

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:
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Monday 18th July 2022

Dear Parents

Our school year started with restrictions and outbreak management plans. In the autumn term we manoeuvred our way through two COVID outbreaks as cases were high in school. The children were restricted with their movements and masks were back in school. After Christmas we went straight into another outbreak and were supported once again by Public Health England. We tentatively started to get 'back to normal' after the February half term and we haven't looked back since! However, I will be honest with you, school life has been hard, and I would say this has possibly been the hardest year for all of us here in school. We are/were balancing the impact of COVID absences and trying to live with COVID. This half term has been tricky to manage as each week we have had at least 2 staff absences to cover and still completed all the highlights you will see below. During one week we had 4 members of staff absent with COVID and 3 staff absent with other illnesses. It is testament to the wonderful staff here at St. Margaret Clitherow School that school life has carried on as planned and there have still been smiles and laughter in the corridors! I am incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated team around me. We had to ride the storm, but goodness me, we needed to hold on very tight! I think I can say for certain that staff have earned their summer holiday this year especially!

Year 6 PGL

Our Year 6 pupils and 4 members of staff had a wonderful time during their residential visit to PGL in Liddington in June. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the photos of their trip and hearing about their adventures on their return. A huge thank you to all the members of staff for making the trip a memorable one! They all gave of their time freely for such activities and are not paid for the extra work that is involved over the three day period – they were on call night and day! So once again, THANK YOU!!



Farewell

This week we prepare to say farewell and good luck to the children in nursery who will not be with us for Reception class. It has been lovely getting to know you and your families and we look forward to hearing of your future successes. We also prepare to say farewell and good luck to our wonderful Year 6 children who will be moving on to The Saint John Henry Newman School in September. Our Year 6 children are a real credit to their families; they work so hard and are a great support to the younger pupils in the school. The children enjoyed watching Year 6's leavers' production of *Camelot* and parents were equally proud of their achievements in the evening performance. What superstars you all are!! We will miss them all but know that they are ready for the exciting paths that they will now take. Please don't forget us Year 6 – we're always keen to know what you are up to – please do come and see us all again soon! Good luck and God bless you all!



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

Dear Year 6 children,
 Always remember that you are special in God's eyes,
 and that you are blessed with many gifts and talents – use these well to make the most of your life.
 Each and everyone of you has the potential to be whatever you want to be,
 to go wherever you want to go and to achieve all that you set out to achieve.
 You are unique – but remember ...
 you are not better than anyone else,
 however, no one is better than you!
 Treat all those you meet in the way you would like to be treated.
 Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.
 Live life the way you have imagined.
 And as you journey through life make sure you take God with you –
 Always keep your faith.
 May God bless you in all that you do.
 And our very best wishes go with all of you.

Statutory Assessments

This year, the Government decided that all statutory assessments would return. This means our children in Reception have received their Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessment, Year 1 children completed the phonics screen, Year 2 children completed their end of Key Stage 1 assessments (SATs) and Phonics Screen, Year 4 completed the multiplication times table check and Year 6 completed their end of Key Stage 2 assessments (SATs). We are very proud of our children's achievements this year and we hope they are too.



Languages Festival 2022

On Tuesday 28th June we hosted a Languages Festival and what a lovely day it was! Mrs Hurley planned and organised the event for our children. The day was spent celebrating our wonderfully diverse community. A range of activities took place and stalls were run by parents and children. It really was a special day! A heartfelt thank you to the parents who gave up their time to prepare and run their stalls and to Mrs Hurley who organised the day. The children have been busy this week leaving their mark on our whole school mosaic following the Languages Festival. We look forward to sharing the final piece in the autumn term.

Summer reading challenge – Gadgeteers 2022

Ensuring that our children keep up with their reading over the summer holidays reaps many benefits for their progress. Remember to visit the library and sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge. Join the Gadgeteers for the Summer Reading Challenge to discover the amazing science and innovation behind the world around you, including some of your favourite things!



Message from the Governors

Governors continue to engage with the diocese regarding converting to an Academy. We will keep you informed along the way, however should you have any questions please email academies@clitherow.herts.sch.uk

An Academy is a type of school which is independent of the Local Authority (LA), but is still publicly funded by the Department for Education and is inspected by OFSTED. The school would be part of a diocesan Catholic Academy Trust that will work with the Local Governing Body and they employ the staff and oversee the operation



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of the Academy in a similar manner to any school. In many ways there would be no change to our school as we know it. We would have the same buildings, the same staff, the same uniform and most importantly the same vision and ethos.

We know parents will join governors in thanking Miss Puccio and the whole team for their work and dedication this year. We wish you all a wonderful summer break and look forward to working with you again in September.

Best wishes

SMC Governing Body

Catholic Life

Our Year 3 children have been busy. Many of the children celebrated their First Holy Communion at our local Parishes this half term. They also led our beautiful Corpus Christi Procession, our first Procession in 2 years. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with our school community – our first whole school event since the pandemic. Our Year 3s then led their own First Holy Communion Mass here in school and Year 3 parents were invited to attend. It was lovely to see the children in their First Holy Communion outfits and take the Eucharist for the first time here in school. Year 1 and Reception went to visit Father Michael at St. Hilda's and explore the church and find out more about the Mass. Year 5 finished their Caritas Westminster Project this term by organising a charity event for Feed Up Warm Up. Our Year 6 children led their final Mass in Primary School; each child had an important part to play in their Leavers' Mass last week and we were pleased to invite their parents in to join and celebrate with us.

Some highlights this half term:

- Whole school Jubilee Day
- Netball festival for Year 5 & 6
- Year 5 Commonwealth Day at the lakes for 10 children
- Year 4 & 6 K'NEX Challenge
- Year 5 & 6 Stempoint workshops
- Fitkidz workshops for the Juniors
- Stevenage Primary Schools' Concert
- Year 1 trip to Buzzworks and King George's Park
- Year 2 trip to Woburn
- Year 5 trip to Shrek Adventure, 10 Downing Street and Sealife Centre in London
- Year 6 PGL residential trip
- Active Maths session for Year 1
- Year 5 Taster Day at JHN
- Sports Day
- SEND local offer session for parents
- Violin assembly and performance at Stevenage Concert
- Year 6 end of year production
- Youth Leadership Team's cake sale
- Year 6 bowling treat
- Visit from the ice cream man - ice cream for all children and staff!



Every second counts!

Please be reminded that school starts at 8:45am. As soon as the children walk through the door, their learning journey begins! It is important that your child arrives to school promptly. I have noticed several children arriving around 8:55am and some after 9:00am. They are missing key learning opportunities each day and over the weeks and months, the time soon adds up.



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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.

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

I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 5th September.

Yours sincerely



Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Thursday, 1st September 2022

INSET DAY: no school for children

Friday, 2nd September 2022

INSET DAY: no school for children

Monday, 5th September 2022

Return to school: 8.45am

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

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

