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## School Newsletter

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 Academic year 2018-19 Number 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is a catch up newsletter covering two weeks. Please excuse me for this – not enough hours in the day!

### Quiz Night

We really enjoyed quiz night a couple of Fridays ago. Many thanks to Mrs Cordell and Mrs Keast and to all the parents who made it such a fun evening. Monies raised from this help to offset the quite significant cost of the Y6 school journey in June, so thanks for your support. John Stradling and his team of quizmasters really challenged and entertained us. The winning team was Demon Jets, but it was more about the taking part and the fun we had – even when we couldn't answer all the questions.

### Advance notice for users of After School Club

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December there will be no after school club. This is because all the staff are having their Christmas dinner together in school after the children have been dismissed. For years I've been searching for a solution where the whole staff can sit down together, rather than in shifts to enjoy Christmas Dinner day. So the children will be fed at lunchtime and the staff after 3pm. I hope this is not too inconvenient for parents using after school club and you can make alternative arrangements for that night. It's only once a year.

### Art Exhibition

A reminder that we have our art exhibition this Wednesday afternoon, with an opportunity for you to come into school at the end of the day and view the artwork created by the children. You can also purchase the artwork for a small sum – so your children become professional artists and you have ticked someone else off the Christmas list! The exhibition starts at 2.30pm and runs to 4pm. A reminder flyer is attached. Don't miss it. Thanks to Mrs Igbinovia for her hard work making this event happen.

### PTA NEWS:

#### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE – THANK YOU!!!**

What an absolute 'Cracker'!! We only went and raised a whopping **£5,600!!**

Our thanks to all our parents, carers and staff of Margaret Roper School, for their time, their energy, kindness and generosity - we're incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated school community with such amazing spirit. Thank you all for your contributions in whatever capacity, and making our Fayre such a wonderful and joyous occasion raising well needed funds for our school.

I would like to thank Jo Wiley, (mum to Henry, Max and Tabitha) for the huge undertaking transforming the Pannett room into a 'magical Santa's Grotto' – I'm sure you'll all agree Jo created a truly magical experience for the children, some saying it was better than Woodcote and just like Harrods! Jo you pulled it off! This amazing creation would not have been possible without the help of our marvellous elves, Jen Powell and Carly Hession, who tirelessly worked silly hours with Jo to pull everything together. Thank you to Tania Sidoli, Emma Byrne and to her daughter Aoife Y4, who's creative juices shone through and delivered the most amazing handmade creations! Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas trees and other decorations we're so incredibly grateful. And of course, our wonderful 'Santas'! Thank you for visiting us so early this year! The children were absolutely delighted...

Thank you to all our 'Class Reps', Carly Hession, Jo Wiley, Laura Ghaemian, Carole Wright, Bernie McCarthy, Julieta Vales, Sonia Rutherford, Natalie Gordon, Amy Orsini, Stephanie Reeves, Gema Sanz,

Tania Sidoli, Niamh Murphy, Sam Dowling, Helena Brown, Pilar Ibanez Garcia, Michelle Keast and Karen Cordell you seriously have been amazing, your hard work throughout the last few months has just been incredible, and your support has been truly overwhelming. All our stalls were run with a great vibe and with fun – It was truly delightful to observe and couldn't ask for anything more! Thank You!

Thank you to our resident Chef Maciek and his wife Dorota Baumguard, (parents to Gabriella Y3) who created the most delicious dishes, we can't thank you enough. Again, this was a huge undertaking and we so appreciate the silly hours shopping, preparing and cooking it took to achieve this. What an amazing job Year 2 did - led by Sonia Rutherford and Natalie Gordon – the Café, as we all know is no mean feat and we thank you and appreciate all your hard work leading up to and on the day.

Thank you to Alice Desira, Reception mum – who kindly donated the proceeds from her stall direct to the PTA. Hena Parma, Reception mum created some amazing Margaret Roper unique Xmas decorations – the proceeds of which are being donated to the PTA. If you missed these it's not too late, we'll be selling these in the playground at pick up very soon, don't miss out – date will be advertised soon.

