

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:
Carmela Puccio BA (Hons)



Tel: 01438 352863
Website: www.clitherow.herts.sch.uk
Email: admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk

Friday 16th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't believe we're half-way through the school year already! Time flies when you're having fun, I guess!

Who Am I?

We were over the moon with the response to our whole school homework project this half term. The 'Who Am I?' boards reflect our beautifully diverse community incredibly well. The children have enjoyed finding their board on display and sharing their learning with their friends. It's been a great opportunity for the children to find out more about the community and see similarities. You will get another opportunity during Parent Consultations later this term to view them again.

'I think the "who am I?" project was amazing. I loved looking at the different boards and learning about the many cultures which make up our beautiful catholic school and family.'



Go Green Month

At the last Stevenage School's Parliament meeting, attended by members of our Youth Leadership Team, many children expressed passionate concern about global warming and the impact of single-use plastics on the environment. It was decided that during the month of February our schools would lead a Stevenage-wide push to look after the environment.

To launch our 'Go Green' month, our Youth Leadership Team and Eco-Committee planned a 'Green Day'. We also held a successful Litter Pick supported by Hertfordshire County Council. A whole school sculpture project took place using recycled items which will be displayed in the school grounds.

'Mummy I don't know why, but I feel good now.'
'Me too mummy, thanks for doing that.' Matteo and Isabella La Cara



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

5 Ways to Wellbeing

You may recall that last term, following meetings at the Schools' Parliament, we partnered with Stevenage Borough Council to create films highlighting the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' that children and young people can use to help with their mental wellbeing not just now but for years to come. The 5 Ways to Wellbeing films, form part of Stevenage Borough Council's work to address mental health within the town. The films aim to increase awareness of ways young people can improve their mental health and wellbeing.



I am delighted to share the videos with you. The first video is the introductory video to '5 Ways to Wellbeing' and the second video is our children specifically talking about 'Take Notice'. We are incredibly proud of our confident and thoughtful children!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WsSV-7092I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpbQJciSDVY>

You will be able to watch all 5 of the videos on the Council's website soon.

Number Day

This half term, we supported the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day. The children looked great in their digit outfits. We were overwhelmed by the number of parents who joined us for the open session to gain an insight into maths at our school. We sincerely hoped you enjoyed taking part in the maths activities.

'It was amazing to see how maths can be made fun and exciting for the children, very engaging.'

Attendance and Lateness

I met with our Local Authority Attendance Officer this half term to discuss our whole school attendance figure and discuss individual children whose overall percentage falls short of the Local Authority's target of 96%. Our current whole school attendance figure since September is 96.3%.

Please be reminded that your child's school day begins at 8:45am. As soon as the children enter the school building, their learning journey begins and every second counts. If your child arrives at 9am, they are missing key learning opportunities each day and over the weeks and months, the time soon adds up. They lose 1 hour and 15 minutes of learning each week!

Can I also remind you of the end of day timings. Nursery – Year 2 finish at 3:15pm and Year 3 – 6 finish at 3:20pm. A late pick up has an impact on staff who must wait with the children until they are picked up when they should be attending meetings or training. Please also be reminded that after school clubs finish at 4:30pm. Again, please be respectful of the staff's time and collect on time.



Highlights this term:

Despite the half term being just over 6 weeks long, we have managed to enjoy the following:

- Year 1 Box of Childhood Stevenage Museum workshop
- Year 3 Stevenage Art on the Doorstep Stevenage Museum workshop
- Year 6 parent session from Ten:Ten – How to talk to your child about pornography
- Year 4 Egyptians Stevenage Museum workshop
- Netball and football league and cup matches
- Introduction of yoga and basketball after school clubs
- Year 5 Mrs Brown New Town Stevenage Museum workshop
- Bridgebuilders Assembly – Making Choices
- Key Stage 2 assembly and Year 5 workshop with Affinity Water, led by Zachary and Kai's mum
- Safer Internet Day
- A beautiful Ash Wednesday Mass and distribution of ashes
- NCETM Number workshop for Reception parents



Academies update

Governors continue to engage with the Diocese of Westminster and its Academies programme. Last term, we submitted our due diligence forms which were presented at an Academy Project Board meeting. This half term we completed the standards and financial reports which were then submitted to the Project Board. We will continue to communicate our journey towards Academisation.

Update from the PSFA

What a great start to the year the PSFA have already had! Thank you to all those who are participating in the Mother's Day Market. The children love these events and it's wonderful to see so many getting involved.

If you are yet to join our new Facebook group please search for us, St Margaret Clitherow PSFA, on Facebook and join the community page for regular updates and reminders.

After half-term we have our tasty Leap Frog (Year) bake sale on 29th February. We won't be proposing anything but cakes and treats so make sure you bring some change!

As a committee we would like to make you aware that due to exciting developments in her career, Sarah Yates has made the tough decision to step down from the PSFA. We would like to all say a big thank you to Sarah for her time as Chair. Until an EGM has been arranged Jasmine Carroll has been voted in by the committee as interim Chair. Please look out for more information in the coming months.

Once again, a big thank you for all your support and we look forward to sharing our exciting 2024 events with you soon!



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

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 get an insight into school life.

I wish you all a fantastic half term with your families; often not a peaceful time I know but one in which we can all focus on those whom we love most and enjoy some time together. Have a fantastic break – I look forward to welcoming you back to the Lenten journey towards Easter which will be with us before we know it.

God Bless



Miss Puccio
Headteacher

KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Friday 16 th February 2024	Finish for half term (normal time)
Half term break: Monday 19 th February to Friday 23 rd February	
Monday 26 th February 2024	Return to school: 8:45am
Wednesday 28 th February 2024	Whole school sponsored walk – Lenten Fundraising
Thursday 29 th February 2024	PSFA Leap Year bake sale (after school)
Tuesday 5 th March 2024	Year 6 trip to Hazard Alley
Thursday 7 th March 2024	EYFS Stevenage Museum workshop
Thursday 7 th March 2024	World Book Day
Friday 8 th March 2024	PSFA Mother's Day gift sale
Thursday 14 th March 2024	Lenten Mass & confessions: 9:30am in the school hall
Tuesday 19 th March 2024	Year 3&4 Easter Play: 9:30am in the school hall
Tuesday 19 th March 2024	Year 6 Easter Journey
Wednesday 20 th March 2024	Year 6 visit to JHN for Legally Blonde dress rehearsal
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Parent Consultations. School finishes at 1:15pm
Thursday 28 th March 2024	Reception library visit
Thursday 28 th March 2024	Finish for Easter holidays at 1:15pm
Easter Holidays: Friday 29 th March to Friday 12 th April 2024	
Monday 15 th April 2024	INSET day – no school for children
Tuesday 16 th April 2024	Return to school: 8.45am



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