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

Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers



What a fantastic first half term we have had! It has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled into their new classes, routines and expectations. There is always so much to adjust to at the beginning of a new school year, and the children have risen to the challenge beautifully.

This has also been a very important half term for us as we begin our journey as an academy. There have been lots of new systems and processes to learn in the school office, alongside all the things that need to happen to keep school running smoothly every day. I would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful office team for managing all of the new academy processes while continuing to do what they do best, keeping everything running, supporting families and making sure that the 'normal school' continues alongside all the changes happening behind the scenes. We are very grateful for all their hard work!

Racial Equity Week

Last week, we held our Racial Equity Week and took time to reflect on the importance of challenging racism, celebrating diversity and ensuring that everyone feels valued, respected and included. As part of this, our Year 6 children visited Stevenage FC Stadium to take part in a No Room for Racism workshop. It was a valuable opportunity for them to discuss racism, challenge stereotypes and consider how they can make a positive difference in their own communities.

Our commitment to racial equity is not limited to one week of the school year. It is an important part of our wider curriculum and our work to prepare children to live respectfully and positively alongside others. Through our curriculum, discussions, class texts, assemblies and everyday experiences, these themes are revisited and developed throughout the year. This ensures that children have regular opportunities to explore equality, respect and inclusion rather than seeing anti-racism as something that happens only during a designated week.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Wear Red Day and helped us to say No to Racism. Your generous donations raised £199.50 for Show Racism the Red Card, and we are very grateful for your support.

Planting Hope - Growing in God's Creation

As part of our RE learning this first half term, the whole school has been exploring the theme of Creation and Covenant. Next half term, every child will plant a daffodil bulb, giving us a practical way to reflect on care, patience, hope and faith. Although we cannot see what is happening beneath the soil, we trust that, with time and care, something beautiful will grow. We look forward to watching our daffodils bloom in the spring, a beautiful reminder that, just like our bulbs, we are all growing too, in faith, love and our relationship with God.

Parent partnership

It has been lovely to see so many of you at the school gates this half term and to have the opportunity to catch up with parents and carers during our parent consultations this week. We really value the partnership between home and school. When we work together, share information and communicate openly, we can provide the very best support for our children. Thank you for your continued support.



A huge thank you also goes to everyone who supported our Book Fair. It is always such a successful event, and we are delighted that this year you helped raise £870.66 in rewards for the school to spend on new books. This will make a wonderful difference to our library and classrooms and, most importantly, give our children even more opportunities to discover new authors, stories and subjects. Thank you for helping us to continue to develop our love of reading!

Harvest Giving

Our Harvest Giving Week was another wonderful example of our school community coming together. I challenged the children to see if they could fill the stage with donations and they certainly did not disappoint! Thanks to your incredible generosity, we were able to donate 10 bags of food to support the elderly and housebound members of our parish, as well as 16 boxes of food to Feed Up Warm Up and St Hilda's Foodbank. We are so grateful for every single donation. A massive thank you to our Chaplaincy Team who did a great job preparing the donations.



We also celebrated our first Mass of the school year with our Harvest Mass. It was a beautiful occasion and a lovely opportunity for our whole school community to come together in prayer and thanksgiving. Our children led us so beautifully, and it was wonderful to see so many parents and carers joining us. A particularly special moment was seeing our Year 4 children receive Holy Communion in school for the first time. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped to make our first Mass of the year such a special celebration.

RSHE consultation

We have also been busy gathering your views as part of our RSHE consultation. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read the proposed policy, complete the questionnaire, attend the information evening or come along to our drop-in sessions. We really value the opportunity to listen to your views and answer your questions.

The consultation is now almost complete, and the feedback received will be collated and shared with our Governors after half term. Thank you for engaging so positively with this important part of our curriculum and for taking the time to contribute to the process.

