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Monday 4th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,
I apologise for sending the weekly newsletter out on the Monday instead of last Friday – I was out of school for most of Friday; see below.

Start of school year masses

On Wednesday last Canon John celebrated Mass in the Fr. Salmon Garden to commence the new school year. Years 2, 4 and 6 attended and it was beautifully led by Y4. We had planned to celebrate mass with Yrs 1, 3 & 5 on Thursday, but were unable to do so because of poor weather. This will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Diocesan guidance for schools and parish priests dictates that masses should be held outside, so we are rather more weather dependent than normal. Unfortunately, at this time, we are also unable to invite parents to join us for mass, but we hope that we will be able to relax this restriction at some point soon.

I was delighted to be able to attend St George's Cathedral on Friday with four representatives from Year Six, to participate in the Diocesan Schools' start of the year mass, organised by the Diocesan Education Commission. This mass was celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson and two of our pupils were asked to read the First Reading at short notice. Of course, they acquitted themselves admirably, and I was very proud of our children. Mr Steven Bignell, one of our Foundation Governors, attended with me – many thanks to him for giving his day to join us. See pictures below:

Clubs

Please remember that for clubs that require kit (for instance football) school PE kit is the expected; not club kits. This keeps practice consistent across all clubs. Children change for sports clubs after school (or after for morning cross country); they wear their PE kit and tracksuit to school on PE days only.

Parking on and off site

We are noticing a number of parents' cars driving on to site, in the mornings for start of school and again in the afternoons. *Please remember the simple rules. Driving onto the school site is prohibited to all drivers during and around school hours with the following exceptions:*

- Parents dropping off to breakfast club before 8am
- Parents picking up from after school club after 4.30pm
- Specific medical exemptions (e.g. blue badges – all agreed in advance through the school office)
- Picking up an unwell child during the school day.
- Parents on school/Friends of Margaret Roper business.

The reason for the rules is to protect the pupils of our school and that of Thomas More School from excessive traffic and potential risk. Being late/in a rush/in a taxi/picking up at 4.15 from a club are NOT valid reasons to drive on site. I'd be very grateful if you could all help us to protect everyone by abiding by the clearly understood rules. Thanks.

Friends of Margaret Roper News

Our new table tennis tables arrived on Thursday. On Sunday (trying to avoid the rain) I appealed for help to put them together. Our families are amazing, as I only asked on Sunday morning at 8am, and at 3pm we had about a dozen people here to assist. It was needed – the tables are very heavy but now look great in place on the playground. The children are really excited and all want a turn immediately. We will have a rota for playing table tennis, but for the first few days, we decided that Y6 should have priority and 'road test' the tables. So very grateful to all of you who came to help. We ask, you answer! Makes me very proud to be HT here! Bless you all!

We sent out a little google form with a simple question regarding the viability of running the quiz night in November. We've had a good number of responses already, but this market research is designed to ascertain whether we have enough people prepared to come. Looks good so far, but if you haven't responded the poll will be open till Thursday. This will allow us to have an informed idea of the numbers we could expect and to plan accordingly. On a related topic, if anyone is an experienced quiz setter, who is prepared to assist in setting and running the quiz, we'd be really grateful if you'd make contact.

In the next couple of weeks, the children will be working on Christmas card designs as part of their class art sessions. These designs will then be sent to mychildsart.co.uk and tuned into Christmas cards for you to order and send to loved ones. Watch this space!

CAFOD Harvest appeal – Wear Green

Thank you very much for supporting CAFOD's Harvest appeal, Go Green on Friday. The children looked lovely and all the funds raised for CAFOD will make many lives much better. If you haven't yet donated, see [CAFOD : Donation to the Climate Crisis Appeal 2021](#) (and this way you can gift aid) or you can donate through ParentPay if you find this easier.

Red Class appeal

Attached to this newsletter is an appeal from Red Class for materials to use in their outside learning area. If you can help in any way, please drop off your donations to school. Thanks very much.

Secondary Transfer

Just a reminder to parents of pupils in Y6 that the secondary transfer application deadline is 31st October; so, if you haven't started your application yet, try to do so fairly soon. I am available by booking to discuss the secondary transfer process if you wish.

Stars of the week:

- Alexia and Ines
- Rajvivaan and Florence
- Ava and Thomas
- Jacob and Felix
- Ana and Lucas
- Rajarshi and James

Writers of the week:

- Rocco
- Olive
- Sofia
- Vanessa
- Maria
- Gabrielle

Mathematicians of the week

- Luca
- Martina
- Albie
- Ella
- Isabella
- Sofia

This week's attendance awards are as follows:

Y1 - 98.27 % Attendance this week - well done

No 100% punctuality awards this week - we suspect the petrol shortage to blame!

Have a great week!

D Mooney

Dates for your diary

'Spooky' Discos – 22nd October

Quiz night – More details to follow v soon - Friday 12th November

Mufti Day for Christmas Fayre – 26th November

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 4th December

Attachments – Red Class appeal for items for outdoor area



Y6 with Archbishop John Wilson



At St George's Cathedral, Southwark



A delighted Y6 group enjoying the new table tennis tables at first break.