

Academic Year 2025-26

Friday 13th March 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Catholic Life

Gospel Value for March: Forgiveness

Lent



give, act and pray

Dear Jesus
Thank you for always forgiving us. Help us to forgive others when it feels hard or unfair. Give us kind hearts that say sorry, Accept apologies and choose peace instead of anger. Teach us to love like you do
Amen



O God,
remind us that we can grow closer in friendship with you through your Word. Please help us to follow you with open hearts and eyes of faith, as we look forward to the special celebrations of Easter with joy.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen

Stations of the Cross

Family Stations of the Cross – On Thursday, before school, some of our Faith Leaders will lead a short Stations of the cross service in the hall from 8.15-8.30am. The alley gate will be open and all families and children are welcome to join us. This will be an accessible simple service, designed for children. Do try to arrive a little earlier and join us! Thursday is also the feast of St Joseph.

Why not pray the stations with your children at home? [Stations of the Cross: Lent 2026](#) You could just focus on one station each day as part of your family prayer life and doing something positive for Lent.

Don't Forget – The Parish Youth Group are leading Stations of the Cross this evening at St John the Baptist at 7.30pm. Even if your child is not involved, I know they would appreciate your attendance. It will only be half an hour.

Mother's Day

Mothering Sunday is on the 15th March. We hope all mums have a little opportunity to be a bit spoiled. Thank you to Louise and all the mums (should have been dads!) who have helped to run our mother's day sale this afternoon, to our Y6 leaders for supporting with the wrapping and to all of you for your kind donations.



Happy gift-purchasing and expert wrapping!

I found the poem attached below fairly recently, and liked the sentiment. I hope you do too.

Lent Photo Competition – Miss Holloway tells me that she has had entries from Junior children but none yet from younger years.

This Lent, we are inviting children once again to take part in our "Lent through a Lens" photo competition! Lent is a time of reflection, kindness, and new beginnings, and we want to see the ways you can spot in the world around you.

What to Do:

Take a photo of something that reminds you of Lent—this could be a blooming flower, a bright sunrise, an act of kindness, or anything that shows light in the darkness.

How to Enter:

Send your photo to Miss Holloway

violet@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk

add your name and class and make sure you also include a sentence or two explaining what signs of hope your photo shows

Prizes:

All the photos will be displayed in school and in future newsletters and there will be prizes for the winning photos.

Let's capture the hope and joy that Lent brings! We can't wait to see your photos! ✨

Parents Consultations

Take place on Tuesday and Thursday next week. Parking is available after 4.30pm. Please try to park sensibly. The alley gate will remain open. I hope you find the discussions with your child's class teacher informative and helpful. Mrs Stewart, our SENDCO will be attending the Tuesday session and is available for parent 'drop-ins'.

Science Quiz

On Wednesday the 11th of March two teams consisting of 4-year sixes and 4-year fives all went to Saint Mary's school in West Croydon. Everyone did very well and the questions were surprisingly hard. During the quiz there were four rounds and the last round was 100 points per question. At the end of the quiz we found out that one Margaret Roper team came second and the other came eleventh.

Report by Aadish and the Quiz Team

Stop Press – We heard yesterday that one of our teams, comprising of Gabby, Aron, Kayden and Sam, have qualified for the National Semi-Finals, which will be in April. Well done science boffins!

Science Week

Our children have really been enjoying Science Week (which is really science fortnight) and lots of classes have been engaged in shared experiments which has been lovely to see. We're looking forward to our visiting scientist who will run science workshops next Friday – if you haven't contributed to this yet on ParentPay please try to do so. Have a look at our Facebook page for pictures of what we have been up to! Don't forget to dress up as a 'crazy scientist' or a famous scientist next Friday.

From Mrs Stewart, our SENDCO

We would be very grateful for any of the following items (in good condition) if families have them at home and no longer need them: cushions, beanbags, soft furnishings, books, soft toys, sensory toys, fidget toys, other toys, small lamps, tablecloths and wooden pegs. Please liaise with Mrs. Stewart by emailing her through the school office.

PINS Project (Partnerships for Neurodiversity in Schools) – Please could as many parents as possible complete the PINS survey to support the evaluation of our project? The link is pasted below and the full poster attached to the newsletter. This survey is open until 20th March only. Many thanks!

