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Tuesday 20th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the last day of what has been an extraordinary year in school, this is the final parent newsletter of the year. We reflected back with the children in assembly this morning on the successes and challenges of the year – one we will never forget, I'm sure. I asked the children to think about what they would say to their *own* children in 30 years or so, when they ask 'what did you do in 2021?' and how they would respond. I suggested that some of them might like to write a letter to their future selves, to give to you to keep until they are grown up, talking about what the year was like, both highs and lows. Just an idea.

For all of our school community, the year has entailed working and thinking differently. At the end of the year, our children leave us feeling happy and secure and we look forward to a new school year with optimism and excitement. I am very fortunate to be the leader of such a fine school; one where it is evident in every interaction that the adults and the children in their care are completely committed to achieving the very best in terms of educational outcomes but also the less tangible but vital aspects of developing as a person, with great values and a sense of positive self-worth.

As parents, you have supported us in every way we have asked. We couldn't ask for more and I think it speaks volumes for the strength of our trust and school community. We've learned together this year and I think that as we reflect, we will see that this has drawn us even closer together as a school family, working in partnership. I know that we will build on this in September and beyond. Thank you for all you have done. Many thanks to all our PTA class reps and the indefatigable Janet Dawson, who have supported us so well this year. It has almost been impossible to run events, but the PTA have been active and we are so grateful for their support.

The staff at Margaret Roper have been excellent this year. Staff in schools are always adaptable and innovative and this has never been more needed than recently. I'd like to thank them for their commitment, care, love and professionalism. They deserve a good break now. Thank you for all your kind gifts to staff over the last few days; they really aren't expected but very much appreciated. You are so kind.

Our Governors continue to offer wise counsel, challenge and support to our school. I'd like to thank them for all they do, and in particular, Mr Munn, our Chair, who steps down from this role at the end of term. I have greatly valued his patience and unflagging support in leading our school.

And finally, I cannot leave out our wonderful children. I think the reason I have been Headteacher at Margaret Roper for such a long time is the extraordinary pupils we have here. There is such reward from seeing them flourish and grow from Reception until Year Six. I feel so blessed to spend every day working with them and speaking with them. I am especially proud of the ways they have adapted and embraced the year, even when it was really hard for them. This is the fruit of the vocation of teaching. I strongly recommend it to all of you!

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

Of course, our Year Six pupils leave us tomorrow and we will miss them very much indeed. I was looking at some pictures of them in Reception earlier this week, and it is wonderful to see how they have blossomed; the pictures are really sweet, and looking closely, you can see the little individuals and how they have matured. I wish all our Year Six pupils all the very best and hope they will look back on their days at Margaret Roper fondly. I have confidence they will make us proud and look forward to catching up with their exploits in Year Seven. God bless you all. We celebrated our Y6 leavers' Mass on Monday morning, socially distanced in the Fr. Salmon Garden, and it was a lovely peaceful mass. Tomorrow, we will enjoy the video Y6 have prepared as part of the virtual leavers' assembly. A letter regarding this video is being sent to Y6 Parents.

We also say farewell at the end of term to Mrs Gifty and Mrs Rowland, who are leaving us. We wish you well for your new roles and off all our thanks for the great work you have done for us. You will always be part of the MR family and we hope you stay in touch.

School finishes tomorrow and we will be maintaining the bubbles right to the end of term. In the new school year, we hope to be able to resume the normal pattern of the school day and the normal programme of events and I will be writing to you during the latter part of the summer holidays to keep you informed. We watch the cautious reopening of society with care; all the decisions we make are intended to protect our families and staff and we will interpret government guidance and regulation in the light of developments during the next six weeks.

Finishing times tomorrow for the different bubbles are:

Class	Finish time
Red	1:15pm
Orange	1:15pm
Yellow	1:15pm
Green	1:25pm
Blue	1:25pm
Indigo	1:15pm
Amethyst	1:15pm
Violet	1:25pm

I look forward to seeing many of you on the playground tomorrow to wish you a happy holiday. Stay safe and have a delightful break. If you are travelling, travel safely.

