



6<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Matthew 5: 13-16**

***Jesus Begins to Preach***

***Salt and Light***

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Light does not change a room: it enables us to see what is in it. It helps us appreciate what is good and beautiful, just as it facilitates avoiding pitfalls. We are children of the light: our lives are illumined by Jesus, the light of the world (John 8:12). This light helps us to see the hidden hope of glory that is in us. So we can rejoice even in the darkness of the world.

**Half Term Break**

School will be closed for the half term break from Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February to Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February. School re-opens as normal on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**National Education Union (NEU) Strike Action**

As you are aware there are further strikes planned by the National Education Union (NEU), which will take place on:

- 2nd March 2023
- 15th March 2023
- 16th March 2023

I will update you after half term regarding the status of the school on those days.

**Kickathon**

Thank you for your generous donations for the sponsored kickathon we raised **£ 1,464.42** for the Salvation Army Night Shelter.

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

**Safe Internet Day**

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February we will be joining schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2023.

Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on children and young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to help to create a better internet.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school/our group/our club, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities and information for parents and carers which are available at:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers> .

Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare, there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your child. If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher or myself.

### **World Book Weeks**

During the week beginning the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February, we will be celebrating World Book Weeks. This year's theme is *Research Matters!* We will celebrate the sometimes unsung heroes of reading: the non-fiction texts.

So for once, we will not focus on wonderful stories and fantastic tales but on books that help us research and find out wonderful and interesting facts. It's been found that children and young people who read non-fiction are more engaged with environmental issues. For example, those who read non-fiction are more likely to want to take care of the environment compared with those who don't read non-fiction (68% vs 49%).

Overall, they also found that more children and young people who read non-fiction were motivated to read for educational purposes, to satisfy curiosities, to foster social connections and to support their mental wellbeing. Non-fiction has the power to spark curiosity and in turn, conversation.

Your challenge will be thinking of a costume for dress up assembly! Prepare a costume for our World Book Day Assembly on Thursday 2nd March 2023 related to your research e.g: if you talked about the blue ringed octopus the most venomous marine creature then come dressed as an octopus!

### **Health Snack (Years 3-6)**

The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS) provides a free piece of fruit or veg to every 4-6 year-old in primary school. We would like to encourage parents of children from years 3-6 to provide a healthy snack for your child for break time. This can be fruit, a healthy cereal bar, etc.; this helps to re-fuel the children mid-way through the morning.

### **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