

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monkwood Lane Stevenage Herts SG2 8QJ

Headteacher:
Carmela Puccio (BA Hons)



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

Thursday 29th March 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the School



Holy Week is here and our Lenten preparations are almost complete. Throughout Lent the children have engaged in their mission to put their 'Love in Action' within the school, at home and in their charitable works. When we return after Easter I will be able to update you on how much they have raised. All of their charitable efforts will be split between the Catholic Children's Society of Westminster (please remember to return your penny boxes!) and Father Kakuba's Ugandan Kanyike Project (<http://www.kanyike-project.co.uk/>). Your generosity and the enthusiasm of the children in reaching out to others is much appreciated. Thank you!

This week, **Year 5** led us beautifully in their powerful retelling of the **Easter Story** in music, movement and song through 'Easter Praise'. Each year we hear the long Passion Gospel at Mass on Palm Sunday but the children always manage to bring this alive so beautifully. They allow us to reflect on its poignant messages during their Easter production. This year's play was fantastic and rather moving in many ways. Well done Year 5, we were incredibly proud of you all.



It was lovely to see so many of you at **Parent Consultations** last week. With the Governors, I enjoyed talking to you all about the achievements of your children and other important school matters. We hope that you enjoyed Herts Catering's taster sessions for the new school menu – I certainly did! Thank you to those parents that completed our safeguarding survey, we will be analysing the results at our next Curriculum Committee meeting and sharing the results with you soon after. You may have noticed our pupil premium display in the hall during Parent Consultations. We can claim a £1300 grant from the Government each year for children whose parents or carers receive income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, pension credit or employment support or child tax credit. Please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals to see if you are eligible – the application only takes 5 minutes!

Attendance – every day counts!

Some parents received a letter from me at parents' evening if their child's attendance figure dropped below 96%. As a school we aim for all children to have an attendance figure of 96% or above. Ongoing poor attendance is a factor often linked to low levels of academic success. Many children have difficulty maintaining friendships if they have long or numerous periods of absence. Four days absence equates to 20 hours of learning lost! I understand that some absence due to illness may be unavoidable. However, it is important that we are aware of any on-going health problems, so we can put the correct support in place. Our whole school attendance figure as of this week is 95.8%. I will be publishing class attendance figures on twitter each week and the class with the highest percentage over the course of a half term will receive a class reward.



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

No problem is ever too big or too small to be discussed!

This is something that we always try to reinforce with the children. It is, however, just as true for all of us. Please do come in to talk to us if you have any concerns. Often an early chat prevents small worries from becoming big worries. Remember, we can't act if we don't know! In the first instance, a discussion with the class teacher may help, either via a telephone call after school or simply popping in at the end of the day. Longer appointments can be arranged via the office where necessary. If the problem remains unresolved you may wish to make an appointment (via the school office or email) to come in and see me. Please do not leave things to fester.

Congratulations to pupils in Year 3 who have been preparing to make their Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this term. They have all been prepared so well and are ready to take this important step. We keep all of our Year 3 children in our prayers during this important year for them: may they all enjoy the comforting reassurance of God's unconditional love through this Sacrament each time they receive it. As adults, we can often learn so much from the approach of our children to this Sacrament. I am always humbled by the long queues to meet with Father when opportunities to partake in the Sacrament are offered to our children.



Emergency Pipework Renewal Works – thank you!

We now have heating throughout the entire school, we no longer need extra layers!!! I must commend and thank the children for their mature and responsible response to the heating situation in school. I must also thank all of you for your support over this testing time with regards to the heating and school closures. I am sure you are aware, the decision to close the school isn't taken lightly and it is not an easy decision to make. I liaise closely with Sally Curtis, our Chair of Governors, and take into consideration various factors before making the difficult decision. I would like to thank you all for your continued support, I know when school closures are made it has a significant impact on you. I will continue to use the school website and twitter

as a way of communicating school closures with you. I will also use parentmail and texts to communicate a closure, however, the parentmail system wasn't as effective as it has been in the past as many schools use the system to communicate with parents and the system struggled to cope this time around. We also use the Everbridge notification system to communicate a closure and you can sign up on the following link member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login

