February 2023
- 2nd March 2023
- 15th March 2023
- 16th March 2023

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over [e.g. teachers' pay], and not because of any issues at our school. I will write to you next week to let you know what will happen at St Michael's on those days.

Citizenship Weeks

For the week beginning the 9th January and the week beginning 16th January 2023, the children have been celebrating their annual Citizenship Weeks. The aim of citizenship week is:

- to increase children's knowledge of themselves & their worth.
- to help the children feel inspired to help someone in need and make a difference.
- to promote a sense of belonging in terms of collaboration and responsibility.
- to raise the profile of spiritual well-being

This year's theme was *Who is My Neighbour?* and the children have explored the rights and responsibilities of being a good neighbor. They have look at their right to:

- play (Nursery and Reception)
- have a name and know who I am and what I am like (Years 1 and 2)
- give my opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously and the right to get information that is important to my well-being (Years 3 and 4)
- get information that is important to my well-being, right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of) and right to be safe in my local area and online.

The children have had a variety of lessons to explore this theme and have had workshops from CAFOD, Fair Trade representatives, and workshops about the dangers of knife crime.

The children are culminating this week of learning about at their rights and responsibilities, in a charity kickathon where they will be raising money for the Salvation Army Night Shelter in East Ham.

Each child was given a sponsorship form. The children need to write their name and the amount of money that you are willing to contribute. We are asking you, your family and friends to donate money for each goal scored, e.g. 50p per goal or make a donation for the total number of goals scored by your child's class, e.g. £5.00 donation.

Night shelters are a type of temporary accommodation for people experiencing homelessness who would otherwise be sleeping rough. Night shelters meet people's basic needs, offering a warm bed and a safe place to sleep. Some offer a shower and a hot meal.

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/homelessness/night-shelters>

UKHSA Advice

Please see the recent advice from the UK Health Security Agency:

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

Parent Advice and Support

We are in difficult times and need to try to support each other as best as we can. The school website has an advice and support section with links to organizations that can provide legal advice, debt management advice and food banks.

<https://st-michaels.newham.sch.uk/>

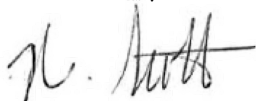
If you need further advice or support please go to the school office and request an appointment with a member of the senior leadership team.

Newham Libraries

There are ten libraries across Newham, each offering a range of services and community activities. As well as a fantastic selection of books and other reading material of course. **The libraries also provide free computer and internet access.**

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/libraries-arts-culture/newham-library-services>

God Bless,



N. Scott
Acting Executive Head Teacher