

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monkswood Lane (off Monkswood 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 17th July 2026

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of another incredible school year, it is a wonderful opportunity to pause and reflect on all that we have achieved together. Looking back over the past year, I am filled with pride at everything our children have accomplished, both inside and outside the classroom. From day to day learning, memorable school trips and sporting successes to performances, celebrations and the everyday moments that make school life so special, it has been a year full of achievement and joy. Watching our children grow in confidence, kindness and independence has been a privilege, and I know they will leave this academic year with many happy memories.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our exceptional staff team and dedicated Governing Body. The commitment, care and professionalism shown by every member of staff each day is what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow. I am equally grateful to our governors for their continued support, challenge and encouragement throughout the year. Together, they work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the very best for all of our children, and I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside such a committed team.



Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful school community for your continued support throughout the year, and particularly during the recent heatwave. The exceptionally high temperatures presented challenges for everyone, but with your understanding, flexibility and support, we were able to keep the children safe, happy and learning. Thank you for working with us, whether that was ensuring children arrived with hats and water bottles, responding so positively to our communications, or simply showing patience as we adapted our routines. Your support is always greatly appreciated, and it is this strong partnership between home and school that helps our children thrive.

A Fond Farewell!

This summer we also say goodbye to two much-loved members of staff who have dedicated so much to our youngest children. After an incredible 16 years teaching in Nursery, Mrs Hurley is leaving us. During her time at the school, she has nurtured and inspired hundreds of children as they took their very first steps into education. Her warmth, patience and unwavering dedication have given countless children the very best start to their school journey, and she will be greatly missed by colleagues, children and families alike.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Murphy, who has spent the last 10 years as a Teaching Assistant in Reception. Throughout the decade, she has supported hundreds of children as they learned to read, write, make friends and grow in confidence. Her encouragement and care have made a lasting difference to so many young lives, and we thank her sincerely for everything she has given to our school community.

On behalf of everyone at the school, we wish Mrs Hurley and Mrs Murphy every happiness and success for the future!

Finally, we would like to wish all of our Nursery children who will be moving on to other schools in September the very best of luck. While we are always sad to say goodbye to those who were not allocated a place in our Reception class, we know they will go on to flourish in their new schools. Thank you for allowing us to be part of the beginning of your child's learning journey - we will always remember them fondly and wish them every success in the years ahead.



And of course, we prepare to say goodbye to our fantastic Year 6 children. It has been a privilege to watch them grow into the confident, kind and resilient young people they are today. For many of them, I have had the pleasure of knowing them since they first walked through our doors as three-year-olds in Nursery, while others joined us later and have become an equally valued part of our school family. Seeing the journey they have each taken over the years is incredibly special, and I couldn't be prouder of everything they have achieved. Their leavers' production of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies* was a real highlight and a wonderful way to end their time with us. The children performed brilliantly, and it was clear how much both they and their families enjoyed the show. We wish each and every one of them every success and happiness as they begin their secondary school journey. Remember, you will always be part of our school family. Well done, Year 6 - you are all superstars! 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.
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

We are delighted to welcome a new face to our school community. In September, we look forward to welcoming Mrs Alexander, who joins us as our part-time Nursery teacher. We are excited to have her on board and know she will be a wonderful addition to our dedicated Early Years team. We wish her every success as she begins her journey with us.

Year 6 PGL

The Year 6 residential at PGL was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year! It was fantastic to see the children throwing themselves into every challenge, from climbing and abseiling to canoeing... and, for some, becoming rather more familiar with the water than they had planned after a few unexpected capsizes! I loved looking through all the photographs and seeing the children's smiles, determination and growing confidence. A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their own time to accompany the trip, providing care, encouragement and support around the clock. Their dedication helped make it a truly unforgettable experience for our Year 6 children.



Catholic Life and Mission

Our Catholic Life has continued to flourish this half term. Although the extreme heat meant that, for the first time in over 20 years, we had to cancel our traditional Corpus Christi procession, we were still able to gather together for a Corpus Christi assembly with Father Michael. It was especially lovely to see our Year 3 children wearing their First Holy Communion outfits, allowing the whole school community to celebrate this important milestone with them. Our Year 4 children proudly represented the school at the Saint John Henry Newman School Community Mass. We also celebrated our Year 6 Leavers' Mass, where we were delighted to welcome Mr Carrasco, Headteacher of The Saint John Henry Newman Catholic School. It was a beautiful opportunity to pray for our Year 6 pupils and ask for God's blessing as they prepare to begin the next stage of their educational journey.