QR CODE



Tell us:



What's going well



What could be better



How can you and your child be supported

Sports Reports

On Wednesday, we attended a Girls' football tournament at Coloma Convent School. Teams from all the Catholic Primary Schools were there. We played in three matches and played well, although, sadly we didn't win any of our matches, but we had a lot of fun playing. Unfortunately, we didn't qualify for the finals but we still played bravely and were proud of how we tried hard. Report by Carmina.

On 11th March, our football team travelled to Woodcote Primary school for an away match. We only had five players initially, and Woodcote agreed to play the match as 5-a-side. All the players played really well and we ended up winning 5-2. Everyone was amazing; Miles scored a hat-trick and the other scorers were Rafferty and Callum. This was a Primary School Cup match and we now proceed to the quarter finals! Report by Callum.

Yesterday, Margaret Roper played Regina Coeli in a home league football match. We played a double-header; two games back to back. In the first game, we won 4-1; scorers were Rafferty, Miles, Stanley and Riccardo. In the second match, Sam scored and Ronan became an outfield player while Pavel kept goal. Miles then scored and Ronan scored, then Coeli gave away an own goal from an excellent shot by Ronan to finish 4-0. I think we played very well together and fought to win both games, never letting up on the pressure. Report by Miles.

On Thursday, the Netball teams travelled to Park Hill Junior to play two netball matches. It was very cold and extremely windy. In the A match, Evie scored all three goals and we won 3-1. We played very well and were lucky to play them.

In the second match, Margaret Roper won 2-1. It was difficult to score in the high wind, but Tomisin made a fantastic shot in the last minute from far away from the post. Joshna was the player of the match for excellent play in midfield, never letting the ball past her. Everyone played really well. Thank you to Coach Cindy, and all our parents who supported us. Report by Taliyah.



Netballers at Park Hill


Award winners this week:

Class	Stars of the Week	Writer of the week	Maths Star
St Rose	Matei & Arlo	Aston	Jayce
St Martin de Porres	Mark & Alice	It's been assessment week for Yrs 1-6 this week, so we're not choosing stars for writing or maths because of tests taken and science week activities.	
St Benedict	Prince & Lemuel		
St John Paul	Emelia & Jeremiah		
St Carlo Acutis	All of St Carlo Class		
St Joseph	Benjamin & Jamon		
St Oscar Romero	Rajvivaan & Evie		

Very well done everyone!

Happy Birthday to, Dominic, Julian & Arlo who have had their birthdays recently

This week's Attendance Awards are as follows:

Attendance  **Y2** - 98% Highest Attendance Award
Reception, Y2 & Y6 - 100% Punctuality Awards

Congratulations to you all!

Thank God for Mothers...who sacrifice their time for our happiness, and give us the freedom to be ourselves, even when we disagree.

Thank God for Mothers...who make home a place called love, who desire the bond of togetherness, even in the midst of confusion.

Thank God for Mothers...who never give up on us, who willingly believe in us, and who faithfully stand by our side.

Thank God for Mothers...who patiently try to understand us, and consistently overlook our faults with tenderness and love.

Thank God for Mothers...who don't expect perfection, from us or themselves, and who lead us to the only One who is...perfect.

Thank God for Mothers.

-Rebecca Barlow Jordan



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
YOUTH CLUB INVITE YOU TO



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

13 MARCH 2026

FRIDAY, 7:30 PM

AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

20 MINUTES OF
MEDITATIVE PRAYER AND
SONG CREATED AND
PERFORMED BY AND FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE



**THIS IS AN ACCESSIBLE EVENT,
DESIGNED TO BE ENJOYED BY ALL AGES**

Class contact email addresses

The best way to contact your child's class teacher, if the matter is not urgent, is to email them. Class email addresses correspond to the class colour followed by @margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk. Class email addresses are for routine matters; if you wish to discuss anything more complex, please email the school office. If you cc in the class email when sending a message to the office, that also helps!