Thank you to Anna Tsakistra, our exceptionally talented mum from The Pink Icing Company, who made our fabulous cake for 'guess the weight' competition. Plus lots of other yummy cakes! Thank you Amy Orsini and her daughter Bella Y3 who created an amazing cake for our Silent Auction.

Our new costume stall led by Nunzia Saunders – what a huge success! Thank you Nunzia for coming up with the idea and running with it, fixing, sewing and creating the most fabulous costumes! Fantastico!

To all our face painters and tattoo stickers – Fatima Healy, Daniella Balmain, Jenny Barber McDonald, Becky Hession and Deborah McGuinness - you all worked so hard all day. Thank you!

Thank you to Keri Brannigan for organising the brochure picture competition, and for all the advice and support throughout.

Thank you to our resident DJ Jeremy Pittman, what a superb job you did guiding us around the school, keeping us entertained whilst playing tunes to keep us in the Christmas spirit.

Thank you to our choir who sang so beautifully and to Mrs Igbiovvia and Miss Kelly for their time in organising this for our Fayre.

Thank you to all our teachers and staff for their support, and for donating some wonderful gifts, toys and bottles for our stalls. Thank you for supplying pictures for our baby competition, children and parents alike had such fun guessing, despite getting many wrong!

To everyone who donated gifts/experiences for our raffle and Silent Auction. These raised lots of money – for which we are truly grateful. To Anna Froome for her time in making some wonderful gifts for our gift stall. Thank you to Emma Byrne who, again, used her creative juices and filled a wheel barrow with booze and made it look very pretty!

I would like to say a special thanks to Fatima Healy, who every year walks around the whole of Croydon, going into shops, restaurants and businesses asking for donations for our Fayre. Thank you Fatima for all your time and dedication in writing, visiting and collecting, never moaning and never giving up, your contribution to our voucher raffle is just phenomenal.

Thank you to our Treasurer Janet Dawson, who has looked after the financial side of the Fayre. Amazing job at looking after us with floats at the Fayre, counting the money, invoicing our contributors and documenting our takings/expenditure so efficiently and indeed quickly after the Fayre! Stirling job!

Thank you to Cindy Piper for all her hard work on the day helping Janet with collecting and counting money on the day, and to both her and Candi Gonsalves - who have been on hand throughout offering well needed guidance and advice. Their support has been amazing.

Finally, and definitely not least...

Anna Bond and Tania Sidoli! There are no words to express how truly thankful I am for all your hard work and support you have provided over the last few months. We've shared pretty much every emotion together, it's been a hard slog at times but also huge amounts of fun too!! Thank goodness for Anna's organisational skills and for Tania's creativity and social media know how. From hugging trees to filling brochure pages at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour! Thank you so much!!

I so hope I have not missed anyone out, please know all your hard work and support is incredibly appreciated.

#### **PTA Diary Dates:**

##### **December:**

Date to be confirmed – Hena's decorations/Christmas Gift Stall in the playground

Date to be confirmed – Christmas Jumper Sale

Date to be confirmed – Christmas Holiday Raffle

##### **More information to follow**

*May I just also pass on my huge thanks to the whole school community for your support of the Christmas Fayre. It was a really lovely day and your support was much appreciated. And of course, Louise Edmonds can't thank herself but those of us close to the Fayre have a good idea how hard she worked and how much time, care and attention goes into being the chair and keeping everything running. Your commitment and care is outstanding. Well done! - Ed.*

### **Pudsey Salon – Children in need**

It seems like a while ago now, but our Pudsey nail salon raised a brilliant £XXXX for Children in Need. Many thanks for your support and to Mrs. Garcia and her team of amazing mums who helped; giving up much of their day. The children really enjoyed it. The salon raised £315.98 and rolled together with the £112-10 that we received from the 'Heads and Tails' at the quiz night, means that we were able to donate a cheques of £428.08 to Children in Need. Amazing!

