



11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back! We hope that you had a Merry Christmas with family and friends and are looking forward to the year ahead. We would like to take the time to thank you for your unwavering support, and we look forward to another year of collaboration and success with each and every one of you. May 2024 be a year of accomplishments, happiness, and fulfilment for all.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy New Year!

### **Mark 2:13-17**

#### **Jesus Calls Levi and Eats With Sinners**

*<sup>13</sup> Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. <sup>14</sup> As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.*

*<sup>15</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. <sup>16</sup> When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*

*<sup>17</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

The crowds who listened to Jesus were made up of different kinds of people, many of whom had little in common with each other, some of whom scorned each other. As Christians, we need to aspire to be tolerant of diversity in the way that Jesus was.

The sick and those in need usually approach Jesus boldly and directly. Much as we rely on others, let us be reminded always to bring our needs and questions to Jesus, who has all the time in the world for us.

### **RE Newsletter**

Please see the attached RE newsletter with the topics/themes that the children will be covering in Religious Education for the Spring term.

### **Class Assembly**

We will celebrate the work that **Class 3** are doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 9:15 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcome to attend.

We will celebrate the work that **class 4** are doing in Religious Education with a class assembly on **Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 9:15 am**. Parents of children in this class are warmly welcome to attend.

## Citizenship Fortnight

The week beginning 8th January and 15th January 2024, we will celebrate our annual Citizenship Fortnight. The theme this year is 'Equality Matters: Wonderfully Made'

### **Why has this theme been chosen?**

We know that children notice and wonder about the world around them and have many questions that may go unanswered and lead to misconceptions which if left unchallenged, can result in them discriminating against others not understanding other people's needs.

- **Focus on concrete thinking:** Young children internalise most information literally, so we will build concrete thinking skills by focusing on facts, not imaginations or implicit biases.
- **Identify differences and similarities:** Just as children may be able to see visible differences, they can point out traits they share with others.
- **Humanise others:** When a child takes notice of a person who is different from them, encourage the child to introduce themselves and ask the other person's name
- **Balance curiosity with respect:** Remind them that it's OK to ask questions, but they should be thoughtful and respectful.

We will continue to develop the children's understanding of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act of 2010. In particular, we will focus on the following:

Nursery and Reception <b>Age</b>	Years 1 and 2 <b>Disability</b>	Years 3 and 4 <b>Religion and Culture</b>	Years 5 and 6 <b>Race</b>
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The children will be taking part in some fundraising activities to support their working during Citizenship fortnight; more information will follow shortly.

## Parent Governor Needed

We sent out a letter recently about the need for one additional parent governor. Governors play an important role in the strategic leadership of the school. School governors are the largest volunteer group in the UK. More than 300,000 support schools across the country. They come from all kinds of backgrounds, bringing a range of skills and perspectives.

You do not have to work in education to be a governor.

You need to care about education and able to commit some time to work with us as a school. Governors play a key role in supporting and challenging the school to improve educational standards so that children and young people have the chance to realise their full potential. **The deadline for nominations to become a parent governor is Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.** If you are interested or would like more information, please feel free to make an appointment to see the Head Teacher.

## Items during the School Day

The children should come to school each day with all the items that they need for the school day i.e. PE bag, packed lunch, etc. The school days are very busy and we are getting an increasing number of items that are dropped off to the school office. This can be quite disruptive to the effectiveness of the school; we do not often have additional adults in the classroom to go and collect these items and the staff in the office are not always available to bring these items to the children in their class. We are asking for your support to ensure that your child has

everything they need and your understanding in that items you deliver during the school day can be disruptive.

### **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/>

### **Christmas Fundraisers**

Thank you for your support for Christmas jumper day. We raised a total of **£126.00** for charity.

We raised an additional **£72.89** from the Christmas grotto, which will go toward the purchase of new IT equipment for the school. A big thank you to the parents who supported by creating the grotto for the children to visit; your support is greatly appreciated.

God Bless,



N. Scott  
Acting Executive Head Teacher