

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:
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Friday 21st December 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

What a busy term - Christmas is almost upon us! We were treated with the sounds of children rehearsing for their plays and carol concerts this month. We enjoyed three wonderful plays in school and a stunning carol concert at St. Hilda's Church. We even welcomed aliens to one of our plays! I am incredibly proud of our talented children! It was wonderful to see so many of you join with us to celebrate our children's wonderful talents over the last few weeks. Thank you for your support in helping the children to learn their lines and for organising their costumes. A huge thank you to the staff for the extra effort that they go to ensuring our children put on a fantastic performance.



Farewell, thank you and good luck to Mrs White!

This term we say farewell to Mrs White. Mrs White has a strong association with our school and the Wiggly Path will not be the same without her! We wish Mrs White well at St. Vincent de Paul School and thank her for her hard-work and dedication during the time she has spent with us – she will be missed by the entire school community. Mrs White will remain a good friend of the school and we look forward to hearing of her successes at her new school.

Advent Charities – thank you!

Thank you for supporting People for People's Reverse Advent Calendar this year which I know will be gratefully received. Once again this year, the children have been paying to sign their class Christmas Card. This money will be used to purchase CAFOD World Gifts and will support real and sustainable development projects in places of real need. The collection from the Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert was sent to The Catholic Children Society – a charity that has supported families in our school this year. Thank you for your support and generous contributions this Advent!



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

Advent Trips

Our Year 2 class visited St. Peter's Church to take part in Bridgebuilder's Christmas Journey. They met various characters from the Christmas story and a great time was had by all! Year 6 travelled further afield and represented our school in The Catholic Children's Society Advent Service at Westminster Cathedral. A beautiful service that included live actors retelling the Christmas story and real life animals as well!



PSFA – thank you!

An enormous thank you to the PSFA committee and especially to Chiara, Melanie and Kebby all of whom have put in so much effort this term (much behind the scenes work too) to put on the events that we have been accustomed to. This essential fundraising ensures that we are able to invest in projects that make a real difference to your children's education. The Christmas Fair was a fantastic success this year and made a profit of £2033 which will be used towards the cost of a hall projector. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way and to everyone who turned up on the day.

Uniform Reminders

Can I remind you that trainers are only permitted in PE lessons and should not be worn as general outdoor shoes. I have noticed that some children are still coming into school with 'extreme' haircuts, for example with tram lines, patterns or shaved sides, I would also like to remind you that these haircuts are not allowed in school.

School Dates 2019/20

Please note that our school dates for 2019/20 are now available on our school website. Please be aware of these when making plans for holidays. Please also be aware that there may be some difference in dates between our school and others (including JHN) although we have tried to minimise this as far as possible.

St. Joseph's Drama Group – another thank you!

I received a generous donation from the St. Joseph's Drama Group this term. Thank you to parents, children and staff that performed and supported the 'Oliver' performance in October. We are going to use the money towards the cost of a hall projector. Their next play will be 'The Wizard of Oz' which will take place on Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th May 2019. Tickets will be available from the school office soon. The performances in the past have been truly amazing, I know you would be in for a treat, please support them if you can.

Mobile phones

Please note that mobile phones and devices are not permitted in the Nursery and Reception classroom or outdoor area. If you need to make a phone call after Nursery pick up, please walk round to the school office. Mobile phones and devices are also not permitted within the school building unless permission has been granted by the school for plays and performances. Thank you in advance for your support.

Dinner Monies – another gentle reminder!

Please remember that school meals **must be paid for in advance**. Please can you ensure you have paid any outstanding dinner monies before we break up or over the Christmas holidays. The preferred payment method is via Parentpay, however cash or cheque payments can also be made via the school office. Activation codes for Year 3 parents were sent home in September,



however, if you need a new code or support setting up an account, please contact the school office.

Parentpay offers the option to set up low balance alerts. If you wish to set this up on your account, please follow these instructions:

1. Login
2. Go to Communications
3. Go to Alert Settings
4. Select the type of Alert (low balance and/or new item) and select how you want to receive alerts, email and/or SMS Text.

Email alerts are free of charge. If you opt for SMS text alerts there is a small charge per text.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all our families for their support throughout 2018. May I also thank our dedicated staff team and governors for their commitment and enthusiasm. We are certainly blessed with a beautiful community that we can all be so very proud of. I wish you all a very happy and holy season with much fun, celebration, laughter and family times. Merry Christmas!



Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

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

Mon, 7 th January	Return to school (8.45am)
Tues, 15 th January	Reception Applications close
Fri, 15 th February	Finish for Half Term (3.30pm)
<i>Mon, 18th – Fri, 22nd February Half Term</i>	
Mon, 25 th February	Return to school (8.45am)
Wed, 6 th March	Ash Wednesday Mass (2pm)
Thurs, 28 th March	EYFS & KS1 Lenten mass (9.30am)
Tues, 2 nd April	Year 5 Easter Play (7pm)
Thurs, 4 th April	KS2 Lenten Mass (9.30am)
Fri, 5 th April	Finish for Easter Break (1.45pm)
<i>Mon, 8th April – Mon, 22nd April 2019 Easter Break</i>	
Tues, 23 rd April	Return to school (8.45am)

