

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Holy Week has almost arrived and Lenten preparations are nearly complete. Throughout Lent the children have engaged in almsgiving within the school and at home. I cannot believe the amount of fundraising we have received, a huge thank you for your generosity and kindness. Your charitable efforts will be split between the Catholic Children's Society of Westminster (please remember to return your penny boxes!) and Father Kakuba's Ugandan Kanyike Project (<https://www.kanyikeproject.org.uk/about-us>). A heartfelt thank you for your overwhelming generosity with the Ukraine collection we completed a couple of weeks ago. Our staffroom was full of your donations. Your support and the enthusiasm of the children in reaching out to others is much appreciated. Thank you!

It has been wonderful this half term to have some kind of normality back in school. The children have thoroughly enjoyed mixing again with other classes, eating in the hall, playing together at break and lunchtime, and gathering for Masses and assemblies. Their reactions this half term have brought joy to our staff. I continue to pray and hope that this is going to carry on despite positive cases rising locally. We have had cases in our school, impacting on our staff and children, however, you should recall in one of my updates that school would not be notifying parents of positive cases anymore. It is important that we continue to be vigilant and do all we can to keep our community safe. We will be continuing with the measure of isolation if a positive COVID-19 result is received.



Year 3 and 4 Performers!

This week, Year 3 and 4 led us in their powerful performance of 'The Gospel Show' retelling the Easter Story. This is the first time our Year 3 and 4 children have led the Easter story and my goodness they did an amazing job! They allowed us to reflect on its poignant messages during their Easter production. Well done Year 3 and 4, we were incredibly proud of you all. Huge thank you to Miss Coleman, Mrs Newham, Mrs Luchies and the rest of the Year 3 and 4 team for preparing the children so well.

Vending machine

Your child may have mentioned our new book vending machine, or you may have seen it when you came in for parent consultations. Through your previous fundraising efforts, the PSFA gave the school the money to pay for the machine and we were so pleased! The children were so excited when it arrived and even more excited when we started to fill it with some of their favourite books! The aim of our book



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vending machine is to encourage a further love for reading in our school. Every child will be given the opportunity each half term to win a token to 'spend' in the machine on a book of their choice to keep. We cannot wait to start using the machine after Easter. Your children will be told how they can be in with a chance of winning a token each half term.

Some highlights this term:

- Museum visits
- Netball and football clubs and matches restarting
- Year 1 visit to our local post-box
- Reception class visit to Stevenage Library
- Worked our way through an outbreak after Christmas!
- Whole school science workshops and circus skills day
- World Book Day and NSPCC Number Day celebrations
- Year 5 and 6 Ash Wednesday Mass (first Mass in 2 years!) and distribution of ashes to all classes
- Junior Lenten Mass followed by confession
- Year 5 maths challenge
- Various sponsored class events
- Caritas Ambassadors introduced in Year 5
- Feeling Good Week
- PSFA's Mother's Day gift sale in school



Parent consultations

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Parent Consultations this week. We have missed meeting with you face to face to celebrate your children's good work. For some parents, this was the first time they had set foot in the school building! Along with the Governors, I enjoyed talking to you all about the achievements of your children and other important school matters. 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.

Summer Term School Trips

School trips have all been booked. As always, much of the expense in putting on such trips is the cost of the coach hire. With increasing fuel costs, the coach company prices have increased significantly this year. We always 'shop around' and we get the best quote for the trip. We rely heavily upon your donations to make these trips go ahead. Thank you for paying promptly! Please note that should sufficient funds not be available to cover the cost of a trip, visits may have to be cancelled. Please help us by letting us know early if you anticipate a problem. There are occasions when we may be able to offer assistance providing we know in advance – please pop into the office and ask to speak with me or call if this is the case.



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Message from the Governors

It was fantastic for governors to engage with parents this week. We are always available and warmly welcome any feedback.

The Governing Body will have a vacancy for a Parent Governor in the summer term. Anyone wishing to learn more about what this involves, please contact our clerk at clerk@clitherow.herts.sch.uk. Further details on the process, including nominations and how to vote, will be sent in due course.

Governors continue to engage with the Diocese of Westminster regarding academies and hope to be able to update you in the summer term as to our progress. In the meantime, please email any questions you may have to academies@clitherow.herts.sch.uk

We know you will join us in thanks Miss Puccio and the whole team for their work this term. We look forward to the summer term

Wishing you and your families a safe and happy Easter break

SMC Governing Body

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.

I hope your holiday will be blessed with special family moments as we reflect on the joy of the Risen Christ at Easter. Wishing you all a holy Easter! We look forward to welcoming back all our children on Tuesday 19th April.



Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen.

God Bless

Puccio

Miss Puccio
Headteacher



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Message from Hertfordshire County Council

As we step into spring, we're encouraging residents to be kind and stay healthy by following simple steps to live life safely with COVID-19, stop the spread and protect others. For up-to-date information go to <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/covidliving>

The simple steps people are encouraged to follow are:

- Be kind – respect people wearing masks or keeping their distance from you. They may well be very vulnerable to infection
- Be informed – know your level of risk and get good, trusted advice on managing it
- Be vaccinated or boosted – ensure you and those around you are vaccinated when invited
- Be safe – manage your risk when socially mixing (hands, face, space, fresh air)
- Be prepared – if you get Covid, stay at home and get early treatment should you need it
- Be supported – as well as your family and friends, HertsHelp can offer support

COVID-19 vaccination

Vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

The national booking system for healthy 5- to -11 year olds to receive their COVID-19 vaccination will open from 2 April. Parents and carers can book appointments at larger vaccination centres and in some community pharmacies. Appointments will also be available at some GP run sites, if so they will contact you directly and you can book through your practice.

Vaccinations are already available for clinically vulnerable 5- to 11-year-olds, and children in this age group who live with someone who has a weakened immune system. Until now vaccinations for this 'at risk' group of children have been available through GPs and special schools, but parents and carers will also be able to book through these through the national booking service from 2 April.

For more information on vaccinations for this age group visit: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

Stay at home if you have symptoms

Guidance remains that if you have symptoms of COVID-19, **(a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)**, you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, regardless of a positive test result. [Get advice about staying at home and avoiding contact with others](#)

There is support available locally to help people who need to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

Please don't send children and young people back to school following the Easter holidays if they have any symptoms or feel unwell. There continues to be a high number of outbreaks across Hertfordshire's childcare and education settings – they need our support to help protect our communities and have the least disruption to children's learning and development as possible.

We'd like to once again say thank you for continuing to play your part and for helping to keep yourselves and others safe. We hope you enjoy a great Easter break.

Hertfordshire County Council



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