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## Parent Newsletter – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a lovely day today, videoing the Infant Nativity, although it has been very busy! Yellow, Red and Orange classes made us very proud and we are looking forward to seeing the finished video by the end of next week!

We are entering the last week of term and it has been a long and unusual term, so I think the children (and staff) are nearly ready for a break. Next week promises to be fun with a number of events to get us ready for the Christmas Season.

The children looked delightful in their Christmas Jumpers today, raising funds for Save the Children. They were so jolly. All pupils have an opportunity to wear their jumpers with any other clothes they choose next Wednesday, for Christmas dinner day.

### Covid 19 – Updates

You may have seen the announcement from the DfE that schools have been given the option to close on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, rather than Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> December. The rationale behind this is that schools will not have to run their track and trace for pupils and staff past the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. However, this offers little time for families to arrange childcare for the 18<sup>th</sup> December, so we are opting to stay in school until the 18<sup>th</sup>. School will close for the Christmas Holidays as outlined in our newsletter last week, with staggered finishes as outlined in last week's and this week's newsletter; either 1.15pm or 1.25 pm, depending on class.

In order to fulfil the schools' responsibilities regarding track and trace of positive cases during the Christmas Holiday the following arrangements are in place: (First two bullet points are text from the DfE).

- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

It is important that, in the cases where a pupil or member of staff has developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school and then goes on to have a positive Covid test, school is informed. You should do this by emailing the head teacher [head@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:head@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk) and copying in the school office

[office@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:office@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk) . These email addresses will be monitored a number of times a day during the period 19<sup>th</sup> December to 24<sup>th</sup> December. We will then contact you to identify potential contacts and inform them to self-isolate for 14 days. It is very important that you do contact us, as we need to ensure that any contacts have been informed.

Of course, we all hope that there will be no positive cases identified in this period and the Christmas Holiday can remain unaffected.

I have been asked to share with you a letter from Rachel Flowers, Director of Public Health for Croydon. To go with the letter there is a flow chart which helps families to ensure they are following procedure for testing, isolating and track and trace correctly. Please read this information carefully.

We have been informed this evening that there has been an official announcement today re a change in self-isolation period. From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December the isolation period for contacts will reduce from 14 to 10 days. The change to the isolation period for contacts will apply to all those who are currently self-isolating including those who commenced self-isolation before Monday. Self-isolation periods will begin on the day after exposure, a test or the start of symptoms.

See this announcement below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-chief-medical-officers-statement-on-the-self-isolation-period-11-december-2020>

See here for Government guidance about how and with whom you may form a bubble for the Christmas period.

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

### Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent

I attach to the newsletter the Wednesday Word, which is in booklet form and takes you through the Christmas Season until we recommence School in January. Please feel free to share this with relatives and to use it in your family prayer life. Particularly when many families are finding it difficult to attend Parish Liturgy, family prayer time has never been more important.

### Admissions 2021

I have set additional webinars for the last week of term and the start of the new term. Please refer to the school website for information.

### PTA news

The school Raffle reaches its last week. You have just over 6 days to purchase tickets for the adult or the junior Raffle. When I just looked, 307 tickets had been sold. Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets. If you haven't – now is your chance. The flyer is below – it is so easy to buy. Come on!

### School Meals

School Christmas Dinner will take place next Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to it and will make it special for the children. Hats this year will be made in class. We're also planning a few other 'treats' for the children in the next week.

### 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** – Zander and Benjamin
- **Orange Class** – Alex & Ronan
- **Yellow Class** – William & Joseph

- **Green Class** – Victor & Christina
- **Blue Class** – Sorcha & Marissa
- **Indigo Class** – Tymek & Ellie
- **Amethyst Class** – Alex & Florence
- **Violet Class** – Aiden, Freddie, Daniel Z & Catherine.

Well done to all of you!

Have a pleasant weekend – stay safe  
Mr. Mooney

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I've been asked to include the item below in any newsletters. It may be of interest to parents who are changing/moving career:

**STEM Returners programme for returning STEM professionals with Mott MacDonald in Croydon.**  
**Have you taken a career break from an engineering, scientific or technical sector and wish to return? Are you working below your experience in a different sector? Do you have an engineering, science or technical degree that you aren't using? Do you just wish to transfer sectors but don't have any experience? If so this could be the opportunity for you! After running many returner programmes where 100% of returners were offered permanent roles, we are currently sourcing candidates for the first Mott MacDonald 'STEM Returners' programme, a 13 week, fully paid and supported return to work programme starting in April 2021 in Croydon. All candidates will also have the opportunity to obtain a permanent role at the end of the programme. No career break is too long, register to return to STEM today! For more information please visit [www.stemreturners.com](http://www.stemreturners.com) or email [hello@stemreturners.com](mailto:hello@stemreturners.com).**

More information on the programme is also available here: <https://www.stemreturners.com/2020/12/07/mott-macdonald-launch-returners-scheme-to-welcome-back-engineers-after-a-career-break-across-the-uk/>



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**

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## 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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