

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher:  
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Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents

What a strange end to the Autumn term! We would usually be treated with the sounds of children rehearsing for their plays and carol concerts in the hall and welcoming you into the building to celebrate their talents. Unfortunately, these events were unable to take place this term, however, I hope you enjoyed/enjoy watching the videos we sent to you. A huge thank you to the staff for the extra effort this year to ensure we still celebrate this special time of year.



We were so pleased to welcome back all our children in September, and I would once again like to thank everyone involved in our school community for supporting the changes we have needed to implement. Even though school life is different this term with hand washing, staggered drop offs and collections, staggered break and lunchtimes, designated class zones and class bubbles, ventilated classrooms, one-way systems, constant cleaning, eating lunch in classrooms, parents, staff and visitors wearing face coverings and keeping our distance on the playgrounds the school is still a wonderful place to be! It is during times like these that we remember what a truly amazing community we have, and I cannot thank everyone associated with our school enough!

## COVID-19 Update – Christmas Holidays reminder

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](mailto:admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk) This account is monitored out of school hours, including weekends and holidays. Please note that for this holiday period we have been asked directly by Hertfordshire County Council to monitor our [admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk) account over the Christmas holidays to ensure that we are able to quickly identify those that need to self-isolate.**



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## Farewell and belated welcome

This term we say goodbye to Mrs Davies. We thank Mrs Davies for her work this year and we wish her well with her future endeavours. We welcomed Mr Peck to our team shortly after the half term break and he has settled into school life extremely well.

## Charities – thank you!

Thank you for supporting our Poppy appeal this year. In total we raised £96.45. We hope you enjoyed the poppy art which each class created! £327 was raised for Children in Need this term, a phenomenal amount, thank you once again! During Advent, the children have been donating to sign their class Christmas Card. This money will be used to purchase CAFOD World Gifts and will support real and sustainable development projects in places of real need. Thank you for also supporting our Advent Giving Week supported by Caritas Westminster. Your support and generous contributions this term will make a real difference to those in need.



## Digital access from home questionnaire

Thank you to the parents that completed our digital access from home questionnaire. The results from the questionnaire will enable us to offer support to those families that need it.

## End of term stagger reminder

Please be reminded that tomorrow is our last day of term and we will be following the staggered collection times below:

## Children will need to be collected promptly from 1:00pm.

1:00pm collection – Surnames A – D

1:05pm collection – Surnames E – L

1:10pm collection – Surnames M – P

1:15pm collection – Surnames R – Z

Gates will lock at 1:20pm.

## Thank you to our hard-working PSFA

Despite the restrictions in place, you have still managed to raise money for the school. You raised £132 for the Bags2School programme and £223 for purchasing Christmas cards. We are registered with easyfundraising; you can use the company as a portal for your online shopping. Please visit the website to sign up and support us.

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmargaretclitherowschoolpsfa/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=t1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmargaretclitherowschoolpsfa/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=t1)

Towards the end of last term, we applied to join the Co-op Local Community Fund and we found out this half term that we have been selected. If you shop in the Co-op you need to register your card to our cause, please ask in store for further details.



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The PSFA donated Nativity costumes to our Nursery and Reception children this year free of charge. They also purchased drinks and sweets for the children to enjoy on their Christmas dinner day. The team brought some Christmas cheer by organising a Christmas Trail for families at home, in total 123 maps were sold. They even managed to get Santa himself to visit the classrooms (outside and social distanced of course!) and deliver a gift for every single child in our school.

A huge thank you to the PSFA team for working incredibly hard during these challenging times!

### **Help for families in need**

Please do let me know if your financial circumstances have changed and you are struggling financially. Contact the school office and ask to speak to me or catch me on the playground. The school has links with various charities and organisations, and we might be able to help. Please do reach out to me, I may not be able to help straight away but I will certainly do my very best to help you in any way that I can.

### **Parent Consultations**

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November we successfully held our parent consultations via Zoom. I would like to say a huge thank you to staff and parents for adapting to the consultations in this way. Let us hope that next term we will be able to complete the consultations face to face, but if not, at least we know we have a platform we can use. Year 6 parents, we have parentmailed you the dates of your consultations for after Christmas.

### **Google Classroom**

Google Classroom has now been introduced in all classes. You should have received your child's login details and classroom codes. I would advise you to log into Google Classroom, if you have not already done so, as this will be the platform we use should a class need to isolate. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

### **Message from the Governors**

*Governors have continued to fulfil their statutory duties during this extraordinary time, with most of our meetings taking place on Zoom. The focus of many of our meetings is Covid-19, Miss Puccio continues to update governors on how the children have settled back into school life and the plan for ensuring that no child will fall behind in their education. I know you will all want to join governors in thanking Miss Puccio and the whole team at St Margaret Clitherow School for the amazing support and dedication they have shown to the children while ensuring they are safe and happy to be back in school – Thank-you!*

*Please do not forget that although governors are not in school at this time, we are always contactable via our clerk Maria Streeter (clerk@clitherow.herts.sch.uk).*

### **Stevenage FC Car Parks - update**

We have received an update from Stevenage FC regarding the use of their car parks after Christmas. We have been informed that you can continue to use their spaces until summer 2021. They will let us know when you will no longer be able to use their car parks. Please remember that you can park in the Valley Showground and in the Roaring Meg car park – just follow the footsteps and you will be guided to the junior gate.

Please follow us on twitter @StMClitherow to get an insight into school life.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break. Please stay safe and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

God Bless.



Carmela Puccio  
Headteacher

