

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:
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Monday 26th March 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to the Easter newsletter from the Governing Body, we hope it will give you an insight into the work that we have carried out during this term. More information on the Governing Body is available on the school website and we are always contactable via our clerk, Maria Streeter at the following address clerk@clitherow.herts.sch.uk. We welcome your feedback and would love to hear your views.

Admissions Committee

The Admissions Committee has completed the process for Reception allocations to the school. Primary allocation day this year is Monday 16th April. The committee is now looking at the allocation of Nursery places. Offer day for Nursery is Friday 20th April.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee would like to thank parents and carers for attending the Relationships and Sex Education information evening, where our revised Relationships and Sex Education policy was launched. A handout containing valuable information was available on the evening and is now available from the school office for those parents wishing to have a look. During our latest curriculum meeting we spent time looking at the feedback received on the evening. It was overwhelmingly positive, with many parents feeling ready and equipped to engage with their children on this subject. I would like to remind parents that if they have any concerns relating to the teaching of sex and relationships in our school, to make an appointment to speak to Miss Puccio.

Safeguarding is always a focus for the governing body. Many thanks to all parents and carers who completed the Safeguarding questionnaire on Parents Evening. I will update you with our findings from the questionnaire in the Summer term.

Attendance has been a focus for our curriculum committee and will continue to be a focus over the coming terms. Governors will be working alongside Miss Puccio to ensure our overall attendance figure increases and persistent absenteeism decreases.

Finance and Personnel Committee

The Finance and Personnel Committee would like to pass on their thanks to parents for their continued support of the School Building Fund (SBF). These funds are essential to the school, as a Voluntary Aided school, we are required to contribute 10% towards the total cost of any capital projects undertaken.

You will all be aware of the heating problems that we have had in school recently. We have been very fortunate in that the Diocese have funded our new boilers and the renewal of all the pipework within the school. In line with government legislation, the school will need to contribute



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

10% to this cost, which amounts to over £19,000. At this stage, we do not have that amount of money in the fund, therefore I am appealing to parents to consider either increasing their monthly donation, or making a one off contribution to the fund.

For those parents who have yet to sign up to the SBF, but find themselves in a position to do so, forms are available from the school office. We suggest a monthly contribution of £3.50 for an individual child or £7 per family. Gift aid forms are also available from the office and allow the school to reclaim tax paid at no extra cost to you.

On another financial matter, we would also like to encourage any parent or carer whose child is entitled to a free school meal (FSM) to ensure they have registered for this benefit. In addition to your child receiving a meal, there is a Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) of £1320 per child which goes directly to the school in order to further support your child. Even if your child is in KS1 and already receives the Universal Free School Meal (UFSM) provided for all infant children, an application can still be made which could provide extra funding for the school. All information regarding FSM is held in the strictest of confidence by the school. More information regarding FSM and PPG is available from the school office or on the school website.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Committee has focused on the new boilers and pipework within the school. This committee also continues to ensure that the building and our outdoor environment is a safe place for our children. Many thanks to those parents who continue to park and stride to school. Hopefully the warmer weather will encourage more parents to give it a go!

Academies

As yet we have no further news regarding the Academy process. We will continue to keep up to date with developments across the diocese and will keep you informed as and when things progress.

Staffing update

You will all be aware that we were unsuccessful in our last round of recruitment for a Deputy Head Teacher. The Governing Body have re-advertised the position and hope to be in a position to interview in May. I would like to assure parents that we are working in partnership with the diocese to ensure that the right candidate is appointed. In the meantime, we are very fortunate that deputy headship is in the very capable hands of Mrs Briscoe and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Briscoe for her continued support.

We are also looking to appoint a SENCO and a teacher to cover Mrs Mather while she is on maternity leave. We will keep parents informed as interviews for these positions get underway. Please keep the school in your prayers at this time.

Are you able to help?

The Governing Body are looking to appoint, as a Co-Opted Governor, someone with financial skills. This position is open to everyone, you do not need to be a parent at the school so if you know of anyone with a financial background who is willing to give up their time to work with the governing body, please contact Mrs Streeter in the office.

Thank you!

Thanks, as always, goes to our wonderful PSFA. Mr and Mrs Williams, Mr Ashman and Mr Tongola continue to work tirelessly throughout the year to organise events, raising much needed funds for the school. The PSFA hold monthly meetings in school and would welcome new faces at these meetings. Please note, the PSFA Annual General Meeting will take place in the school hall on **Wednesday 25th April at 6:30pm.**



I know you will all join me in saying a big 'Thank you' to Miss Puccio and all the staff for their work throughout this term.

We would like to pass on our thanks to staff, children and all of you for bearing with us as the heating issues within the school were addressed.

Finally, we wish you and your families a very happy Easter, we look forward to working with you in the coming term.

With very best wishes



Sally Curtis

Chair of Governors
On Behalf of the Governing Body

