

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monkswood 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

Friday 5th April 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the School

Holy Week is almost upon us and Lenten preparations are nearly complete. Throughout Lent the children have engaged in almsgiving within the school and at home. 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!

Year 5 Performers!

This week, **Year 5** led us in their powerful performance of 'Good News' retelling the **Easter Story** in movement and song. Each year we hear the 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. Well done Year 5, we were incredibly proud of you all. Huge thank you to Mrs Bishop, Mrs Vincenti-Morrison, Mrs Luchies and the rest of the Year 5 team for preparing the children so well.



Farewell, thank you and good luck!

This term we say farewell to Ms Sinclair and Mrs Flynn from their temporary teaching positions with us. We thank them both for their work over the past two terms and we wish them well with their future endeavours. We also say goodbye to Miss Eastwood this term. We thank her for her hard-work and commitment during the time she has spent as a Teaching Assistant with us.

Welcome

I would like to welcome Mrs Vincenti-Morrison to our team here at St. Margaret Clitherow. Mrs Vincenti-Morrison is working in Year 5 as our part time class teacher. She has settled into our team perfectly!

It's been an action packed term and here are just some highlights:

- Year 5 Mini Police sessions
- Sponsored events – scoot, pirate day, pyjama day, lucky dip and bounce!
- Fitter Future sessions in class
- Living Streets Travel Tracker
- Museum visits
- Year 6 trip to John Henry Newman School to watch 'My Fair Lady'



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

- Year 5 visit to Stevenage College for World Book Day session
- World Book Day activities and dress up
- Willow cross weaving from Year 2 – 5.
- Ash Wednesday Mass
- Infant and Junior Masses followed by confession for Junior classes
- Year 3 Stone Age Day
- Whole school art and design technology preparations for school libraries
- EYFS Busy Fingers
- Year 5 Maths Challenge
- Key Stage 2 Mini Olympics
- Defibrillator and first aid training for Year 6
- Relationships and Sex Education Workshop for parents
- Year 6 Easter Journey to St. Mary's Church
- Irish Dancing Assembly
- K'nex Challenge for Year 5 & 6
- Netball and football league matches



Spread the Word!

We are looking for a successful and motivated full time **Class Teacher** and a full time **1:1 SEN Teaching Assistant** to support children with diverse needs, both roles to start ASAP. We are also looking for a **part time Nursery Teacher** (afternoon sessions) to join our wonderful team in September 2019. In line with the school's safer recruitment procedure, 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.

St. Joseph's Drama Group – 'The Wizard of Oz'

The St. Joseph's Drama group will be performing 'The Wizard of Oz' on Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th May. Our children will be able to watch the performance for free with a paying adult. Tickets are available from the school office. The performances in the past have been truly amazing, I know you would be in for a treat, please support them if you can. St. Joseph's Drama group have given the school a number of donations in the past and this year we were able to use a significant donation towards the purchase of our new hall projector and screen.

PSFA

A huge thank you to the PSFA committee and especially to Chiara, Melanie and Kebby all of whom put in so much effort (much behind the scenes work too) to put on the events that we have been accustomed to. We received a cheque recently from the PSFA to go towards the cost of our new projector and screen in the hall. We also received the Co-op Growing Project funds this term and the money will be used to renovate the allotment area over the Easter holidays. This essential fundraising ensures that we are able to invest in projects that make a real difference to your children's education.

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. Thank you to those parents that went home and completed the Ofsted parentview survey. **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.

Summer Term School Trips

School trips have all been booked. As always, much of the expense in putting on such trips is the cost of the coach hire. We rely heavily upon your donations in order to make these trips go ahead. Thank you for paying promptly! Should sufficient funds not be available to cover the cost of a trip, visits may have to be **cancelled**. Please help us by letting us know early if you anticipate a problem. There are occasions when we may be able to offer assistance providing we know in advance – please pop into the office and ask to speak with me or call if this is the case.

Dinner Monies – price increase

Herts Catering Ltd have notified us of a price increase for Junior school dinners from April 2019. A Junior school dinner will cost £2.60 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.

Message from the Governors

It was wonderful to see so many parents at the recent Parent Consultation evenings. Governors work on behalf of parents and carers of children at the school and as such we are always keen to hear your feedback. Thank-you for taking the time to talk to us.

It has been another busy term for the Governing Body -

***The Admissions Committee** has allocated places for our September intake of both Nursery and Reception Children. In line with other local nurseries, governors made the decision to trial a 30hr week in our nursery from September 2019.*

***The Curriculum Committee** has continued to monitor and evaluate the delivery of the curriculum in school. We held a Sex and Relationships evening for parents in February, many thanks to those who were able to attend.*

***The Health and Safety Committee** ensure both the school building and our grounds are a safe environment for the children. We continue to look at how we can keep our children safe and as such have continued to focus on the journey to school and how we can keep our children safe in the car park. In addition to this we have submitted a bid to the Local Authority for new toilets across the school. We are hoping to hear whether our bid has been successful shortly.*

***The Finance and Personnel Committee** are in the process of setting the budget for the next school year. As you will all be aware funding for schools is reaching a critical point. We rely on your contributions to the School Building Fund (SBF) to ensure we are able to contribute the required 10% to all capital projects. We also rely greatly on money raised by the PFSA, so a big thank-you to them and to you for supporting their events.*

Another gentle reminder from the Finance and Personnel committee - if your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you apply for them as well as getting Universal Free School Meals (currently available to all of KS1 children) the school receives an additional payment that goes directly towards supporting your child's education. Please contact Mrs Streeter in the school office if you require further details or assistance.

For more information on what we do, or if you would like to become involved, please contact our clerk, Mrs Streeter clerk@clitherow.herts.sch.uk

Wishing you and your families a very peaceful Easter time.

Sally Curtis

Chair of Governors - On behalf on the Governing Body



Message from the Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership and Active and Safer Travel Team

Most people do wear their seatbelts but still nearly ten per cent choose not to – help them make the right decision for themselves and others. If you have friends or family, who still do not realise how important it is to belt up, have that conversation and make sure they know how much you value their safety, and everyone else's in the vehicle. Please make sure children are secured in the most appropriate car seat for their age and height. You can receive a fine of up to £500 if you are caught not wearing your seatbelt. For more on seatbelts and car seats go to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/seatbelts



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)

Fri, 5 th April	Finish for Easter Break (1.45pm)
	<i>Mon, 8th April – Mon, 22nd April 2019</i> <i>Easter Break</i>
Tues, 23 rd April	Return to school (8.45am)
Mon, 6 th May	Bank Holiday Monday
Fri, 24 th May	Finish for Half Term (3.30pm)
	<i>Mon, 27th May - Fri, 31st May 2019</i> <i>Half Term</i>
Mon, 3 rd June	Inset day (no school for children)
Tues, 4 th June	Return to school (8.45am)
Thurs, 20 th June	Corpus Christi Procession (9.30am) All welcome
Wed, 3 rd July	KS2 Sports Day (9.30am)
Thurs, 4 th July	Holy Communicants Mass (9.30am) All welcome
Fri, 5 th July	EYFS and KS1 Sports Day (9:30am)
Sat, 6 th July	PSFA Summer Fair (12pm-3pm)
Tues, 9 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Play (7.00pm)
Thurs, 18 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass (9.30am)
Fri, 19 th July	Finish for Summer holidays (1.45pm)
Wed, 4 th Sept	Return to school (8.45am)