### **Poppy appeal**

Thanks for supporting our Poppy Appeal. We were able to send a cheques for £284.49 to the Royal British Legion.

### **Hearing test for children in Y1**

The NHS audiologist will be visiting Margaret Roper to screen the hearing of all pupils in Y1 on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Parents of children in Y1 will have received a form. If you can't find it please ask at the office for a replacement. This is part of the normal NHS screening programme.

### **Events in Advent**

Yesterday was the first Sunday of Advent. Of course this is a very busy time in school and everybody is working hard. I attach to the newsletter a 'Jesse Tree' leaflet that John Stradling shared with me. You might like to look at this with your children and perhaps make your own Jesse tree at home. It's a great way to focus on the religious aspects of Christmas – which, after all, is what it is about!

I'm also trailing the Children's Christmas Eve Mass at St John the Baptist at 5pm on 24<sup>th</sup> December. Canon John has asked that we have some Margaret Roper children to sing at the mass as a special choir and we will be helping with this aspect. Becky Hession and the organisers also need lots of actors too, so please look at the flyer attached and try to support it.

In school we are getting close to our Infant Nativity, which takes place next Wednesday at 2pm and again on Thursday at 9.30am. The title this year is 'Superstar' and I have heard the children rehearsing. I think it will be wonderful. Doors will open at 9am on the Wednesday and 1.30pm on the Thursday. The alley gate will be open.

On Thursday of this week we are hosting the Image Theatre for our Christmas treat performance. This year it is Robin Hood. Image theatre are always terrific and the PTA have always supported the costs of this, so thanks to them on behalf of the children.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> we have our usual 'Wear a Christmas jumper day' for Save the Children. It is usual uniform that day but with a Christmas jumper instead of school jumper. Suggested donation is £2, but whatever you can afford.

In the final week of term we have our School Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a fun day for all the children and staff and we always ask if you want to make a hat for your child to wear at the meal. The creations are always fabulous! Prizes will be awarded, but it's about the fun for the children as much as anything. So, advance warning so you're not frantically sticking and cutting the night before. Please also note my message above for users of after school club on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, as it is not running to allow us to sit together as a staff after the school day.

And finally, as the term draws to a close, we have our Carol Service on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. This is led by the Junior classes and is at St John the Baptist at 7pm. We would like whole families to come, so the infant children will sit with their parents for the Carol Service, while the Junior children sit in their classes. We will have a command performance from the Infants present of one of the hits from their nativity at the end. It promises to be as beautiful as ever, so do try to support it. Further information about logistics for the evening will follow soon.

Wow. By that point we will all truly be ready for Christmas!

	<b>Stars of the week 23 Nov</b>	<b>Stars of the week 29 Nov</b>
<b>Red Class</b>	<b>Ava &amp; Talia</b>	<b>Jack &amp; Finbarr</b>
<b>Orange Class</b>	<b>Oshian &amp; Rose</b>	<b>Delphine &amp; Jack</b>
<b>Yellow Class</b>	<b>Alice &amp; Nathan</b>	<b>Christ-Victory &amp; James</b>
<b>Green Class</b>	<b>Seb &amp; Mia</b>	<b>Laurence &amp; Isabella</b>
<b>Blue Class</b>	<b>Shavero &amp; Nicole</b>	<b>Inca &amp; Lidia</b>
<b>Sapphire Class</b>	<b>Daniel Z &amp; Frankie</b>	<b>Katie &amp; Emma</b>
<b>Indigo Class</b>	<b>Frankie &amp; Leo</b>	<b>Francesco &amp; Maja</b>
<b>Violet Class</b>	<b>Kirsty &amp; Ollie</b>	<b>Y6 at Whitgift all week</b>

House of the week: Has been St Bernadette for the last few weeks – well done – come on all you other houses!

Attendance award: Blue Class, Green Class and Red Class.

School meals menu for week commencing 3 December is Week Three.