Therefore, they are as follows:

Reception)	Mrs. Chandler	red@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 1	Miss Kelly	orange@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk

Year 2	Mrs. Wallace	yellow@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 3	Miss May	green@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 4	Mr. Bathmaker	blue@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 5	Miss Jackson	indigo@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 6	Miss Holloway	violet@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk

The After-School Club telephone number is 020 8668 0945

If you need to contact the team, after 3pm, please use this number.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr. Mooney

Girls Football Opportunity

Dear all

Three months ago, we started Croydon Girls Football training on Sunday mornings at Heavers Farm Primary School. Thank you to all the schools who have encouraged your girls to come join us.

Although we have over 30 girls already it's slightly disappointing that these girls are joining us from only 8 of the 84 Primary Schools in Croydon. This is a massive opportunity for your girls to learn new skills and make new friends in a supportive and comfortable GIRLS ONLY environment. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE can you reach out to any girls in your school in years 4-6 who have a passion for football. All abilities are welcome.

Our plan is to train every Sunday morning 9:30-11am until the end of the academic year. We will then select players at u10-u12 age groups for next seasons Tandridge Sunday League. Players who don't make it into a team will be placed into our player development program to help them to progress whilst also having an emphasis on enjoying the game so as to improve their physical and mental health.

This only works if every single school supports our vision to be the ONLY girls football club in central Croydon. Please do everything you can to give these girls the opportunity they deserve. Speak to your players, speak to your parents. Let's finally put Croydon girls on the map and fill a huge void that has existed for too long.

To join, parents need to call or message me on 07715 687607. Please ensure this number is only given to parents and not to the children. I will then add them to the club WhatsApp so they can get updates on training days and timings. First session is free and then it's only £5 per week thereafter. If you are worried that parents won't be able to afford it, don't be. We will happily offer free scholarships to talented athletes. We don't want anyone to miss out on this incredible opportunity for financial reasons.

I look forward to hearing from you all soon.

Many thanks,

Mickey Mullin

PE Teacher

South Norwood Primary School

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

TFL Roadworks – Important advance notice.

We received this notice from TFL recently. Please note the below. It may mean that your journey to school may be delayed – I imagine we won't fully know the impact until the work commences.

Dear Head Teacher

I am writing to inform you that our term contractor FM Conway, on behalf of the Council and Transport for London (Assets operations) will be undertaking essential drainage works on Foxley Lane between its junction with Banstead Road and Woodcote Valley Road. The essential works are to address the frequent and sometimes severe flooding at the bottom of Banstead Road by the Purley Library. The works are being completed in 2 phases:

Phase 1 – covers between Banstead Road and Plough Lane and involves repair works to a carrier pipe located at a depth of 3m within 2 chambers, repair works to existing gully pots/soakaways, installation of new gully pots and other works necessary to improve any issues arising from the drainage network.

Phase 2 – covers between Plough Lane and Woodcote Road and involves repair works to existing gully pots/soakaways, installation of new gully pots and other works necessary to improve any issues arising from the drainage network.

Phase 1 is scheduled to commence on **Saturday 28 March 2026** and completed by **Friday 17 April 2026**, subject to no unforeseen circumstances. The works would be completed under a road closure, and diversion routes would be put in place. The Council is working with neighbouring boroughs Sutton and Surrey as well as Transport for London, Buses, and Highways England, to secure a traffic management solution that will ease the impact on local traffic movement. Full details of the traffic management and diversion routes will be communicated to you once these have been finalised and approved by the relevant stakeholders.

Phase 2 is scheduled to commence on **Monday 20 April 2026** and completed by **Sunday 17 May 2026**, subject to no unforeseen circumstances. The works would be completed under temporary traffic lights. Full details of the traffic management will be communicated to you once these have been finalised and approved by the relevant stakeholders. If there are changes to the start and/or end dates, you will be updated in due course.

Due to the nature of these works, it is inevitable that disruptions/delays will occur. As such, advance driver/resident information boards will be put in place approx. 2/3 weeks prior to the works commencing, advising of the precise dates and times of the traffic management. A notification letter will be delivered to affected residents and messages will be published on various social media platforms. If there are changes in the scheduled dates due to unforeseen reasons, the information on the road signs will be changed accordingly. Drivers and residents are advised to check the road signs regularly for any updates and where possible, use alternative routes and allow extra time to complete their journey.

