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Friday 20th November 2020

St Margaret Mary's Letter:

Growing our Virtues: In classrooms & across the school at St Margaret Mary's we are growing to be **intentional** in the way that we live and use the resources of the earth, guided by our conscience; We will be **prophetic** in the example that we set to others being examples of Christ through our actions. At St Margaret Mary's we will help our children to grow by being a community which is **intentional** in our way of proceeding to build-up quality of life; and which is **prophetic** in the way we offer a vision of education and a focus on the human person, rooted in the Gospel teachings.

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Anti-Bullying Week: United Against Bullying – Promoters of Peace

A special thank-you for the support of our Peace & Anti-Bullying focus this last week. This fits in naturally with the virtue of being '**intentional**' that we are growing within one-another & our School Mission. On Monday the children wore odd socks to celebrate difference and today have dressed in **BLUE** clothing to promote peace, tolerance & respect of differences.

Road Safety & Parking: This week has marked a local focus upon road safety awareness. This is a matter that is of such importance & relies upon everyone doing their part to make sure that the road & pavements around St Margaret Mary's are safe for our children, families & residents. Sadly there continue to be some instances of parents leaving cars on the zig-zag lines or blocking residents' driveways. This understandably causes real anger & sadly school often has to mediate, pick-up-the-pieces or face the brunt of this anger, which I believe is unfair. The staggered drop-off & collection times should ease traffic on the road & with this in mind I ask that we please drive & park safely & responsibly.

COVID-19 Symptom Reminder: Again a reminder & plea to make sure that your child does not come into school if they develop **any** of the following: See latest information below taken from NHS/Public Health England

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. [Usually a dry cough & not a productive/mucus-based one]
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal.
- This also importantly applies to you as a parent or any other member of your household or person[s] your child or family have been in contact with.
- The moment that your child or you develop symptoms, or decide to book a test is the moment we should limit our movement & contacts & not be coming into school. From this school is contacted immediately, to be aware of the impact that this is likely to have on staff & children & make plans.



These are such worrying & difficult times & I know how hard it is for you & for everyone, but if in doubt please phone school as soon as the above applies & we will calmly support you through the process, providing help. Once again thank-you for all that you are doing to manage & support this.

First Holy Communion - Y3 Children: A final reminder from Fr Andrew that with First Holy Communion Preparation classes starting last Sunday, if you do wish for your child to make their Holy Communion this year you must contact him this weekend or attend one of the Sunday meetings. To do so please contact Fr Andrew on: **07979351744** as soon as possible.

Parents' Evenings: As mentioned last week, we will be holding our termly Parent Evenings the week beginning Monday 23rd November to Thursday 26th November. You should have received a time-slot with a Zoom link & Meeting ID being forwarded to you.

Once again I do wish that these were in person & part of our normal celebration of our children and their achievements. However, unfortunately this is not the case.

The meeting is a really important opportunity to speak to your child's classteacher & the focus will remain on aspects such as settling-in, progress, celebration & how they can be supported moving forward. This will be followed up by a simple summary sheet that highlights attendance, punctuality & targets to work on.

If you are unable to make an appointment next week please arrange to speak with your child's classteacher via the School Office.

I am aware that it is a different way of working for everyone, staff & parents & as such 'teething problems' may well occur. Please be patient if this does happen & we will do all that we can to resolve such situations. If you or staff find that a follow-up conversation is needed, just for a little more information, reassurance or to discuss another matter then these can & will be arranged. Many thanks for your understanding with this.

Monday 23rd November [3:30-5:45pm] – **EYFS/KS1**

Tuesday 24th November [3:30-5:45pm] – **Y3-4/Y5-6**

Wednesday 25th November [3:30-5:45pm] – **EYFS/KS1**

Thursday 26th November [3:30-5:45pm] – **Y3-4/Y5-6**

*Please note **Miss McCreavy's** class will hold their Parent Meetings the week beginning **Monday 30th November**. Apologies for any inconvenience that this may cause, I will be in touch with further information next week.

Finally a special word of thanks for your kind messages & support this week following our sad news. I feel so very proud of the response from our staff & children & the support received from parents & the school community. Thank-you again on behalf of all staff & children!

I look forward to writing to you next week to share news of our Advent & Christmas preparations. Once again many thanks for your continued support, particularly this week.

Take care & God Bless!

Mr Sutton
Headteacher

Feast of Christ the King:

On Sunday we celebrate the Feast Day of Christ the King. This is a very special date in the liturgical calendar that marks the end of the Church year, as we move towards the season of Advent. This celebrates the full authority of Jesus as our Lord & King in Heaven.



