

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:  
Carmela Puccio BA (Hons)



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Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have almost made it to the end of another challenging term. I would say that this term has probably been the hardest term that we have ever had to face. I am incredibly proud of our school community for working together to do all that we can to keep ourselves safe whilst continuing to do our day job. A huge thank you once again to the team here at St. Margaret Clitherow for their flexibility to cover staff absences, for keeping up the cleaning regimes, for going for PCR tests and of course, for doing all that is asked of them with a smile on their face and for teaching our children of course! An enormous thank you to our parent body, we could not have navigated through this term without your support with testing and with your kind words of encouragement. I know decisions made this half term caused some upset amongst some parents, however, keeping our community safe was our priority. We peaked at 17 live cases in our school, but I am pleased to say this number has decreased. When we return in January, we will continue to keep the current measures and restrictions in place.



We are hoping to share our Christmas Celebration video with you before we break up, the final touches are just being added. We hope you enjoy watching the Advent preparations and celebrations in school. Thank you for your handprints that were used to create our wonderful Advent Wreath in the library window behind the prayer garden, please do make sure you walk around the school site to enjoy it! Thank you also for sending in your child's video for SMC's Got Talent; the children enjoyed watching the videos in class. What a talented group of children we have! 227 Christmas dinners were enjoyed last week, a huge thank you Herts Catering for serving such delicious dinners!



Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our Church, our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him  
At St Margaret Clitherow School we are committed to Safeguarding Children

## Farewell and Welcome

After 19 years of dedicated service to our school, we say a fond farewell and God Bless to Mrs Briscoe. Mrs Briscoe will be missed by our entire community. She has touched the lives of so many children and families in our school but also in the schools she taught in before joining us. A heartfelt thank you from all of us here for all the support and time she has given us as a team. Mrs Briscoe is always there to lend a hand or offer words of support or guidance. School will not be the same without her! St. Margaret Clitherow School will always hold a special place in Mrs Briscoe's heart. Enjoy your retirement and the time you will now get to spend with your family, you certainly deserve it!

In January we look forward to welcoming Mr Ryan Moore to our team as our Year 2 teacher. Mr Moore has already spent time with Year 2 and with Mrs Briscoe to ensure a smooth transition for our Year 2 children. Mrs Hayley Collins will also be joining us as our part time (Mondays – Wednesdays) Year 2 teaching assistant. Mrs Jackson will continue to support in Year 2 on Thursdays and Fridays. We look forward to working with them both in the new year.

## Charities – thank you!

Thank you for supporting our Poppy appeal this term. We hope you enjoyed the artwork which each class created, it's a shame we can't keep it up for longer! £280.60 was also raised for Children in Need this term, an incredible amount, thank you once again! Thank you for donating to our Advent Giving Week supported by Caritas Westminster. Feed Up Warm Up in Stevenage collected the donations last week and needed to complete two trips as we had so many items! Your support and generous contributions this term will make a real difference to those in need.

## Thank you to our PSFA

Despite restrictions our hard-working PSFA have continued to raise some much-needed funds for our school. They also brought some Christmas cheer by arranging for Santa to come and visit us and deliver gifts to each child. This term the PSFA organised our Bags2School, Christmas Cards and gifts, light up toy sale, Christmas raffle, non-uniform day and completed our Co-op community cause with a donation of £1824 to the fund! They have continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes and have met virtually with me for their PSFA meetings. The minutes of these meetings can be found on our school website. Thank you to the PSFA team!



## Car Park Update

I have been informed by Stevenage FC that the East Stand carpark (opposite the school) will remain **OPEN** for parent parking in January 2022. **Please DO NOT park in the car park at the front of the stadium or in their staff car park by their offices.** We are incredibly lucky to have a car park on our doorstep; please do not take advantage and abuse this by parking in the wrong carpark/obstructing access. Please be reminded that you can park in the Roaring Meg car park or in the Valley Showground at any time. I would encourage you to park in these car parks now in order to get used to the Stevenage FC carpark closure in the future.





## Parent Questionnaire

Don't forget that our parent questionnaire closes at the end of term. Please ensure you complete the questionnaire for each child you have in the school. Here is a copy of the link.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gFeldPok3kKAScW17FF8xiCT5ywxPC1AuanTPGscAOZUMjdTS0pHSEVXSzJFSFhHM1dJMFpHU0xBVC4u>

## Message from our Governing Body

*Governors would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas. We thank-you for your continued support and understanding during this unsettling time. We know you will join us in thanking Miss Puccio and the whole team at St Margaret Clitherow for their dedication and commitment this term. A special thanks to Mrs Briscoe as she leaves us and start a new journey – you will be greatly missed Mrs Briscoe! Very best wishes and happy Christmas to all*

## Celebrating Diversity

This term we have spent over a £1200 on new books for each class that represent our beautifully diverse community. We felt we needed to ensure our children saw themselves represented in their reading books hence this large investment. We also created a new display that shows the beauty of each individual member of our school. We celebrate the diversity and difference of our children, and we look forward to exploring their uniqueness in the terms to come in their PSHE lessons.



## Reception Admissions for September 2022 – for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018

The Reception application process will close on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. If you are interested in applying, please download a pack from our school website or contact the school office. Parents must also apply online with Hertfordshire County Council. We are offering external tours of the school, please contact the school office for further details.

## 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> 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.

Let us hope and pray that Christmas this year is a special time spent with families rather than the uncertainty and challenges we all faced last Christmas. I hope you all have a wonderful break, and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school in the new year. God Bless.



*Puccio*

Miss Puccio  
Headteacher



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