

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monkwood Lane (off Monkwood Way) Stevenage Herts SG2 8QJ

Headteacher:
Carmela Puccio BA (Hons)



Tel: 01438 352863
Website: www.clitherow.herts.sch.uk
Email: admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk

Thursday 22nd October 2020

Dear Parents

It has been wonderful to fully reopen our school this term. I have been so pleased with the way our children have adapted to the new routines and systems in school. I am so proud of them. Staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure school is a safe place to be for our children. In just 8 weeks staff have reintegrated all children to school, rebuilt relationships with them, eased their anxieties, assessed their learning, started to rebuild what they've missed, moved them forward, kept them feeling safe, reassured and comforted them, reassured you as parents (hopefully!), rebuilt structures and routines and engaged with them again. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated team we have here at St. Margaret Clitherow School – we are incredibly lucky! Thank you also to all of you for supporting the school during this time, for working with us when we have introduced changes and especially for your words of support and encouragement at the start of the year. I cannot thank you enough for the way you have prepared your children for their return to school. For adapting home lives for a staggered drop off and collection, for wearing face coverings when on the school site and for following all the new changes. We could not have completed all the above without the strong partnership we have with all of you. These last few months have reminded me what a truly special community we have here at St. Margaret Clitherow School.



At present we are unable to gather as a school community for Masses, plays or other events where we gather as one group. We are looking into ways of ensuring you all still feel part of school life - watch this space!

Can I please remind you that if you or your child show any of the symptoms of COVID-19 – a high temperature (37.8 or more) or a new continuous cough or a change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you must not come into school and follow Government guidelines regarding testing and isolation. Testing is available and anyone (staff and children) showing signs or symptoms will be expected to be tested. **You must inform us of the outcome of a test as soon as possible. If you need to contact us out of school hours please email admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk This account is monitored out of school hours, including weekends and holidays.**



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Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Thank you for your generous harvest donations last week. These will be shared out between the elderly and housebound of our Parish and local Stevenage projects. I know that there will be many grateful recipients – thank you! Thank you also for your Bags 2 School donations, this is a great way to raise much needed funds for the school.

Parent Consultations reminder – Wednesday 11th November 1:35pm – 7:35pm

Please remember that this year we will hold our Parent Consultations virtually using Zoom. We will continue to use the ParentMail system to book appointments and **you will be able to book your virtual appointment from Sunday 1st November at 11am. The system will close on Sunday 8th November at 11am. I would encourage you to log into the system as soon as it opens to ensure you get your preferred time slot.**

If you would like to book an appointment with Mrs Schofield, please contact the school office and they can arrange this for you.

You will be sent the class meeting ID and passcode one week prior to the consultation date. On the consultation day, you will need to use the link sent and enter the meeting ID and passcode to access the meeting. You will be asked to wait in your child's class virtual waiting room and the class teacher will invite you into the meeting when they are ready. Please ensure your child's surname features in your Zoom ID so teachers are aware which parents are waiting for them. Please be patient with us as this is the first time we have held virtual parent consultations! Please stick to your timings. If you are not able to use Zoom, please let the office know.

Children will need to be collected promptly from 1:00pm, please adhere to the following staggered collection times:

- 1:00pm collection – Surnames A – D
- 1:05pm collection – Surnames E – L
- 1:10pm collection – Surnames M – P
- 1:15pm collection – Surnames R – Z

Book signposts

I hope you like the book signposts around the school. They have been created by our talented Teaching Assistants. The children were excited to find out what the different holes were for around the grounds! We have challenged them to read all the signposted books by the time they leave us in Year 6.



Twitter

Please continue to follow us on twitter to capture a flavour of school life. I try and tweet every day based on learning that is happening in the classrooms. Teachers also send me photos throughout the week to share with you as I am no longer able to enter the classrooms, however, I do aim to see the children each day with a doorway visit!

Keep our children safe!

I am going to keep this section short and sweet – please do not park on the yellow lines on the bend by the Broadhall Suite. Only park in marked bays; not along the hedge or by the entrance gates to the school. Please also be mindful of your speed in the car park and take extra care when reversing. I have received numerous complaints from concerned parents. Thank you for helping us to keep our children safe.

Stevenage FC Carpark from January 2021

I was contacted by Stevenage FC this week regarding their carparks. **From January 2021 their carparks are being leased to a third party and parents will no longer be able use their carparks.** This includes



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the carpark by their main office and at the front of the stadium as well. Please remember that you can park in the Valley Showground and in the Roaring Meg carpark – just follow the footsteps and you will be guided to the junior gate. I would encourage you to start parking elsewhere from now on to get used to the changes.

Free School Meals

If your situation has changed, or you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please visit <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx> The application takes a couple of minutes to complete. Please do notify the school if you are eligible. Even if your child is in a class (Reception – Year 2) that receives a Government funded free school meal, it is still worth making an application as the school receives additional funding.

Dinner Monies – another gentle reminder!

Please remember that school meals **must** be paid for in advance. The preferred payment method is via Parentpay, however cash or cheque payments can also be made via the school office. I kindly ask all families that are currently in debt to pay now.

Please note that if you “top up” your child’s account, you must then allocate payment to the “dinner” tab. Parentpay offers the option to set up low balance alerts. If you wish to set this up on your account, please follow these instructions:

1. Login
2. Go to Communications
3. Go to Alert Settings
4. Select the type of Alert (low balance and/or new item) and select how you want to receive alerts, email and/or SMS Text.

Email alerts are free of charge. If you opt for SMS text alerts there is a small charge per text.

Remember – no problem is too big or too small!

We are always keen to work with parents as a problem arises. Please do not let things fester. Whether it is perceived as a big problem or a minor one – please do make contact and we will try to help you!

Remember – if it is a worry for you or your child then it is a worry for us! Please do not be concerned about bothering busy staff – it is what we are all here for.

Admissions

Reception 2021 - 2022

Applications for our Reception class for September 2021, for children whose dates of birth fall between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 will open on Monday 2nd November.

Nursery Admissions 2021 - 2022

Was your child born between 1/9/2017 - 31/8/2018?

This year our governors intend to offer 15 hours (morning only) or 30 hours (morning and afternoon) in our Nursery. The application process is now open and will close on Friday 27th November. Please contact the school office for an application pack or visit our school website for further details.

Have a wonderful half term break!

God Bless



Carmela Puccio
Headteacher



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