



Margaret Roper Catholic Primary School

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Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy St George's Day!



It's great to be back in school for the Summer Term and we have had lovely weather to start the term. We look forward to a busy term and we are hopeful that the lockdown restrictions will continue to ease, as we cautiously restore some social mixing in our lives. Please do continue to follow the rules so that we maintain the health of our children and families; since we returned on 8th March we have had no identified cases or need for classes to self-isolate; let's maintain our good practices and not become complacent.

Some upcoming dates reminders:

Parent Consultations – Tuesday 27th & Thursday 29th May (see below)

Monday 3rd May is a Bank Holiday

RSE meeting for all parents – Wednesday 5th May 7pm (see below)

Parent Consultations

These take place on 27th and 29th of April via Zoom. By now, most parents have booked meeting slots. If you have not done so, please access the booking system or contact the school office if you are having problems.

Consultations will need to be run very efficiently by our teachers to ensure that appointments stay on track. It will be a busy time for the class teachers and this is the first time that they will have done something like this. Links to the zoom consultations will be posted on each Google Classroom and we will parentmail out the links on Monday as well. Each teacher will stay in the zoom meeting, admitting the next appointee who will be in the waiting room. I have given very particular instructions to the teachers to ensure that their meeting slots do not overrun and so, if the conversation is not ended and you need to discuss more with your child's teacher, they will contact you subsequent to the appointments to set up a further meeting. For most parents this should not be necessary, as the discussion can be contained within the ten-minute slot allocated. In order to ensure efficiency, safety and clarity we ask the following:

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1. Please log in *before your scheduled appointment time*. You will be held in a waiting room until your appointment time.
2. **Please ensure that the identity that you show is your child's name (preferably) or the surname easily identifiable with your child.** That way, the teacher will know who to admit next most easily. The waiting room is not organised in appointment order but in order of joining.
3. It is not necessary for your child to join this meeting.
4. Please ensure that you take the meeting in an appropriate space and consider extraneous noise. Since the meetings are 1:1 we should avoid the external noise of other users with their microphones on.
5. Once you log out of your first appointment, you can log into your next zoom meeting waiting room with the next teacher.

RSE Meeting – Wednesday 5th May

This meeting is an opportunity for parents to meet with governors and the school leadership to review the rationale and curriculum content of the Relationships and Sex Education programme we are implementing. Letters and the policy have already been sent to you. The meeting will be on zoom and will be expected to last between 60 and 90 minutes. Naturally, questions will probably arise as a result of the initial presentation, but it would be useful for us to have any questions you already have, in advance of the meeting. You can do this by emailing me and the questions will be addressed as part of the meeting. I do hope that parents attend this meeting as we want to ensure that you are familiar with and content with the programme. *Can I point out at this point that the sex education element of the programme (which is what is likely to stimulate most debate and questions) is a small part of the whole programme and is not at all graphic.* However, we need to make certain key decisions about the delivery of the content and want to do this in partnership with you. A number of our governors will be present in the meeting.

The link for the meeting is:

Topic: RSE Parents' Meeting

Time: May 5, 2021 07:00 PM London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81435797617?pwd=YXZaMkFtdUJMeTZUQzQxbGp1QittUT09>

Meeting ID: 814 3579 7617

Passcode: 753012

I will repeat this in next week's newsletter.

School uniform

Now we are in the Summer Term, usual summer uniform is expected. However, despite the lovely weather we have been having, it is still april and the air can be a little chilly, especially with the windows open wide to aid ventilaitiun. Therefore, please make decisions about how to keep your children warm. If it turns really chilly and winter uniform is better until into May, we understand this.

However, now shops are open and there is no reason why uniform policy should not be adhered to. School shoes are expected and appropriate hair bands should be worn. This applies to all children whose hair is longer than collar length. Earrings are not permitted in our unifom policy.

Easter Holiday works – a MASSIVE thank you!!

Last week, on Tuesday and Wednesday we had some marvellous parents (and pupils) who joned us at school to do some external works. We cleared and tidied the school nature pond area, the Salmon Garden, painted the wood on the covered way and the pavilion and had a good tidy round. Some photos below. A great big thank you to all who helped; Mr & Mrs Shanahan and Jack, Mr Davis, Mr Krzemienski, Anna, Maria, & Olga, Mr Porter, Mrs Vellacott, Una & Ronan, Mrs Podesta and Emma. We hope to have another working party on a day in the half term.

