

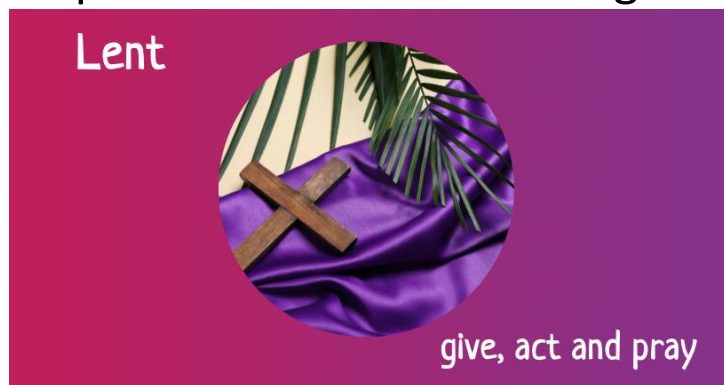
Academic Year 2025-26

Monday 23rd March 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Catholic Life

Gospel Value for March: Forgiveness



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

Stations of the Cross

It was lovely to see so many attendees at family Stations of the Cross last Thursday, before school, We will continue this week with a short 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!

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.

Way of The Cross

On Thursday at 9.15am, St Joseph Class, Y5, will lead us in a special Way of the Cross liturgy, in the school hall. St Joseph Class have been practicing hard to ensure that this is a moving and prayerful solemn liturgy. All families are invited to attend.

Next week is Holy Week. We are usually in school for Holy Week and follow the journey of Jesus from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday. The events of Holy Week and Easter are central to our faith – I attach the Holy Week services from St John the Baptist Parish – try to attend if you can, or in your own parish.

On Wednesday 15th April, the Wednesday we return to school, we will be celebrating an Easter Mass at 9.15am. You are all very welcome to join us to celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord.

Lent Photo Competition – Miss Holloway has asked for more entries to this in assembly today.

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! ✨

I popped into St Rose Class last week and was enchanted to see how the children were thinking about Lent and Holy Week in their creative play.



"I have made palms to welcome Jesus!"



Candle lit, quietly reading the bible.

Science Week

We rounded off our science week with a brilliant scientist dress-up day on Friday. Everyone looked great and there was so much creativity as the children thought about the scientists they wanted to be! The staff got in on the fun too! Unfortunately, our visiting scientist who was coming to school to run workshops with all the classes had a car breakdown and couldn't get to us – never mind – we are rearranging her visit for soon after Easter and this gives us another opportunity to wear our white coats! Watch this space!



From Mrs Stewart, our SENDCO

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!

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QR CODE



Tell us:



What's going well



What could be better



How can you and your child be supported

Sports Reports

On Tuesday 17th March, some year three and four girls played a football tournament in Ilford, Essex. We qualified for the London Youth Games Borough finals as we were Croydon champions. In our group stage, we played four teams – we won two and drew two, so that meant we were runners-up in the group and went to the quarter-finals. In our quarter-final we won 1-0, so that meant we qualified for the semi-finals. Sadly, in this semi, we lost 1-0 to a team we had drawn with, in the group stage. They went on to win the whole tournament. In the third/fourth place playoff game, we were drawn at full-time so agreed to share bronze medal place. There were 26 London borough champions represented and we came third for Croydon! Report by Emma & Emi.

Margaret Roper Y3 & 4 Girls

London Youth Games
Bronze Medallists 2026



Ed's note – Superb football and a wonderful day - I was so proud of the girls for their achievement and determination. We are all very proud of them!

On the 18th of March 2026, we played a double-header against Laleham Lea. In the first match we were constantly under pressure, but in the second half we pressed them very well and Miles scored in the last minute with a great assist from Pavel. In the second match, we did not give up on the press and Caleb scored a beautiful goal from outside the box, following another wonderful goal from Riccardo. In the second half they scored to make it 2-1; they could have scored lots more, but due to our defenders, Stanley & Ronan, no more shots could go in. Match report by Miles.

Ed's note – Mr Bathmaker subsequently informed us that these victories mean we have won our league and will go through to the Croydon league finals. Go Roper!

Also, on the 18th, I had the privilege of taking a number of Y1 and Y2 pupils to a football tournament at St Cyprian's School. This was a mixed boys and girls event. The format was 5-a-side and fast and frenetic! Our Margaret Roper team played brilliantly and qualified through their group for the semi-final, where they lost 2-0 to the eventual winners, St Cyprian's. This was the inaugural Infant football tournament and is sure to be repeated in subsequent years, as it was such a great success. Very proud of all the children for their excellent play and behaviour.


Award winners this week:

Class	Stars of the Week	Star Writer	Star Mathematician
St Rose	Thomas & Ari	Harry S	Othniel
St Martin de Porres	Nalah & Rupert	Jude	Cyrus
St Benedict	Davina & April	James	Mark
St John Paul	Hugo & Kien	Amelia	Seyon
St Carlo Acutis	Nicholas & Noah	Aden	Anastasia
St Joseph	Beau & Amelia	Sam	Luca
St Oscar Romero	Aadhish & Gabby	Aanya	Olive

Very well done everyone!

Happy Birthday to, Rupert, Trystan, Adyan & Amelia who have had their birthdays recently

This week's Attendance Awards are as follows:

Attendance  **Y1** - 100% Highest Attendance Award
Y4 - 100% Punctuality Award

Congratulations to you all!

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

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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

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.