During the road closure, TfL Buses will establish diversion routes for its buses and communicate this information to its bus operators and passengers. For information on the alternative routes for buses whilst on diversion, passengers should contact TfL Buses by calling 0343 222 1234. **Please note that the diversion of buses would have an impact on school journey times.** Therefore, this information should be shared to parents/guardians so that they can make alternative arrangements in advance.

Whilst the contractor will do all that is feasible to keep the disruptions down to a minimum, the council appeals for the patience and understanding of drivers and residents while these essential works take place. Access will be always maintained for pedestrians during the works, and arrangements will be put in place for emergency services and the bin collection vehicles. To further reduce disruption the contractor has agreed to extend their working hours from Monday to Sunday, 7am – 7pm. The cooperation of drivers and residents is requested to ensure that the essential drainage works are completed safely and as quickly as possible. The contractor's operatives on site will be available to help in the event of any emergency. The Council would like to apologise for any inconvenience and distress the essential works may cause.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact highwaysmaintenance@croydon.gov.uk.

TenTen Newsletter for March

March 2026

March continues the season of Lent, a time when children are encouraged to slow down, reflect, and prepare their hearts for the events of Holy Week and the celebration of Easter.

Across the month, children will listen to Scripture, take time to pray, and reflect on how Jesus guides and strengthens them, during their Lenten journey and throughout their lives.

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout March, and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.

GLORY - WE SAY 'YES!'

In the week beginning 2nd March, children reflect on the Gospel account of when Jesus revealed His glory to some of His closest friends. Through the story of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9), children learn how Jesus chose to show who He truly is to Peter, James and John, helping them to see more clearly and grow their faith and trust in Him.

In this special moment of revelation, God the Father's voice affirmed Jesus as His beloved Son. Children are encouraged to think about what it means to believe in who Jesus truly is and how they can grow closer to Him as His friends. They are also invited to reflect on ways they can recognise and give thanks for Jesus' presence in their own lives, even when they cannot see Him as the disciples did.

With your child/ren, you may also like to...

- *Look at an image of the Transfiguration and ask what your child notices about Jesus and the disciples.*
- *Talk together about what it means to give God glory, perhaps by noticing good things in your day and saying thank you for them.*
- *Share a quiet moment together, inviting your child to talk about what they are learning about Jesus and how they are getting to know Him better.*

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

LOVE - WE SAY 'YES!'

In the week beginning 9 March, children reflect on the Gospel of John, where Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well (John 4:5–42). Through this story, children learn that Jesus chose to spend time with someone who others ignored or avoided, showing that His love is offered to everyone.

Children hear how Jesus spoke openly with the Samaritan woman and helped her to understand more about who He is. They are encouraged to think about how Jesus knows each one of us personally and invites everyone to respond to His love. Through prayer and reflection, children consider how saying “Yes!” to Jesus’ love can shape the way they treat others and the choices they make each day.

With your child/ren, you may also like to...

- *Talk about how Jesus showed care and attention to the Samaritan woman, and why this was important.*
- *Encourage your child to think about ways they can show kindness and care to others, especially those who may feel left out.*
- *Take a moment to reflect together on how getting to know Jesus better can help guide everyday actions and attitudes.*

HOLY WEEK

As Lent continues, children are encouraged to prepare for Holy Week, the final week of Jesus’ life on Earth, leading to the celebration of Easter. Schools have access to a Stations of the Cross resource, which helps children follow Jesus’ journey to the Cross in a simple and reflective way.

Children may also take part in a Holy Week prayer resource, these prayers are guided by retellings of the events of Holy Week, from the perspective of Jesus Himself.

Why not listen to the Friday prayer audio clip through the Online Parent Portal with your child/ren and make time to pause and reflect on the journey Jesus takes to the Cross in your own family prayer time.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD’S POWER

During the week beginning 23 March, the daily prayers focus on growing in confidence in God’s power. Inspired by the Gospel account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:3–45), children reflect on how Jesus shows God’s power at work, even in situations that seem impossible.

Our Lenten song ‘Walk Along With Jesus’ is used throughout the daily prayers and can be accessed on the Online Parent Portal for family prayer time at home. You may also like to use the prayer below, which encourages trust in God’s power.

Loving God,
with your powerful help,
help us grow strong in faith and trust in you.
Teach us to love as Jesus loved
and to live in ways that glorify your holy name.

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

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen