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Parent Newsletter – Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy week. As you are aware, we were required to close Blue Class last Friday morning, following a positive Covid diagnosis. Blue Class have been accessing online blended learning this week, which includes a live lesson each morning and a mixture of online and offline learning using Google Classroom as the key mechanism for this. I must say, since I've been quite closely involved in this that I'm impressed with the way that our pupils have engaged and how well they have adapted to self-isolation. Thank you to all the parents in Blue Class for supporting your children and us with this – I know it is a strain with parents needing to work too, so we are very grateful.

On Wednesday we also had to ask one of our Y6 classes, Violet Class to self-isolate, following a positive diagnosis in this cohort. Miss Holloway has been managing their online learning which will continue for a fourteen-day period and she tells me that Y6 are also managing their blended learning very well indeed. Again, thanks to all our parents for supporting this.

We also had a confirmed case in our Year Two class but, because the pupil was not in contact with the class during the infectious period, it was not necessary to close the class bubble. I wrote to the parents of Year Two pupils with full information earlier in the week.

I want to assure parents that we are taking the management of Covid cases very seriously and following all the track and trace procedures necessary to ensure that we keep pupils, staff and families safe. Our decision to run small bubbles, to ensure that we have well thought through social distancing, and to maintain very thorough cleaning and sanitisation procedures have resulted in us being able to contain cases and minimise the number of children and staff who need to self-isolate.

Our school is in a similar position to most others, and from contact with other head teachers, I know that schools are facing increasing incidences of Covid across the board. With your help, and the procedures we have in place, we will manage the cases that do arise and remain operational. Of course, I will keep you informed as often as necessary and appreciate your help in following the rules we have in place regarding social distancing outside, wearing face coverings and staggered starts and finishes. The last week proves how essential these measures are.

Please stay vigilant, follow the rules and try not to be too anxious. I know it is a stressful time, particularly for families who may have vulnerable members, but we will do our utmost to make school safe for your children.

Remember, if your child or any member of your family shows Covid symptoms, seek a test, stay off school and notify us immediately, letting us know the outcome as soon as you receive it.

Please see the information below, which comes from central government:

Covid 19 – Updates

COVID-19 Winter Plan

The government has announced the COVID-19 Winter Plan setting out how national restrictions will be lifted on Wednesday 2nd December 2020. On this date, England will move back into a regional, tiered approach. There will be 3 local tiers of restrictions:

- Tier 1: Medium alert
- Tier 2: High alert
- Tier 3: Very high alert

It has been announced on Thursday 26th November 2020, that the majority of the country will be placed in Tier 2. London (all 32 boroughs plus the City of London) and Surrey are in Tier 2. These rules will apply from 00:01 on Wednesday 2nd December 2020. Current national restrictions must be followed until this time.

Schools will remain open

“Since the summer, the government’s priority has been to ensure that education remains open and in England, education settings will continue to remain open in all tiers. Children’s life chances, as well as the long-term health of the economy, depend upon children and students continuing to learn and develop vital skills, and adults being able to train and retrain to meet the changing needs of industry and the economy.”

Christmas Holidays

The government has put out a strong message that nurseries, schools and colleges should not change their Christmas holidays or close early this term. The government has also confirmed the arrangements to spend Christmas with family and friends over the festive period. Full details can be found here.

[Making a Christmas bubble with friends and family - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family)

Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent

I attach a copy of the Wednesday Word, which I also sent out earlier in the week. In school we are studying the RE topic of ‘Gifts’ and we are ensuring that our preparation for Christmas focuses on the message of the birth of Christ, God’s gift to the world. John 4:9 *‘God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.’*

We encourage you to spend time in prayer with your children and family. From next Sunday, 6th December, parish mass should resume so do try to attend if you are able. Mass is streamed from almost all parishes and, as we enter the Christmas season, and perhaps more importantly than ever this year, we need to put our trust in God and spend time with him in prayer.

School Uniform

Because of our infection control procedures, we are keeping windows in classrooms open all the time. In lesson time they are open partly to allow circulation of air, and in breaks we open them more fully. This means that the classrooms are not as warm as they would usually be. If your child is feeling the cold, they are welcome to wear base layers/additional clothing under their school uniform to keep them warm.

