

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:  
Carmela Puccio BA (Hons)



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Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Another new academic year has begun! I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to finally start a 'normal' school year. I hope you all had a fantastic summer holiday and enjoyed spending time together. The children have returned to school incredibly well; they are ready to learn, keen to please and looking smart. The children have settled well into their new classes and new routines. It is like they have never been away! You will shortly receive a letter from your child's class teacher with further updates, class timetable and class overviews.

Before school this morning, staff gathered for our beginning of term Mass. Father Michael joined us and we prayed as a community of faith and love for the loss of our inspirational and truly remarkable Queen, Elizabeth II. Later in the morning, we joined together as a whole school community with our children to pray for the Queen and her family in our first whole school assembly of the year.

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon her.  
May she rest in peace. Amen.*



## Welcome!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new children and families joining St. Margaret Clitherow – we look forward to working with you and creating memories with you and your children.

## Early dates for your diary

As mentioned in the ParentMail last week, on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, we will be holding a 'meet the teacher' session from 3:20pm - 3:50pm. This will be an informal opportunity to see your child's classroom, say 'hello' to their new teacher and ask any questions that you might have. We hope you can make it! Face to face parent consultations will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October. On this day, school will finish at 1:15pm for the meetings to take place. We will continue to use the ParentMail system to book appointments and you will be given further information nearer the time to book your preferred time slot. Please note that our website [www.stmargaretclitherow.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stmargaretclitherow.herts.sch.uk) contains useful



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information including dates for your diary on the school calendar section (on the welcome page). Dates are subject to change but we will always inform you of any changes.

### St. Bernadette Relic Tour

You may or may not be aware that the relics of St. Bernadette are on tour this September and October. The Relics will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland and Wales for the very first time. This is a special once in



a lifetime event and the relics are visiting St. Joseph's Church, Bedwell on 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October. We have been asked to join the welcoming ceremony on the 17<sup>th</sup> October and I will be notifying parents if their child has been selected to attend. Unfortunately, we can only select 6 children and it is likely these children will be from Year 6. I would encourage you to book a visit to see the relics as a family and you can do so by visiting <https://stbernadette.org.uk/registration/>

### 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.

### Remember – no problem is too big or too small!

We are always keen to work with parents as a problem arises. Please do not let things fester. Whether it is perceived as a big problem or a minor one – please do make contact and we'll try to help you! Initially a word with the class teacher either in person or on the phone can help to share the worry; if after this point it still remains a worry please make an appointment to discuss the matter with a member of the Senior Leadership Team via the school office. Remember – if it is a worry for you or your child then it is a worry for us! Please do not be concerned about bothering busy staff – it's what we are all here for. Please also feel free to just come and say hello!

### Nursery Admissions 2023 - 2024

#### 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 26th November. Please contact the school office for an application pack or visit our school website 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> 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.



## Education Sunday

We have received the email below from our colleagues at The Saint John Henry Newman School. It would be lovely if our children participated as well. Please email your photos to [admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk) and I will publish the images on Twitter.

*As you may know, this Sunday is Education Sunday; a Day of Special Prayer in the Church calendar. On Education Sunday, Catholics are encouraged to reflect on the Church's enormous contribution in this country and pray for all those involved in Catholic education. To mark this, as we did before Covid, we would like to ask all pupils at The Saint John Henry Newman School to attend Mass this weekend in their school uniform. We have contacted the parishes, and our feeder primary schools, in sharing this request. We would like the children to recognise and be proud of the invaluable links we have between the parish and school community and celebrate being part of the Catholic community. If your child would like to participate, then please do ask your Parish Priest to pose with them for a photo at the end of Mass and email it into school for us to celebrate and share with our wider school community. Many thanks in advance for your support and I look forward to seeing the pupils in their finest uniform over the weekend.*

## After school clubs

Please be reminded that Rising Stars offer after school clubs every day for children aged 4+. The flyer was sent out last term to all families. If you have missed the ParentMail and would like your child to attend an after school club, please contact the office for a copy of the flyer. There are other clubs which are offered throughout the year for specific year groups and these details are sent directly to parents.

## Netball coach and football training for Year 5 & 6

We are on the look out for a new netball coach. Unfortunately, our netball coach is not able to work with us this year due to other commitments. 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 note, football training for Year 5 & 6 will commence shortly and a letter will be sent to these classes with details.



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 am extremely proud to be headteacher of St. Margaret Clitherow School and I look forward to working with you all this year!

God Bless

*Carmela Puccio*

Carmela Puccio  
Headteacher



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## KEY DATES

### Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Wednesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Meet the teacher (3:20pm – 3:50pm)
Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Swimming for Year 3 & 4 commences
Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	EHCP parent workshop (details to follow)
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Flu vaccinations (details to follow)
Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Relics of St. Bernadette at St. Joseph's Church
Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Parent Consultations (school finishes at 1:15pm)
Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Finish for October break

### **Half Term: Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> October to Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Return to school: 8.45am
Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2022	Harvest Mass: 9:30am in the school hall
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Individual and sibling photos
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	Advent Mass: 9:30am in the school hall
Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022	EYFS Nativity: 9:30am in the school hall
Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Key Stage 1 Christmas play: 9:30am in the school hall
Tuesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Year 5&6 Carol Concert: 6:30pm at St. Hilda's Church
Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	Finish for Christmas break: <b>1:20pm</b>

### **Christmas Break: Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	Return to school: 8.45am
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