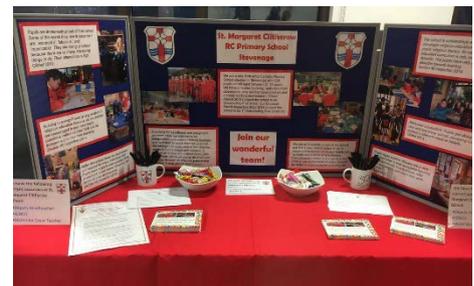
As a voluntary aided school we are required to contribute 10% towards the cost of these renewal works. Although appreciating the great financial demands on everyone at this time, I urge everyone to consider whether they can increase their contributions to the **School Building Fund** either in terms of regular standing order payments or in terms of a one off donation. All funds are used to maintain the building and ensure the best possible setting for our children's education.

Spread the word!

We are looking for an inspirational **Deputy Headteacher** to join our wonderful team with effect from September 2018. Applicants would need to be a practising Catholic who is committed to excellence in Catholic education and be an outstanding classroom practitioner, committed to developing the full potential of every child and have high expectations of achievement and behaviour.

We are also looking for a **Special Needs Co-ordinator** and a **maternity cover teacher** from September 2018.

In line with the school's safer recruitment procedure, both appointments will be subject to references and will require a clear DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check. Please share the details with anyone you think would be interested. If you would like to know more about these positions please visit teachinherts.com.



Dinner Monies – price increase

Herts Catering Ltd have notified us of a price increase for Junior school dinners from April 2018. A Junior school dinner will cost £2.45 after Easter. Please remember that school meals must be paid for in advance. The preferred payment method is via Parentpay, however cash or cheque payments can also be made via the School office.

School Website

Our new website is now live – let us know your thoughts! We are continuing to work on the Literacy and Maths zone, adding links to support learning at home. Thank you to Steve Ainsworth from KeyStage IT for his work on the site.

Car Park – Gentle reminder

Can I please remind you that parking is not allowed along the hedge or on the yellow zig zag lines at morning drop off and afternoon pick up.

May your holiday be blessed with special family moments as we reflect on the joy of the Risen Christ at Easter.

Wishing you a happy and holy Easter!

Yours sincerely



Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

Important dates this term (dates and times subject to change – please check our website)

Thurs, 29 th March	Finish for Easter Break (1.45pm) <i>Fri, 30th March – Fri, 13th April 2018</i> <i>Easter Break</i>
Mon, 16 th April	Return to school (8.45am)
Wed, 25 th April	PSFA AGM (6.30pm) School Hall
Fri, 27 th April	PSFA Disco (Infants 5.30pm-6.30pm Juniors 7.00pm-8.30pm)
Mon, 7 th May	Bank Holiday Monday
Thurs, 10 th May	Ascension Mass (9.30am) All welcome
Fri, 25 th May	Finish for Half Term (3.30pm) <i>Mon, 28th May - Fri, 1st June 2018</i> <i>Half Term</i>
Tues, 5 th June	Return to school (8.45am)
Thurs, 7 th June	Corpus Christi Procession (9.30am) All welcome
Fri, 15 th June	PSFA Disco (Infants 5.30pm-6.30pm Juniors 7.00pm-8.30pm)
Thurs, 28 th June	Holy Communicants Mass (9.30am) All welcome
Wed, 4 th July	EYFS and KS1 Sports Day (9.30am)
Fri, 6 th July	KS2 Sports Day (9.30am)
Sat, 7 th July	PSFA Summer Fayre (12.00pm-3.00pm)
Wed, 11 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Play (7.00pm)
Thurs, 19 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass (9.30am)
Fri, 20 th July	Finish for Summer holidays (1.45pm)
Tues, 4 th Sept	Return to school (8.45am)