Governor update

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, the governors would like to share some school news and celebrate the many achievements of our school community. Firstly, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Ursula Dike and Godfrey Nooha, who have recently stepped down from their roles as governors. We are extremely grateful for their commitment, dedication, and service to St Margaret Clitherow over the years, and we wish them both every success for the future. Earlier this term, governors met with Eileen Anderson, the District School Effectiveness Adviser. This was a very positive meeting, during which she spoke highly of the school's progress and achievements. We would like to congratulate

Miss Puccio and the entire staff team for their hard work and commitment, which were reflected in such a glowing report along with all the children who represented the school beautifully as they always do.

There has been much to celebrate across the school this half term. We were delighted to welcome Mr Carrasco from John Henry Newman School, who met with our Year 6 pupils to begin preparations for their transition to secondary school. These early opportunities help ensure our children feel confident and excited about the next stage of their education. The Harvest Mass was also a wonderful success. Thank you to all of our children, families and staff who supported this special event and contributed so generously to our Harvest charities. Your continued support helps strengthen the caring and faith-filled community that makes St Margaret Clitherow such a special place.



We would also like to thank all the parents and carers who took part in the recent parent consultations. Which are always a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the children's progress and strengthen the partnership between home and school. On behalf of all the governors, we would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support and wish all our children, families, and the staff team a restful, enjoyable, and well-deserved half-term break.

PSFA update

As we reach the end of another busy half term, we wanted to share a little update on what the PSFA has been up to and say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us! We enjoyed hosting a coffee morning, giving everyone a chance to catch up, enjoy a cuppa and connect with other parents. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a lovely occasion! A big thank you to everyone who attended our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Your time, support and enthusiasm are so appreciated, and it's wonderful to have parents involved in helping us make a difference to our school community. Behind the scenes, we've been busy preparing and organising costumes for the upcoming nativity. We're looking forward to seeing it all come together! We've also been busy organising our Christmas card activities. It's an exciting time of year, and we hope you enjoyed your children's festive creations and ordered in time for free delivery!



Tickets for the first school disco of the year go on sale from Monday 2nd November. Early bird tickets are £4, on the door will be £5. The disco will be held on Friday 6th November: Nursery - Year 2 will be 4:30pm to 5:30pm and Year 3 - Year 6 will be from 6-7pm. As we head into the next half term, preparations are well underway for a busy and exciting few weeks. With Christmas events, festive activities and lots more to organise, there's plenty happening behind the scenes! We're always grateful for the support of our school families. Whether you attend an event, volunteer your time, share an idea or simply spread the word, every little bit helps our PSFA support the school and create special experiences for the children. If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you! Wishing everyone a wonderful and restful half term break. Thank you for your continued support! 💛

Further improving our site security

Over the half term holiday, we will be carrying out work to further improve security across our school site, thanks to funding from the Department for Education (DfE). New CCTV cameras will be installed to cover previously identified blind spots, a video intercom system will be added to the main gate, and the fencing around the staff car park and the walkway alongside Stevenage FC will be upgraded. These improvements will help us to further maintain a safe and secure environment for our children, families and staff.

Some gentle reminders

Please remember the following guidelines, which aim to keep our school a safe place to be:

- Only park in the designated spaces in the car park – not on the yellow lines or 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 parks.
- Please avoid unnecessary use of car horns near the school, as loud noises can cause distress to some children.

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.



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.

Attendance and Lateness

The Local Authority attendance target is 96%, and we have set ourselves an even higher target of 97%, reflecting our commitment to excellent attendance and learning. Our current whole-school attendance figure since September is 95.8%.

Attendance figures include unauthorised absences, illness, medical appointments and lateness. We must all work together to ensure children are in school, provided they are well enough to attend. We are mindful that chickenpox has affected some of our families recently and understand that children need to remain at home while they are unwell and until they are no longer infectious. Please find the current class attendance figures below.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
88.41%	91.44%	96.13%	95.71%	97.34%	98.44%	98.33%	97.4%

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!

Nursery Admissions 2027 - 2028

Was your child born between 1/9/2023 - 31/8/2024?

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 20th November. Please contact the school office for an application pack or visit our school website for further details.

