



School Newsletter

1st March 2019

Academic year 2018-19

Number 16

Dear Parents and Carers,

Assemblies and Liturgies

On Wednesday 6th March we are holding an Ash Wednesday liturgy at 9am. This will be led by pupils from Blue Class. All are welcome to join us.

Bookweek

Next week is bookweek. Our theme is Fairy Tales. We have lots of fun activities planned for the children through the week, culminating in our dress up as a book character day on Friday. Your child should try to dress as a fairy-tale character if they can. I know our parents put lots of effort into this every year and I'm sure there will be some terrific costumes. Thanks for your support – it is lots of fun for the children.

On Friday afternoon, commencing at 1.30pm we are holding our annual Literary Mastermind competition. You're welcome to join us for this in the school hall.

PTA News:

School Lottery!

FIRST DRAW – 30TH MARCH

The more supporters/tickets sold the local weekly prize money increases as does the money raised for our school. This really is a win win for EVERYONE!

Please invite friends/family/work colleagues to join – its open to anyone living in the UK who is over the age of 16 and has a bank account.

Go to: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play and search for *Margaret Roper Catholic Primary School* – see the flyer below.

Rock and Roll Bingo Night – 1st March (Tonight)

A great opportunity to have some fun whilst listening to some tunes, Bingo Style! The PTA have done a great job setting up the hall. I'm sure it will be great fun. Thanks to all who have given their time.

Easter Event – Friday 22nd March

We're holding an 'Easter Event' after school on Friday 22nd March. We have lots of fun activities planned, it's going to be fabulous!

Sports News:

On Tuesday we played football against Regina Coeli in the league. We started sharp and got in three early goals, scored by Dominic (1) and Ollie (2). Sadly, in the second half we conceded two goals as Coeli came back strong but we managed to keep our lead and win 3-2. Men of the match were Dominic and Dan M for outstanding performances. (Report by Dan B, Adam and Dan M).

Children in Need

I had a lovely letter from BBC Children in Need thanking us for our donation of £437.48 to CIN as a result of our fundraising. Thanks very much for your generosity everyone.

Quiz Club

Kaylie, Amare, Sammy and Tomas represented Margaret Roper at a general knowledge quiz at St Aidan's on Wednesday. Overall we came fifth out of twelve schools and acquitted ourselves very well. Well done to the team – I was very proud of them.

Dogs at school:

I think most of you know I'm a real dog lover. We've always had a 'dog corner' as you come in the alleyway gate where you can wait with your canine for your children at collection time. Can you please ensure you keep to dog corner and don't come further on to the site; were not permitted to have dogs (apart from support dogs) in the rest of the school and not everyone loves dogs, so please be sensible about this. Similarly, dogs are banned from the Thomas More site as well, so it is not permitted to walk your dog up from the bottom gate.

Can you also be aware that, while we spend time in safety week each year teaching our children how to approach dogs and keep safe, it is important that you remain with your dog and don't leave them unattended? This is as much for the dogs' sake as for the children's as they could become stressed. I think I might be upset and fancy a quick nip if I had a dozen children charging at me squealing! Thanks for following these common sense rules.

MOMO

Over the last few days there has been much coverage in online media about the supposed 'Momo challenge' which is supposed to have been causing children to hurt themselves. I have been following the articles closely and it is clear that this is not a real threat but an online hoax. The trouble with online reporting is that stories can quickly gain momentum and as parents we are understandably worried about threats to our children.

A significant number of our children, particularly the older ones, but also some in the younger classes, are aware of this MOMO challenge story and have been speaking to us about it. It's very hard for children to separate fact and rumour in what they hear and see (it's difficult for adults too). There is a very useful article on the BBC news website about this issue which you can find here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47359623>

I have spent some time today speaking to the children in Years Four, Five and Six about the rumours they may have been hearing and over half of them told me they were aware of it. Some had already had conversations with their parents about it, some had heard about it from peers or online media.

It is interesting and also worrying that a story like this can go viral and be reported as fact with seemingly little attempt to check its veracity, including by some reputable news outlets. That's the world we live in. I used this as a teaching point to help the children understand that they must be selective about what they read and hear and not treat everything they see as accurate. I used the analogy of Chinese whispers.

In talking to the children, and I have heard this in the past as well including from my own children, they tell me that many of them may have seen unsuitable or inappropriate content that children of their age should not see. This is clearly a downside to using the internet. At the same time, it's not possible to go back to pre-internet days (even if we wanted to).

I also know that some children may be reticent about talking to you about what content they see as they think parents will overreact and close off their access to the online world. I've encouraged

them to talk sensibly to you about what they look at online and encourage you to do the same. By ensuring our children feel they can talk to you we help protect them far more.

In summary, the messages I gave the children today were:

- Don't be scared about the MOMO challenge – it's not true but a media 'bubble'
- If you do see something that you think is unsettling, rude or inappropriate, talk to your parent or a trusted adult about it – don't just ignore it.
- Don't go looking for content just because you have heard about it – you could open up access to lots of unsuitable content.
- Remind your parents to make sure they have the right parental controls on their routers. (Note to parents here – PLEASE make sure you have enabled controls. If you're not sure how – find out – don't put it off and hope for the best. Also, speak regularly to your children about what they are doing online – it is your right to monitor this as well as your responsibility)
- Remember that nobody can make you do anything you don't want to and be careful what information you share about yourself.

Sorry this is a long item, but I felt it was appropriate. We keep our children safe online by being good parents in the sense that we make wise and thought through decisions and don't just hope for the best.

	Star of the week	Star Writer
Red Class	Albert & Edmund	Arthur
Orange Class	Eleanor & Michael	Connie
Yellow Class	Arthur & Alice	Esther
Green Class	Oli & Kanya	Gabrielle
Blue Class	Diego & Chanelle	Oliwer
Sapphire Class	Joseph & Ruby	Catherine
Indigo Class	Frankie & Ava	Jack B
Violet Class	Markos & Megan	Dylan

House of the week: St Bernadette. Well done!



FIRST DRAW
Saturday 30th March

WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

**Buy Your Tickets Today
To Help Our School**



- Margaret Roper Catholic Primary School has launched a lottery!
- Tickets cost just £1 per ticket, per week and 40% of all ticket sales are donated to our school.
- A **GUARANTEED** cash prize to someone on our supporter list every week.
- A further chance of winning £25,000 in a separate draw **EVERY WEEK!**
- Draws are every Saturday at 8pm and results are posted online.

To start supporting, Visit:

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play

And Search For:

Margaret Roper Catholic Primary School

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.

