

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 30th March 2020

Dear Parents

I don't know where to start with this end of term newsletter! As I write this, Team A are in school with me ensuring our children of key workers are being cared for. We are getting ready to hand the baton over to Team B tomorrow. The school is incredibly quiet, however the camaraderie and spirits amongst staff and children remains high! Thank you to the families that have emailed photos of their children at home, the staff have enjoyed seeing them. Please continue to send in your images and I will tweet them to share with our whole school community. Mrs Ridgers-Latif said to me last week, it just goes to show it's the community that makes our school the wonderful, caring and vibrant place that it is, not the building – never has a truer word been spoken!

My words will not be enough as I say a huge 'thank you' to our dedicated team here at St. Margaret Clitherow School. I have felt incredibly well supported throughout this testing time and I cannot thank them enough! Thank you also to our School Governors, they are a great team and are always there whenever I call upon them. I would also like to say a heart-felt thank you to all of you for your words of thanks and best wishes and your patience during this unprecedented time. You are all very special people and have made our school community even stronger! Please continue to use the school admin email address and phone number should you need anything. At this point, it is unlikely that we will remain open over the Easter holidays (I will continue to monitor the admin email address during the holidays) for key worker children due to significantly less need for places. We will open again for key worker children on Monday 20th April.

A message from Sally Curtis, our Chair of the Governing Body

Although our role within the school has switched to supporting Miss Puccio and the whole team during this period of uncertainty the governing body are continuing to fulfil our statutory duty at this time.

Words do not seem enough, but I know you will all join me in thanking Miss Puccio and all the staff at school for everything they are doing for our children, they are all incredible!

Our school, although a very different place right now, continues to be a place of hope and love and I know when school reopens the whole school community will be stronger than ever before. Until that time, on behalf of the governing body I would like to wish you and your families the very best, thoughts and prayers are with everyone one at this time.

Events this half term

We did manage to squeeze some events in this half term! On Thursday 12th March, Tony Gorton, our Diocese of Westminster Advisor (DA), joined us for our Lenten Mass. Masses at our school are always beautiful (I know I am biased!) however, I felt incredibly proud of our children on this occasion especially. We had children from Nursery to Year 6 independently leading us in prayer – it truly was a wonderful Mass. I have included some extracts from Tony's visit report below:

Today's visit to St. Margaret Clitherow was truly inspirational on so many levels; an experience that will live long and fondly in the memory. The highlight of today's visit was, without doubt, the whole-school Lenten Mass which the DA was privileged to attend; this was a truly wonderful celebration involving all members of the school community, including pupils, staff, parents and governors, along with members of



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the local parish. The preparation that had been undertaken for this celebration beforehand was clearly evident, both in terms of the physical environment and the pupils' whole-hearted participation throughout the Mass, something which was later commented upon in glowing terms by various adults present. The tour provided further evidence of the school community of St. Margaret Clitherow being one clearly based on Gospel values, with pupils being fully immersed in the Catholic faith on so many levels.

Earlier this term we were visited by members of staff from Herts Catering Ltd. They delivered fruit kebab and smoothie making workshops for the children. It was a great day!

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) week also took place this half term. The week started with an interactive assembly by Mrs Oligboh, a Chemistry Teacher from The John Henry Newman School. Throughout the week, the children took part in various class-based activities. Year 5 & 6 took part in Separation Science workshops with Jo and Rishon from Roche UK. They also received a visit from a GlaxoSmithKline scientist! Thank you so much to our visitors throughout the week and thank you to parents for your donated items.

It was a busy half term for our PSFA, they organised our Mother's Day gift sale and an Easter Egg hunt for the children on our last day before the enforced closure. Thank you to our hard-working and dedicated PSFA team!

Our annual Irish dancing assembly was the last time we all gathered as a school community before our school closure. Like the rest of the school, I always enjoy watching our talented dancers! Huge well done to Carys, Freya and Orla – what talent!

Once again, I would like to thank our whole school community, it hopefully will not be long before we can all be together again. St. Margaret Clitherow School is not as we know it right now, but our love and thoughts for each other remains stronger than ever. Please continue to share your home activities with us. We miss you all! Stay safe and keep well.

I hope your holiday will be blessed with special family moments as we reflect on the joy of the Risen Christ at Easter. Wishing you all a holy Easter!

Stay safe

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Carmela Puccio
Headteacher



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