Reports

Pupil reports were distributed on Monday. If you wish to speak to your child's class teacher this week regarding your child's report, please feel free to contact them through their class email and they will arrange a telephone call or zoom meeting.

Medication in school

Any medication kept in school will be sent home for the summer holidays. This includes asthma pumps and EpiPens. Please ensure when sending medication back to us, that these are checked for expiry dates. This is to ensure they are in date for the new academic year. For any other medication, such as piriton or Calpol etc, you will need to fill in a new form. These are available from the school office and will need to be completed before we are able to administer medication to your child.

Sports Days

We held the infant and Junior sports days on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. The children had a great time, although, as you know we were unable to have parents join us this year. In a very close

competition, St Bernadette House came First, St Teresa 2nd, Thomas More were 3rd and St John the Baptist were a very close 4th - very well done everyone.

Breakfast and After School Club next year

In the new term, our Breakfast and After School Clubs will run as before the pandemic. Prior to the Covid lockdowns, both provisions were full, but since lockdowns and some parents home working, we have some spaces. Over the summer, you might want to think about what your needs will be in the new academic year. All the details are on the school website (under 'Parent Info') and we offer the clubs as a support to working parents, not primarily to make a profit. In the club pupils can have a nourishing breakfast or a snack in the late afternoon, free and organised play activities, space and some support for homework for the older children, story time, games, outside play when the weather is clement, creative activities and so on. Our team are staff employed directly by the school and know our children and parents well. Full details about charges are on the website and parents who are taxpayers are able to make their payments tax efficient. Do let us know if you plan to access either/both clubs or if you think you might have a need in the future, as your working patterns change.

Reception Teddy Bears Picnic

We were delighted to have Canon John join us on Tuesday 13th when Reception Class held a teddy bears' picnic on the field. We played some games, ate some yummy cakes and had lots of fun. Canon John's (rather posh) bear even brought his own cup and saucer!



Congratulations to Canon John who celebrated 24 years of ordination on Tuesday 14th July! We are very lucky to have you, Canon John.

PTA News

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of another school year where we have not been able to carry out our wonderful events, I would like to thank the Class Reps for your help with the small fund raising we have managed to do. I will send out the final figures next week. We now need new Class Reps or if you wish to stay on please let me know.

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

I will be stepping down as Acting Chair as Mia leaves this year, but I will stay on as Treasurer. Therefore, Friends of Margaret Roper School needs a new Chairperson. I will be on hand to help as will Anna Bond who is staying on as Year 6 Class Rep. Please do consider as you will be fully supported by us, Class Reps and the School.

Thank you and hope you all have a lovely Summer!

Ed's note – *Further to my note above and Janet's message, I would be very keen to talk to any parent who might be interested in taking on the role of chair. If you're interested in discussing what the role entails, I'm available for coffee and a chat over the summer; just email me.*

Stars of the week – week ending 16th July

Congratulation to all our stars of the week:

Class	Stars of the week
RED	Pavel and Chimdi
ORANGE	Lori & Zoe
YELLOW	Advit & Jack
GREEN	Rose & Sara
BLUE	The whole class
INDIGO	Oli & Harry
AMETHYST	Tianna & James
VIOLET	Lisanne & George

Happy Birthday to Faye, Jeremie, Sophie, Ellie, Amare, Luca, and Isabelle, who all celebrate/are celebrating their birthdays before the end of term. Happy birthday also to Taye, Tabbi, Sofia, Alex, Ava, Ronan, Kiara, Florence, Francesca, Martina, Matilda, Advit, Bobby, Maja, Kaylie, Santiago, Riley, Jack, Ana, Arthur, Neha, Rajarshi, Florence, Ria, Marie, Freddie, Olive, Benjamin, and Catherine, who celebrate their birthdays over the school holidays. We hope you have a great day.

Have an amazing summer holiday – we look forward to welcoming you all back on the 6th of September.

Mr Mooney, Miss Holloway & Mrs Garcia

Attachments:

- Letter and flyer from NHS relating to Asthma.
- Summer Reading Challenge – Croydon Libraries
- Wednesday Word – Sumer holiday bumper edition
- Young Croydon Summer sports and programmes (2 documents)