Some highlights this term:

- Meet the teacher sessions
- Youth Leadership Team elections and Chaplaincy Team selections
- Class Feast Day celebrations in Year 4, 5 and Reception
- Education Sunday - the Parishes were a sea of red!
- Year 5 trip to Wagamama
- Flu vaccinations for Reception - Year 6
- Year 5 and 6 Football tournament
- PSFA Coffee Morning
- Year 6 visit from Mr Carrasco-Morley - Headteacher from The Saint John Henry Newman School
- EYFS Curriculum session for parents
- Book vending machine winners selected
- Year 3 and 4 swimming started this half term
- Year 5 Mini Police sessions for Year 5
- Class learning about St. Margaret Clitherow and Class Saints
- Stevenage Library visit for our Reception children
- Year 4 Stevenage Museum visit and Victorians workshop
- Bridgebuilders assembly

We encourage you to follow us on Instagram searching for 'stmargaretclitherow' for regular updates. We aim to post snapshots of school life to keep you informed and engaged with what's happening at school. Please find below the key dates for your reference; kindly note they are subject to change.

As we reach the half-term break, I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned opportunity to rest, recharge and spend some quality time together.

God Bless

Puccio

Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Friday, 23rd October 2026	Finish for October break (normal time)

Half Term: Monday, 26th October to Friday, 30th October 2026

Monday, 2nd November 2026	Return to school: 8.45am
Monday, 2nd November 2026	Individual and sibling photos
Thursday, 5th November 2026	Reception workshop for parents: 9:00am in the hall
Friday, 6th November 2026	PSFA Disco
Tuesday, 10th November 2026	Session 2 – Flu vaccinations (Reception – Year 6)
Friday, 27th November 2026	EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Nativity: 9:30am in the hall
Thursday, 19th November 2026	Year 2 Great Fire of London Stevenage museum workshop in school
Wednesday, 2nd December 2026	Advent Service at Westminster Cathedral for Year 6
Thursday, 3rd December 2026	Advent Mass:9:30am in the school hall - all welcome. Confession for Yr 4-6
Tuesday, 8th December 2026	Travelling Theatre in school PM - Christmas jumpers can be worn

Tuesday, 8th December 2026	Year 5&6 Carol Concert: 6:30pm at St. Hilda's Church
Friday, 11th December 2026	Key Stage 1 Christmas play: 9:30am in the hall
Wednesday, 16th December 2026	Christmas Dinner Day (Reception – Year 6) – Christmas jumpers can be worn by all classes
Friday, 18th December 2026	Finish for Christmas break: 1:15pm

Christmas Break: Monday 21st December to Friday, 1st January 2027

Monday, 4th January 2027	Return to school: 8.45am
Wednesday, 6th January 2027	Year 1 maths workshop for parents: 9:00am in the hall
Thursday, 7th January 2027	Reception maths workshop for parents: 9:00am in the hall
Tuesday, 12th January 2027	Year 6 online health and wellbeing survey with school nursing team
Thursday, 14th January 2027	Year 1 Box of Childhood Stevenage museum workshop in school
Thursday, 21st January 2027	Year 5 Tudors workshop at Stevenage Museum
Friday, 5th February 2027	NSPCC Number Day and open morning for parents
Friday, 5th February 2027	PSFA Disco
Monday, 8th February 2027	Year 6 Class Saint Feast Day
Wednesday, 10th February 2027	Ash Wednesday Mass: 2pm in the hall – all welcome
Friday, 12th February 2027	Finish for half term (normal time)

Future date

Tuesday 16th March 2027	Year 3&4 Easter Play: 9:30am in the school hall

School Admissions Consultation 2028/29

The consultation on Hertfordshire County Council's school admission arrangements for 2028/29 is open until 22 November 2026.

The county council proposes to:

- Reduce the published admission number (PAN) at 5 primary schools for 2028/29.
- Retain the remainder of the County Council's existing admission arrangements, including PANs, Relevant Areas and schemes of coordination.

Please note that for the 2027/28 and 2028/29 processes we amended our address definition following changes to legislation

Go to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2028 for more information about the consultation and to respond online.

Have your say



Consultations are also taking place on the admission arrangements for some schools and academies that are responsible for their own admissions.

You can also view the proposals for these schools at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2028

Hertfordshire