Summer Reading Challenge 2026

Reading over the summer holidays is one of the best ways to help children maintain their reading skills and prepare for the new school year. We encourage all our families to visit the Stevenage Library and take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

This year's theme is Read to the Beat, celebrating the exciting connection between stories and music. We hope as many of our pupils as possible will join in and discover the joy of reading this summer.

Message from the Governors

It has been a busy term for the school as they have been preparing for academisation from the 1st September. There have been several meetings to oversee the project management of the transfer and the legal aspects, however to date everything appears to be on track for the start of the new academic year. The change to an academy will be a positive step for the school and please be assured that there will be no noticeable change to the day to day running of the school.

I would like to thank Miss Puccio and the staff team for their continued hard work and to parents and carers for the positive ongoing support and partnership. We are so very proud of the children, and our school community and governors would like to wish you all a wonderful summer break.

Message from the PSFA

What an absolutely fantastic year! So many wonderful events have taken place with the children enjoying them all. Our markets are always a success, and we enjoy seeing the children picking out gifts for their loved ones. We are already looking ahead to start purchasing gifts ahead of next year. The Summer Fete was a huge success, raising over £2,800 in just one day!!! This is truly amazing and couldn't have been done without all our wonderful volunteers. We would like to extend our thanks to GCE cleaning for sponsoring stalls at the Summer Fete. Our discos with DJ Bailey are fun filled evenings, with the children dancing and singing at the top of their lungs. The Colour Run is such a colourful fun event; it's lovely to see the older children helping the younger ones. Lots of colourful children and a colourful field ahead of the summer break. This year we have been able to fund new resources for Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1, new classroom books for Key Stage 2, painting in the library and the office area, a pantomime performance in school, Year 6 leavers' contribution, Year 3 First Holy Communion gifts, Mr Bubbleman for wellbeing day, free



competitions for the children throughout the year, fully funded the colour run, two ice cream drops during the heatwave, and so much more! Again, we would like to express our thanks for your continued support for all events and we really appreciate it. Without your help we wouldn't be able to continue running these events. Over the summer we will be planning for the year ahead to make sure we have key events on the book that we know you all look forward to. If you would like to make any suggestions or provide feedback, please let us know and keep an eye out for our AGM. Enjoy your Summer break!

Some highlights this half term:

- Year 5 enjoyed their Taster Day at SJHN
- Year 1 had a wonderful trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
- Year 6 took part in the Crucial Crew experience
- Year 5 and 6 represented the school brilliantly at an athletics festival at Ridlins, where the children achieved a determination award and Jake from Year 6 secured an excellent 3rd place in the high jump
- Year 2 enjoyed their trip to Woburn
- Bridgebuilders Assemblies and a Stevenage Library Assembly
- A transition workshop for Year 6 delivered by Stevenage FC Foundation
- A brilliant cello and violin assembly showcasing musical talent
- A Farming Day trip for Year 6
- Over 600 ice lollies and ice pops handed out to staff and children to keep everyone cool!
- A fantastic whole school wellbeing day, including a visit and assembly from Mr Magic Bubbles
- Moving Up Day, including lunch with our new Reception children and their parents
- Year 1 and Year 2 class feast days celebrating St Kateri Tekakwitha and St Alphonsa
- An emotional Leavers' Assembly
- A colourful PSFA Colour Run



Attendance and Lateness

While the Local Authority attendance figure currently stands at 96%, we have decided to set ourselves a higher target of 97%, reflecting our commitment to excellent attendance and learning. Our current whole school attendance figure since September is 96.3%. Attendance figure includes unauthorised absences, absences related to illness, medical appointments, and lateness. We must all work together to ensure children are in school providing they are well enough. Please find current class attendance below.



Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94.6%	96.6%	96.6%	96.5%	97.03%	97.2%	97.1%	96.44%

A reminder that your child's school day starts at 8:45am. Once the children enter the building, their learning begins, and every moment is important. If your child arrives at 9am, they miss out on valuable learning time - over a week, that's 1 hour and 15 minutes, and it adds up quickly over time.

Also, please note the end of day timings: Nursery to Year 2 finish at 3:15pm, and Year 3 to Year 6 finish at 3:20pm. Arriving late for pick-up affects staff, as they need to stay with the children when they should be in meetings or training. Lastly, after-school clubs end at 4:30pm - please be mindful of staff time and collect your child on time. Thank you for your cooperation!