Governor's letter

On Wednesday I sent out a letter from Dr Sawyer our vice chair of governors. It is attached to this letter again for those who may have missed it.

Dogs at school

I've been reviewing the policy we have. As you are aware, we had to suspend our permission for dogs to join us in a small area of our site before Easter, as the numbers were becoming unmanageable, not all dogs were attended and some pupils and parents could have been stressed by the presence of dogs as they made their way in and out of school.

I've taken feedback from dog owners and non-owners alike in order to establish what is the best course of action. Without making this article very lengthy, there are pluses and minuses but the overriding priority has to be the safety and emotional security of our pupils and families. Therefore, I am proposing a trail of an amended system as follows:

- 'Dog Corner' ; where parents used to wait with their dogs, is too close to the alley gate and in a high traffic area. Therefore a new waiting area will be along the hedge, behind the netball court, but nearer to the vehicle gate to the car park at the far end of the Pannett Classroom.
- Dogs should be with their owners at all times in this area, on a short leash, and supervised. It is not acceptable to leave your dog, unless you have made an arrangement with another dog owner who will wait with your dog while you collect your child. Pupils should not be left in charge of dogs.
- Pupils should not be encouraged to cluster round any dog. That could be overwhelming for the animal, and potentially overexcite them. Not all pupils know how to act appropriately around dogs and we need to keep everything calm and managed if this pilot is to work.
- Social distancing should be maintained at all times.
- Please make sure that your dog has had some exercise and a chance to relieve themselves **before** they come on site.
- When going to this space, please ensure that your dog is closely under control, and do not go close to others or linger in 'pinch points' where others may encounter your dog.
- Dogs should not be anywhere else on the site. For parents who are collecting from the car park, you can adopt exactly the same position, right at the end of the car park, while the staggered entrances are in use.
- This policy applies to all dogs, including dogs in arms.

Of particular note is that quite a few non-dog owners and their children may be scared or intimidated by noisy or lunging dogs. We have lots of young dogs currently and they are impulsive. I reiterate, the needs of the human users must come first. I propose we try the new system for a few weeks and see if it improves matters. I welcome feedback at all times. By the middle of May we will be able to decide if this new system is working. It's up to all our dog owners to make this happen.

Hand Gel

Mrs Bond has kindly managed to secure personal hand gel for each pupil in the school. Since we have dispensers in each classroom and corridors, it is best if pupils have these for use generally; perhaps in their coat pockets and we are sending them home.

Mrs Bond has also been fantastic in ensuring that our school is a greener place with all the recycling work she does for us. Please see the attached flyer for ways to be involved. Watching a documentary about Greta Thunberg recently, I was struck how she was passionate about everyone doing a little bit, rather than being overwhelmed by the issues. Anna tells me that recently we received a cheque for £157 from ink/toner cartridge recycling, so there's useful funds to be raised as well. Thank you, Anna.

Clubs next term

Further to our offer for clubs for this term, we have not received many applications for most of our clubs, which may make them unviable to run. Teacher-led clubs are due to commence the week after next. You request the club for your child by emailing through your child's class email. I will review the figures after the weekend, so if you want to book, please do so before Monday. Thanks.

Stars of the week

Congratulation to all our stars of the week:

Class	Stars of the week
RED	Alexia & Xavi
ORANGE	Lori & Quincy
YELLOW	Faye & Kiara
GREEN	Tristan & Michael
BLUE	Sophia S & Jaydan
INDIGO	Matthew & Amal
AMETHYST	Sofia & Lidia
VIOLET	Jessica & Faithful

Happy Birthday to Leo Year 6 (20th), Valentina Year 4 (23rd), Una Year 4 (23rd), Mateo Year 2 (24th)
Melanie Year 2 (24th)

This week's attendance awards are as follows:

Red Class - 100% Attendance
Y1, Y2 and Y6 Amethyst - 100% punctuality
Very well done!

Have a pleasant weekend
Mr Mooney & Miss Holloway

Some pictures of our holiday efforts:





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