

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:
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Friday 21st October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't believe it is the end of half term already...although I do think we are all ready for a week off! It has been a busy term in school and as mentioned in my first newsletter of the year, I am proud of the way our children have settled into new routines and their attitudes to learning.

Congratulations Miss Marron

I am pleased to share some wonderful and exciting news; Miss Marron is expecting a baby in April! Miss Marron will begin her maternity leave towards the end of the spring term. I am sure you will want to join me in sending Miss Marron and her family our very best wishes and we look forward to meeting the new addition to her family later on next year! We have placed an advertisement in teachinherts.com for a maternity cover teacher – please spread the word! https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view,class-teacher-maternity-cover-year-1_77552.htm

Parent Partnership

The parent partnership is incredibly important to your child's journey here at St. Margaret Clitherow School. You have shown us this half term that this partnership is stronger than ever! It was wonderful to see so many of you at our 'meet the teacher' session earlier this term. I know for many of you, that will have been the first time you have been in your child's classroom and communal areas.

Our Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised workshop for parents took place a few weeks ago and the hall was filled with parents eager to support their child's learning at home and find out more about the programme. A huge thank you to Mrs Newham for presenting the programme. Thank you to the staff here who always show love and enthusiasm for reading.

I know the staff will be eager to buy some more books following the successful visit of the book fair this week; £1375 worth of sales, that's fantastic! This means we have £765 for the school to spend on books. Thank you for supporting our school and our love for reading.



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

We ended term with parent consultations. Along with the Governors, I enjoyed talking to you all about the achievements of your children and other important school matters. Thank you for completing our parent questionnaire; 100% of parents would recommend our school to another parent! Our curriculum committee Governors will be analysing the results at their next meeting. Please remember that no problem is ever too big or too small to be discussed! This is something that we always try to reinforce with the children. It is, however, just as true for all of us. Please do come in to talk to us if you have any concerns. Often an early chat prevents small worries from becoming big worries. Remember, we can't act if we don't know! In the first instance, a discussion with the class teacher may help, either via a telephone call after school or simply popping in at the end of the day. Longer appointments can be arranged via the office where necessary.



St. Bernadette's Relics

On Monday 17th October six of our Year 6 children represented our school at the welcoming ceremony of the Relics of St. Bernadette. All the schools in the Stevenage Deanery were invited to attend. It was a special moment, one that I know our children will treasure. During the month of October, we always have a focus on Mary in school and as part of that work, our children found out about St. Bernadette as well. We had a special whole school assembly this week where the children arrived to find the hall in darkness and the children created a torchlight procession as they arrived each with their own tealight. It was beautiful!

Message from Mrs Curtis, Chair of Governors

The Governing Body continues to actively engage with the diocese regarding the conversion of our school to an academy. The Diocesan website www.education.rcdow.org.uk has a great deal of information on academies should you wish to learn more. Alternatively, please feel free to email any questions you may have to academies@clitherow.herts.sch.uk We will be sending out a FAQ document in due course and we look forward to updating you further over the coming months.

The Railway Children

The children in Year 1 – Year 6 were treated to a surprise performance of The Railway Children on Friday 30th September. It was a truly fantastic performance and the children enjoyed watching the show.



Harvest Giving week

Thank you for your generous harvest donations this half term. These were shared out between the elderly and housebound of our Parish and Feed Up Warm Up. I know that there will be many grateful recipients – thank you!

PSFA coffee morning

It was wonderful to see so many parents at the PSFA's coffee morning last week. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to support events in school for our children. Many hands make light work! Huge thank you to our dedicated and committed PSFA team. Fundraising for this year has already begun!

Some gentle reminders

Please remember the following guidelines, which aim to keep our school a safe place to be:

- **Only park in designated spaces in the car park – not along the hedge, yellow zig zag lines, in the open space near the entrance or in front of the school gates.**
- All children must be accompanied by an adult through the car park.
- The climbing frames must not be used by anyone before or after school.
- Small play equipment (balls etc) must not be taken from the containers before or after school.
- Bikes and scooters must be walked through the playground.
- Balls are not permitted on the playground or field before or after school.

Admissions 2023-2024

Nursery

Was your child born between 1/9/2019 - 31/8/2020?

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 25th November. Please contact the school office for an application pack or visit our school website for further details.

Reception

Applications for our Reception class for September 2023, for children whose dates of birth fall between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 will open on Tuesday 1st November.

Year 7

Secondary school applications close on Monday 31st October. Please make sure you have made your application to County and if necessary the chosen school by this date.

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 only 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.

Netball coach for Year 5 & 6

We are still on the look out for a new netball coach. Please contact the school office if you can help us with our search! Once we have a coach and the safeguarding and vetting checks have been completed, netball training sessions for Year 5 & 6 will begin.



Please follow us on twitter (@StMClitherow) to gain an insight into school life. Our twitter feed can also be accessed via our school website.

Have a wonderful half term rest!

God Bless



Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Friday, 21st October 2022

Finish for October break

Half Term: Monday, 24th October to Friday, 28th October 2022

Monday, 31st October 2022

Return to school: 8.45am

Thursday, 3rd November 2022

Harvest Mass: 9:30am in the school hall

Monday, 7th November 2022

Individual and sibling photos

Friday, 25th November 2022

Flu vaccine catch-up session (Rec – Year 6)

Thursday, 1st December 2022

Advent Mass: 9:30am in the school hall

Friday, 2nd December 2022

EYFS Nativity: 9:30am in the school hall

Tuesday, 6th December 2022

Key Stage 1 Christmas play: 9:30am in the school hall

Tuesday, 13th December 2022

Year 5&6 Carol Concert: 6:30pm at St. Hilda's Church

Wednesday, 21st December 2022

Finish for Christmas break: **1:20pm**

Christmas Break: Thursday, 22nd December to Wednesday, 4th January 2023

Thursday, 5th January 2023

Return to school: 8.45am



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