Admissions 2021

So far, I’ve held three webinars for prospective parents for 2021. We have another on 2nd December and others planned for later in the term. Please pass the word to anyone who might be interested and signpost

them to our website. At a time when schools are less physically accessible than ever before, I want to ensure that parents who might be considering our school have every opportunity to find out about it.

PTA news

From Janet Dawson:

This Saturday would have been our Christmas Fayre. Sadly, we cannot come together and celebrate as we normally do! So, this year we are doing things a little differently. We are holding two online raffles with great prizes to be won. The draw will be Friday 18 December at 9 am and we will be handing out prizes socially distancing of course at pick up that day. Please think about how much you would usually spend at our Fayre and buy as many tickets as you possibly can to help raise money to go towards the children's class parties, gift bags, and the live streaming panto. So, go on, log on www.raffall.com/MargaretRoper and get your friends, family, colleagues, neighbours, and anyone else too! Who wouldn't want to win some cash before Christmas! 🎄🎄🎄🎄🎄🎄🎄🎄

The flyer is attached below and also as a jpg to the newsletter in a separate attachment. Share it on your social media with friends to help spread the word and support the PTA!

The Future of Purley

Anna Bond has let me know that she has volunteered to join the community panel which is looking at how Purley will be developed in the medium and longer term. It's vital that there are local residents who are prepared to contribute toward this panel, as, without a well-considered plan, Purley risks unchecked and poorly considered development. There is also funding which will become available to improve the area and this needs to be spent carefully to maximise the positive impact on Purley. There is a survey here which I would encourage you to spend time completing. If you don't have your say, your voice will not be heard.

<http://www.futurepurley.com/>

Recycling clothes bin

This is going very well! It has just been emptied for the second time, and I'm sure that there is still lots more to come. I haven't even started on my attic yet! The bin will be with us for a while, so keep looking out the clothes, shoes, towels, sheets, blankets, curtains, sleeping bags and other fabric items. Remember the PTA gain funds from them as well as positively recycling unwanted items.

Battery Recycling

I talked to the children in assembly today about this. Batteries that are not recycled go into landfill and poison the ground. We are currently in a competition to see how many batteries we can recycle. Monday is the day for collection, so look out used batteries and send them in with your child. Any sort of battery. The batteries are recycled for their metal products and this helps the world too! NB. I have specifically asked the children not to steal the batteries out of your remote controls!

School Twitter feed.

I'm trying to ensure there's something on our twitter feed at least once or twice a week. If you aren't following it you can find it on @RoperPrimary Do follow us!

School Meals

All classes commenced on hot school dinners from Monday. It has been fine, with socially distanced sittings. Maybe it's my old bones today but hasn't it turned cold? All the more reason to have a hot school meal in the middle of the day. Bookings/Payments can be made through parent pay in the usual way.

School Christmas Dinner will take place on Wednesday December 16th. While we won't be able to have the whole of the Infants and the Juniors eating in the hall together and it will need to be more socially distanced, we promise to make it special and memorable for the children. Traditionally we have home-made Christmas hats on that day and I think this should continue. So, start thinking about your creations!

Stars of the week

It was lovely to have pupils from Blue Class and Violet Class join us in our virtual assembly this morning from home – Monday's assembly zoom link is on your google classroom streams. In our assembly we said well done to the following stars of the week:

- **Red Class** – Eva & Xavier
- **Orange Class** – Stanley & Anna
- **Yellow Class** – Gabrielle & Sofia
- **Green Class** – Isabella & Santi
- **Blue Class** – Blue Class have been tremendous in engaging with their online learning this week – we'd like to congratulate them all!
- **Indigo Class** – Harry & Valentia C
- **Amethyst Class** – Bobby & Hannah
- **Violet Class** – Miss Holloway thinks that the way Violet Class have adapted to online learning this week has been tremendous. Well done to everyone.

Well done to all of you!

Have a pleasant weekend – stay safe
Mr. Mooney



Margaret Roper PTA

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

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ADULT'S RAFFLE

1st prize £150

2nd prize £75

Plus

8 chances to win a
luxury hamper
made by our very own elves

£2 per ticket

.....

CHILDREN'S RAFFLE

5 chances to win a

£20 voucher

Choose from the following
Roblox vbucks Xbox PS
iTunes Smyths Toys
Waterstones Amazon

£1 per ticket

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WWW.RAFFALL.COM/MARGARETROPER