

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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Wednesday 19th July 2023

Dear Parents

How is it the end of term already?! This year has flown by! This is the first year that we've been back to 'normal school' with events following COVID-19. I must start by thanking our wonderful children, dedicated staff, supportive parents and fantastic Governors for their/your support! I would like to thank the staffing team at St. Margaret Clitherow School – their dedication and hard work this year has been incredible. I am extremely proud to be headteacher of our wonderful school and be part of such a special community.

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, a huge 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 say goodbye and thank you to Ms Miller (Year 1 maternity cover teacher) who is also leaving us this term. Ms Miller has secured a permanent contract at another Hertfordshire School. We also prepare to say farewell and good luck to our wonderful Year 6 children who will be moving on to their secondary schools 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 *Hansel and Gretel* 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!

*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 every one 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.*



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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.

Staffing update

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Mrs Edwards and Mrs Undrell as our new Year 1 maternity cover teachers. They have already spent some time with Mrs Cooper to ensure a smooth transition for our Reception children. We look forward to working with both teachers and welcoming them to our school community.

Statutory Assessments

The statutory assessments took place this year. 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 retakes, 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.

Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP)

Earlier this year our HIP from Herts for Learning came to visit us. We have a visit from her every term and this term she focused on behaviours for learning in maths. Here is a snippet from her report:

Pupils' behaviour in lessons is exceptional and their enjoyment of mathematics is evident. They are highly motivated and keen to learn. They know that mistakes lead to deeper understanding and speak highly of their teachers in supporting them to make progress through the curriculum. Pupils describe how adults take time to explain challenging concepts in mathematics and how they consolidate their learning through practice. Collaboration is a strength of the school at all levels. The school engages positively with parents and governors to provide opportunities to demonstrate how mathematics is taught in school. Staff support one another and the mathematics subject leader provides strong guidance to less experienced teachers.

Summer reading challenge 2023

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. The theme this year is sports and games. Please tag us into photos of your children taking part via our twitter account and I will retweet them to share with the rest of the community.



Message from the Governors

Governors' last meeting of the academic year was a great opportunity for us to look back on the work we have carried out over the year - from ensuring our children receive the best possible education, making sure school policies and procedures are adhered to, hearing feedback from governors with a link role in the school, to looking at our next steps in the academy process, ensuring our community is appropriately safeguarded and finally of course, ensuring our Catholic ethos underpins all that we do. We also took time to reflect on not only the academic achievements within our school but also the wide range of extra activities that were offered to the children – from various lunchtime and after school clubs, sports, and music events, to the BMX assembly. We know you will join us in saying a big thank you to Miss Puccio and the whole team for their continued dedication and work this year. We wish our Year 6 children the very best of luck as they move to their secondary schools, and we wish you and your families a fantastic summer break. Thank you for your support this year, we look forward to working with you again in September.



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Message from the PSFA

Your PSFA has had a busy final half term!

By far the biggest event of the year for us is the summer fair. It takes months of preparation and many helping hands. This year we had a slight wobble on finding out our date clashed with many sporting events involving our children but thankfully we took a gamble and had a fantastic day. You helped us to raise an amazing £1,384.33 for our children.

We have also had a Bags2School collection, Father's Day sale, sold drinks before the school sports day and of course we had the very yummy Krispy Kreme sale last week, which sold out in under 20 minutes, wow!!!

We're still waiting for our Bag2School total but I'm very pleased to be able to announce, that from all the other events, we made a grand total of £847.80! A massive thank you, for the ongoing support. These events simply couldn't go ahead without your help. We are always grateful for parents giving up their time for us!



Catholic Life

Our Year 3 children celebrated their First Holy Communion at our local Parishes this half term. They led our beautiful Corpus Christi Procession out on the field last month. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with our school community and with parishioners from St. Hilda's. Our Year 3s then led their own First Holy Communion Mass here in school and 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. 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. We celebrated Father Michael's 40 years of Priesthood this half term. We surprised him with a whole school assembly; he just thought he was coming in for a catch up! Each class presented him with a card, and we made him a special hamper from his school family. We also joined with the Parish community for his anniversary Mass at St. Hilda's a couple of weeks ago. Two special moments for a very special man!



Some highlights this half term:

- Netball league winners! Year 5 and 6 Champions! What an achievement!
- Second place at the netball festival for Year 6
- Football tournament for Year 5 & 6
- Violinists took part in Stevenage Primary Schools' Concert
- Year 6 visit from Gangs and Knife Crime Police team
- Year 1 trip to Standalone Farm
- Year 2 trip to Woburn
- Year 6 PGL residential trip
- Year 5 Taster Day at JHN
- Sports Day
- PSFA Summer Fair
- PSFA Krispy Kreme pop up stall
- Year 6 Farm Day



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- The Big Dig
- Preparing for Secondary School session for Year 4 parents
- Violin assembly for parents
- Year 6 end of year production
- Year 5 prepared their own Cinderella performance for children at lunchtime – donations for Feed Up, Warm Up
- Year 6 bowling treat
- Transition day for every class
- NSPCC workshop for Year 5 & 6
- Visit from Stevenage Mayor



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. Please also be reminded that holidays are **not permitted** during term time. We work with the Local Authority to apply for fixed penalty notices for families when they have breached the regulations.

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 and we are also able to apply for supermarket vouchers for you. **If you are eligible for free school meals and your child is in Year 2, you will need to reapply once your child moves into Year 3.** Please be reminded that school dinners for children in Year 3 – 6 are £3.25 per meal. Payments must be paid for in advance via SchoolGrid.

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 Tuesday 5th September.

Yours sincerely

Puccio

Carmela Puccio
Headteacher



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KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Monday, 4th September 2023
Tuesday, 5th September 2023
Friday, 20th October 2023

INSET DAY: no school for children
Return to school: 8.45am
Finish for October break

Half term: Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October 2023

Monday, 30th October 2023
Wednesday, 20th December 2023

Return to school: 8.45am
Finish for Christmas break: **1:20pm**

Thursday 21st December – Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Thursday, 4th January 2024

Return to school: 8.45am



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