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Friday 26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please read this (rather long) newsletter carefully; there is some key information contained in it.

Server breakdown

Over last weekend we had an IT problem that caused our school server to break down. We sent a parentmail to inform you that we would have limited communication capacity whilst this was rectified. Our IT systems were restored by 9am on Wednesday. Thank you for your patience.

Cyber security

It has come to our attention that, where families are computer sharing, it is feasible that a parent might send an email from their child's google mail account inadvertently, thinking it is their own. We advise that each account is logged out when the user finishes their session to avoid the potential for this confusion.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations, which would normally take place earlier in the Spring Term, when school was not open to all pupils, will take place on Tuesday 27th April and Thursday 29th April between 3.30 and 6.30pm. These appointments will be via Zoom. A separate letter will be sent to parents from the school office today, and appointments should be booked virtually, with parents of siblings (more than one child in the school) having first priority from Monday at 12 noon. Parents with one child in the school can access bookings from 8am on Wednesday.

We considered the feedback regarding our Autumn Term consultations, which you will recall we organised by telephone with no specific appointment slots and have amended what we are doing as a result. Please bear in mind the following points:

- Social distancing requires us to run virtual appointments at this time. This is in the interests of all.
- Appointments will need to be contained within the ten-minute slot allocated and teachers have been instructed to stick punctiliously to this. This is to avoid parents waiting in a zoom queue unnecessarily.
- If the ten-minute slot is not sufficient to cover the discussion, the teacher will arrange to make a subsequent appointment.
- A zoom invitation will be sent to all families closer to the dates of the consultations. The teachers will stay in the zoom call throughout and each parent should log in to the waiting room just before their allocated time. As the teacher closes their previous appointment, they will then admit the next booked parent appointment.
- Appointments will be recorded for safeguarding reasons.

- If you miss your booked appointment time, for any reason, please email the class teacher and we will endeavour to provide an alternative at a mutually agreed time at a later date.
- If you have more than one child in the school, please do not book consecutive appointment slots with different class teachers. Please leave at least one ten-minute gap between them, so you have time to log into the new appointment link and join the waiting room.
- We are planning very carefully for the consultations, but we are aware that some families may be less familiar with zoom. Prior to the appointments, if you need any technical advice, please contact us. We will send out a basic guide on how to log into zoom when we issue the links for each class.

During this consultation your child's class teacher will discuss their overall progress and attainment based on their work online since the last consultation, how well they have settled back into school after the Spring lockdown and their targets based on the assessments we have been carrying out this term since the children returned to school. Please see the additional letter on Assessment and Covid – catch up sent today for more information.

We also plan to offer another consultation later in the term to parents who wish to access it, in conjunction with their child's end of year report. If we can, we'll be offering these face-to-face. Thus, we will have three formal points of contact in the year, despite the constraints that lockdown has caused. Additionally, you are always welcome to contact us to request a meeting with your child's class teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Please feel free to use the class email address or the office email address to facilitate this.

Praying through Lent

This weekend is the start of Holy Week and Sunday is Palm Sunday. We sent out the Wednesday Word midweek, which contains prayers and activities based on the gospels through until the end of the Easter Holiday.

In school, we will be focussing daily in our class prayers on the events of Holy Week at an age appropriate level. In our whole school assemblies, we will be focussing on scripture from Mark 11: 1-10 and reflecting on how our Lenten journey has changed our relationship with God and others for the better. On Maundy Thursday, Indigo Class will lead us in a virtual 'Way of the Cross'

Holy Week is the most important week in the Church year and an important way for you to develop your children's faith. Please do try to think about how your family pray together in the coming week and make time for God.

Red Nose Day 2021

Thank you very much for your donations, we raised an impressive £333 for Comic Relief!

Friends of Margaret Roper Easter Egg Colouring Competition

Please do encourage your child to colour in and decorate the Easter Egg template, we have some entries in already that are wonderful. £1 to enter and 2 prizes per class. They must be in on Monday 29th March in order for us to quarantine and choose winners before the end of term. The flyer and template were sent out on Parentmail yesterday and children were sent home with a paper 'egg' template.

Easter Holiday works – Volunteers sought to help out

In the last week of the Easter Holidays, we want to do some work outside to improve and upgrade some areas of the school. We are looking for some willing parent volunteers to help us. We are able to do this as long as we manage some social distancing, as the regulations will allow us to meet in groups of up to six. I have earmarked Tuesday 13th April and/or Wednesday 14th April, but if we have more parent volunteers later in the week, we can flex these dates.