Free School Meals

A reminder that changes to Free School Meal eligibility come into effect from September 2026. We previously shared information with you about these updates, but would like to take this opportunity to remind families to check whether they may now be eligible under the revised criteria. Full details, including how to apply via Hertfordshire County Council, can be found via <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Registering for Free School Meals not only provides valuable support for families, but can also generate additional school funding depending on eligibility level, which is used to directly benefit pupils through Pupil Premium provision. If you are unsure about eligibility or need any support with an application, please contact the school office.

Government's Great British Summer Savings scheme

Between 25 June and 1 September 2026 there is a temporary reduction on VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts, exhibitions and a wide range of other attractions. In addition, there is to be free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England.

Details of Summer Savings participating venues can be found on the attraction finder website, which can be accessed via the following link - <https://summersavings.gov.uk>

Stay connected and get a glimpse of school life by following us on Instagram @stmargaretcclitherow.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday, and I look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 2nd September.

Parents, tag, you're it, love from your SMC family! xx

Yours sincerely



Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

DEAR PARENTS,
TAG!
YOU'RE IT!

KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Wednesday 2nd – 7th September 2026

Tuesday 8th – 9th September 2026

Thursday 10th September 2026

Wednesday 23rd September 2026

Thursday 24th September 2026

Week beginning 12th October 2026

Tuesday 13th October 2026

Friday 16th October 2026

Wednesday 21st October 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

INSET DAY: no school for children

Return to school: 8:45am

Home visits for Nursery children

Staggered start for Nursery children

All of Nursery in school

Flu Vaccinations (Reception – Year 6)

Harvest Mass: 9:30am (all welcome)

Racial Equity Week

Year 5 Wagamamas trip – morning

Wear Red for Show Racism the Red Card Day

Parent consultations (school finishes at 1:15pm)

Finish for October break

Half term: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026

Monday 2nd November 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026
Friday 27th November 2026
Thursday 3rd December 2026
Tuesday 8th December 2026
Friday 11th December 2026
Friday 18th December 2026

Return to school: 8.45am
Individual and sibling photos
EYFS Nativity: 9:30am
Advent Mass 9:30am (all welcome) confession for Yr 4-6
Year 5&6 carols at St. Hilda's: 6:30pm
Year 1 and 2 Christmas Play: 9:30am
Finish for Christmas break: **1:15pm**

Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January 2027

Monday, 4th January 2027

Return to school: 8.45am

**PLACES KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2026**
moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

ANGUS STEAKHOUSE Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm	MARCO PIERRE WHITE Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend
ASDA Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend	MORRISONS Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend
ASK ITALIAN 2 Kids eat free every day until Sept 6th 2026	PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day
BELLA ITALIA Children eat free Sunday - Thursday	PIZZA HUT Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm
BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE 2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with 1 paying adult	PREMIER INN 2 Kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast
BILLS Kids Eat Free weekdays until September 1 st 2026	PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult
BREWDOG 1 Kid eats free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August	PREZZO Kids up to age 12 eat for £1 during half terms
CAFE ROUGE Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week	PUREZZA Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal
CHIQUITO Kids eat free during all school holidays	SA BRAINS PUBS Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays
COCONUT TREE Kids eat free Mon 13th July - Sun 6th Sept	SIZZLING PUBS Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm
DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES Kids eat for £1 with an adult meal purchase	TABLE TABLE 2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult
FARMHOUSE INNS 2 Kids eat FREE this summer holidays	TESCO Kids eat free every day this summer with a 65p spend
FLAMING GRILL PUBS Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays	TGI FRIDAYS Kids Eat Free until 6 th September (Via App)
FRANKIE & BENNY'S Kids eat FREE during school holidays	THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend
FRANCO MANCIA Kids eat FREE school holidays Mon-Thurs	TRAVELODGE 2 kids eat for £1 with 1 adult breakfast
FUTURE INNS Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal	TOBY CARVERY Kids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1 st 2026
GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day	TURTLE BAY Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend via app
HARVESTER Kids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1 st 2026	VILLAGE HOTELS Kids eat free 20th July - 4th Sept via the village app
HUNGRY HORSE Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays	WHITBREAD INNS 2 Kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast
IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am	YO! SUSHI Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays
LAS IGUANAS Kids under 12 eat FREE via the App	ZIZZI Kids eat free via app during school holidays

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL