



Margaret Roper Catholic Primary School

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Friday 26th February

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

Return to School!

We are now just one week away from all pupils returning to school, full time. We look forward to welcoming all pupils on Monday 8th of March. We are so excited!

I know that almost all of our children will be excited too – very glad to be back at school, seeing their friends, working with their teachers and sharing their experiences of this period of national lockdown and virtual school. We all pray it is the last time that schools will be closed to pupils, and that we can recommence the usual patterns of school life.

Some children may feel a little reticent or anxious returning. This is to be expected. I imagine that some adults may feel similar after a prolonged period working away from the office. It may feel strange, and some children may also be a little more tired; especially if they are getting up earlier in the morning than they have been accustomed to. Please reassure your children that it is perfectly normal to feel a little ‘weird’ or anxious as they return; it’s the same for everyone. This goes along with the excitement they will be feeling. It’s good talk to them about how they are doing, allowing them to share their concerns or feelings, if they wish to. We will be doing similar in school over the first few days; allowing the children to readjust and settle into school life. Remember, for a child of primary age, nearly 3 months is a very long time.

In terms of school procedures, we are expecting further guidance to be published by the DfE over the weekend, so I will update you all next week. However, we do know that school routines will be the same as prior to Christmas. Social distancing and scrupulous hygiene practices will be maintained. Staggered starts and finishes will remain, and we will follow the same procedures as the Autumn Term:

Class	Start Time	Location	Finish Time	Location
Red	8.45	Playground	3.00	Playground
Orange	8.30	Playground	2.50	Playground
Yellow	8.40	Car Park	3.00	Car Park
Green	8.30	Playground	2.50	Playground
Blue	8.45	Car Park	3.00	Playground
Indigo	8.35	Car Park	2.55	Car Park
Violet	8.45	Playground	3.05	Playground
Amethyst	8.35	Playground	2.55	Playground

We will be managing staggered lunchtimes and breaktimes to ensure social distancing in communal areas. The menu for school meals from 8th March is attached. All classes apart from Year Six will eat in the hall, in socially distanced bubbles.

As of 8th March, when the children return, full usual school uniform will be required. I appreciate that some children may have grown out of some uniform, so we will be understanding, but please ensure that you follow uniform policy. We normally change from winter uniform to summer uniform at Easter, which is only a few weeks away, so we will return in winter uniform. As the classrooms have windows and doors open to aid ventilation, please make sure that your child is warm enough – we can't expect the weather throughout March to be as beautiful as it is as I write! We will continue the procedure of asking pupils to attend school in their PE Kits and tracksuits on PE days.

The regulations specify that, up until Easter, we are unable to run any extra-curricular provision, with the exception of wrap around care for working parents. This is subject to review for the Summer Term. If we are able, we will certainly be running a programme of clubs and activities in the Summer Term, as we usually would. For now, let's enjoy being back at school together.

I need to reiterate that social distancing remains essential among our parents and between bubbles. I know that, just like the children, all the adults will be very pleased to see each other again in person. Please make sure that, in your enthusiasm to greet each other, you continue to maintain 2M distancing and minimising contacts. At a meeting with the Head of Public Health earlier in the week, it was made clear that the impact of the current lockdown will be diminished by the opening of schools and the increase of vectors of transmission. This is, to an extent, the inevitable and necessary consequence of re-opening, but we still need to do all we can to control infection and protect the vulnerable. So, please take care and continue to follow the rules.

I will update parents further in letters next week.

Book week

Next week we are celebrating Book Week. We kick off the week with a virtual author session with Cliff McNish, who will be speaking to Infants and Juniors at different times on Monday morning. Your child's teacher will have shared with your child the zoom link for their session through Google Classroom. Don't miss it! You can find out more about Cliff here:

[Writer Cliff McNish Children's Fantasy Books - Cliff McNish - Author of Dark Teen Fantasy](#)

Miss Jackson wrote to all families earlier in the week, but expect to have lots of book-related activities in class learning next week. At the end of the week we are also holding a virtual 'Literary Mastermind' with pupils from Y6 competing for the annual trophy. We will send out an invite to this early next week.

The Great Margaret Roper Bake Off!

Miss Holloway has been delighted and overwhelmed with the pictures she has been sent of all your lovely bakes. She has collated some of them (sorry we couldn't use all of them if you sent in multiple pictures) in a PDF montage that is attached to the newsletter. I think you'll agree that you have done an amazing job. We hope you had fun doing it. Thanks to all our parents for helping out so much.

Of course, this leaves us with an impossible dilemma. How to judge any winners? In the end, we decided that we should recognise all the participants with a rosette, which Miss Holloway is organising, and then award a few trophies for particular efforts that really caught our eye. Miss Holloway asked the teachers in school this week to help judge, as she simply couldn't decide. All prizes will be awarded when we come back to school but our trophy winners are, in no particular order:

Oliver Roberts, Florence and Eleanor Hills, Sasha and Ellie Wiehe, and Miran Louis.

But seriously, we could have awarded trophies to everyone if budget had allowed! Well done! We hope you had fun and enjoyed eating the outcomes!

Captain Sir Tom Moore Half Term Challenge

We're keeping this one open for a week more, so if you want to let us know what 100 challenge you've been up to then please do so. I wrote earlier in the week that Alfie in Y3, was trying to get 100 smiles and he's nearly there. If you can help him reach his target, send a picture of you smiling and what makes you smile to rutland.sally@gmail.com.

Staying safe online

Two items here. Firstly, we are aware that some pupils, particularly in the Juniors, are using a second device or platform to message their friends in class during live lessons. This is unacceptable and distracting to say the least. Please could you ensure that you monitor and are aware of your child messaging and prohibit it during lesson times. I think you also have a responsibility as parents to monitor the messages your child is sending by reading through them occasionally. This will ensure that your child knows that their conduct in messaging should be the same as if you were hearing them.

Secondly, the DfE have updated their guidance for parents on how to keep children safe online. I know I wrote to you recently with some guidance, but this information provides more help and support for parents:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): support for parents and carers to keep children safe online - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19/support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online)

Prayer during Lent

Today is Family Fast Day. CAFOD are running their usual fundraiser to support those in need. In Lent, we think about how we can give to others as part of our Lenten observance and we have been talking about this in assemblies this week. If you'd like to give, if you feel that you are one of the lucky privileged minority, then consider giving. See [Catholic international development charity | CAFOD](https://cafod.org.uk)

Family Fast Day Prayer 2021

Loving God, we hear your call to all who thirst for a brighter future: Come to the water. Pour out your Spirit upon us and lead us to walk alongside one another. Let a desire for change well up within us. May we overflow with compassion and love. And as a stream wears away stone, may we reshape our world together to reflect your kingdom of hope for all.

Amen.

I attach the Wednesday Word which helps us to focus our family prayer, even if we cannot physically be in church. This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Lent and the Gospel reading is from Mark 9: 2-10, the Transfiguration.

Stars of the week

Congratulation to all our stars of the week:

Class	Stars of the week
RED	Luca & Ines
ORANGE	Taliyah & Ronan
YELLOW	Melanie & Tabitha
GREEN	Emma & Dolcie
BLUE	Tiago & Phoebe
INDIGO	Sofia & Santi
AMETHYST	Sofia & Hannah
VIOLET	Emma & Stefan

Birthdays – Happy birthday for this week to:

Stephen – 21st February, Daniel Z - 22nd February, Peter - 23rd February, Reyes – 25th February, Isabella – 25th February, Thomas C - 28th February

Devices for pupils: We have a limited number of devices available for loan to pupils if you are finding it difficult to share at home. Please contact Mr Mooney head@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk if you would like to borrow one.

Have a good weekend.

God Bless you all.

Mr Mooney & Miss Holloway