Jobs we'd like to do are:

Caring, Learning and Achieving together as part of God's Family

1. Refurbish the pond area – this will include lifting the paved surround, removing the old split liner, lining the hole with fresh sand, putting in a new liner and then replacing the surrounding slabs. We might also get a chance to stabilise parts of the fence where a couple of the fence posts are starting to wobble.
2. Rub down and paint the exterior woodwork on the covered way outside Reception Class and Year One.
3. Paint the pavilion (we are having the roof repaired, hopefully around this time).
4. Do some tidying to the side beds in the Salmon Garden and get it ready for some new bedding plants.

All materials will be provided and also plentiful tea, coffee and pastries!

If we have sufficient volunteers I propose to get all these jobs done, but if we need to, we can prioritise. I know few people will be away from home (although I appreciate that you may well be working) so we may have a great opportunity to get some much needed jobs done. I will be coordinating the logistics (and getting my hands dirty) so please email me your availability if you can help to:

head@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk

Menu Variation – Thursday 1st April

Mrs Howard has asked me to inform you of a menu variation next Thursday. Instead of the advertised meal, the kitchen will be offering cheese and tomato pizza or salmon fishcake as the main option.

Dogs at school

We have been reviewing the health and safety procedures related to dogs on the school premises. Recently, we have seen a significant increase in the number of dogs at the start and end of the school day and our previous 'dog corner' is not able to cope with the numbers and the congestion that it causes. This has been exacerbated by the staggered drop off points. It is a fact that not everyone feels the same about dogs and therefore, reluctantly, we have come to the decision that we need to suspend permission for dogs to be on site while we consult with parents about the best way forward. The whole of the Thomas More site has a no dogs policy which has been the case for years and there is signage to that effect. We've consulted with our safeguarding Governor on this as well, and decided to say 'no dogs allowed for now' until we hear views from parents. I'm inviting you to email me with your views and we will consider the best way forward. What we must avoid, at all costs, is stress or discomfort that anyone may feel, or anyone getting injured. Most schools have absolute no dogs policies, but we appreciate the difficulties of our site. So please email me your views, and if you have a good idea we'd like to hear it.

Clubs next term

We are pleased that we will be able to offer some outside extra-curricular clubs next term. I am finalising the matrix for this and this will be with you early next week. We aim to offer all that we can, although we will not be able to offer indoor clubs at this point, owing to the restrictions still in place.

End of Term – Thursday 1st April

School closes for the end of term slightly earlier as usual next week. Staggered finishes are as follows:

Class	Finish time (Thursday 1 st April)
Red	1:15pm
Orange	1:15pm
Yellow	1:15pm
Green	1:25pm
Blue	1:25pm
Indigo	1:15pm
Amethyst	1:15pm
Violet	1:25pm

Happy Birthday this week to: Emma P, Tahlia, Mirin and Dillon

Stars of the week Congratulation to all our stars of the week:

Class	Stars of the week
RED	Chimdi and Benjamin
ORANGE	Reyes and Andrew
YELLOW	Tahlia and Thomas
GREEN	Una and Christina
BLUE	Whole Class
INDIGO	Elyssa and Tobi
AMETHYST	Inca and Elaina
VIOLET	Stefan and Catherine

Best Attendance W/C 22nd March:

Red Class, 97.81% attendance this week

Punctuality: Nobody reached 100% punctuality this week – could be to do with the roadworks!

Reflection

As part of our collective worship this week, we shared a reflection to mark the one-year lockdown anniversary. We are proud to share with you two prayers written by Isabelle and Harry in Violet Class

Dear Loving God,

*Over the good and hard times, you have guided me, please guide those who are feeling lost.
When I was sad you have comforted me, please comfort those grieving for their loved ones.
When I was down you gave me hope, please spread that hope throughout the world.
When I have fallen you have picked me up; please pick up those who have fallen over lockdown and COVID.
Thank you, my Lord
Amen*

Lord,

Please help us all as we reflect on the past lockdown year. We pray to you for strength, for guidance, for trust, for loss.

Help me and everyone stay calm and hopeful as we look back in sadness and forwards in prayer.

We pray for those who feel sorrow for loved ones lost and freedom gone.

We ask you compassionately to bless people still enduring pain and suffering from the restrictions or the virus itself.

We offer you thanksgiving for the happy times we have had and the people working hard.

Please grant the world hope for a good future.

Amen



Y6 Prayer Wall to commemorate the one-year anniversary.

Have a good weekend.
Mr Mooney & Miss Holloway