

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:
Carmela Puccio BA (Hons)



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

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Dear Parents

I hope by now your child has received their SMC bear! It was a little treat from school, and I hope they were well received!

We have been busy in school over the last week preparing for the return to school of all pupils. Our school community has done an amazing job over the last 8 weeks with remote learning and keeping in contact even though we are apart. We have received a lot of positive feedback from our remote learning questionnaire and I thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

The school risk assessment has now been updated. Government regulations regarding school attendance have changed and from Monday 8th March, it will be mandatory for all children (unless they have been advised by consultants to continue to shield) to attend school.

Teachers will continue to teach a broad and balanced curriculum and lessons may be modified to address any gaps in learning. We will be avoiding phrases such as 'catch up, fallen behind or lost learning'. Our children are remarkable, they have done their very best during these challenging times and we are very proud of them. Wherever they are with their learning, we will support them to make further progress.

We must be cautious and careful and as such, we have included further risk reduction measures in school. Please read the information carefully, even if your child has been attending school during the lockdown period, you should still read this information carefully as we have made changes to school life. We would love to catch up with all of you on the playground after this period of separation and I am sure you would like to catch up with other families, but sadly that will not be possible – this includes gathering outside the school gates. Some of the information below may sound harsh and to the point, however, it is important for me to get the details across to you clearly. Our community is special to us and we want to keep everyone as safe as we can.

The updated school risk assessment has been added to the school website, please note that it is a live document and changes regularly. Please note that the information in this letter is subject to change, however rest assured we will communicate any changes with you as soon as we can.

During this term there have been some significant changes for staff. As mentioned in previous updates, staff were asked to take part in twice weekly lateral flow testing. Testing takes place on Sundays and Wednesdays for the team here in school. Staff were also asked to wear face coverings in all communal areas in the school and staff were also given the option to wear a face covering in class – you may have already noticed this when staff have attended the weekly Zoom catch ups and assemblies. This will continue when the children return on Monday 8th March – staff will wear face coverings in communal areas and will be given the option to wear a face covering in class. Please prepare your child for this. If you



"Being kind to yourself is one of the greatest kindnesses," said the mole.



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would like your child to wear a mask when in school, that is your decision, and we will support this decision - please ensure your child is able to manage this safely and hygienically.

Drop off and collection

We will be continuing with our one-way system for drop off and collection. We ask that **only one parent** accesses the school site to drop off/ pick up their child to restrict numbers on site and that they **wear a face covering. Please ensure that your child/children always stay close to you.** Please avoid congregating on the playground and wait on the markers for your child's class – the markers have been resprayed, so it is clearer for you. School gates will be locked at 9:25am and unlocked at 2:50pm. Please always adhere to social distancing protocols, this includes once you have left the school site. **School staff will be on the playground and they will ask you to keep moving and keep your distance from other families if necessary.** I will also be out on the playground each day. **Please ensure you walk with your child and drop them off to class, only our children in Year 6 are permitted to walk to class without a parent, all other children should be walked to class by an adult.**

Can I remind you about safety in the carpark; your child should not be cycling/scooting through the carpark. Please keep your child/children close to you.

Year 3 drop off and collection will continue to be from the prayer garden. Please do not enter the prayer garden, a member of staff will be there to guide your child into class.

As we need to be cautious and careful, we have decided to revert to the longer staggered drop off in the mornings and drop off. This will be reviewed, and we hope to move back to the shorter staggered time. I will of course inform you of this when I feel the school is ready. **It is important that you all stick to your drop off and collection window below.** I know that this may not suit all families, however, we must stagger the times to keep everyone safe.

As before, parents will not be able to enter the school building, this also includes approaching the classroom door – this is incredibly important. Last term I noticed some parents approaching classroom doors to speak to the staff, please do not do this; call the office, or send an email if you need to pass a message on. We ask that you drop your child off and keep moving round the one-way system. Please help us to keep our school community safe.

Please note the staggered drop off and collection times below to ease congestion:

8:45am drop off – Surnames A – D
8:55am drop off – Surnames E – L
9:05am drop off – Surnames M – P
9:15am drop off – Surnames R – Z

Gates and registers will close at 9:25am

2:50pm collection – Surnames A – D
3:00pm collection – Surnames E – L
3:10pm collection – Surnames M – P
3:20pm collection – Surnames R – Z

Gates will close promptly at 3:25pm

If you need to communicate anything to the school, you must either email us admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk or telephone the school office. If possible, we ask that you avoid coming into the school office area, however, I appreciate that that will not always be possible. If you do need to come to the office, we will ask you to follow our visitor guidelines.



Lunches

Children will continue to eat their lunch in their classroom. A cold or hot packed school lunch option or a home packed lunch will be available. If you do send in a packed lunch from home, please ensure that your child has relevant cutlery e.g. spoon for yoghurt. **Lunches will start on Week 3 of the menu from Monday 8th March. Please ensure your child is in credit when ordering a school dinner.**

WEEK 1				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Sausages with Potato Wedges	Salmon Fish Fingers/Nibbles with Diced Potatoes	Roast Pork with Roast Potatoes	Quorn Hot Dog Potato Wedges (v)	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Low Fat Chips (v)
Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans
Cheese Roll (v)	Chicken Baguette	Tuna Roll	Ham Baguette	Cheese Roll (v)
WEEK 2				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese Pinwheel with Diced Potatoes (v)	Burger in a Bun Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes	Quorn Hot Dog Potato Wedges (v)	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Low Fat Chips (v)
Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans
Ham Roll	Cheese Baguette (v)	Tuna Roll	Chicken Baguette	Tuna Roll
WEEK 3				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Meatballs Baguette	Macaroni Cheese & Garlic Bread (v)	Roast Beef with Roast Potatoes	Fish Fingers with Potato Wedges	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Low Fat Chips (v)
Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans	Jacket Potato with cheese or beans
Cheese Roll (v)	Chicken Baguette	Cheese Roll (v)	Ham Baguette	Tuna Roll

Further Updates:

- On entry, children will wash their hands thoroughly. Good hand hygiene messages will be conveyed throughout the day. The children will be asked to wash their hands throughout the day. They can bring in a labelled hand cream if necessary.
- Children will be based in their classroom, associated toileting area and designated outdoor area.
- Children will be required to wear school uniform (PE kits on Wednesdays and Fridays).
- Mr Moran will continue to deliver PE lessons on Wednesdays and Fridays. Year 1 – Year 6 children must come to school on a Wednesday and Friday wearing their kit. As our school hall is being used as our staffroom (to enable staff to socially distance), PE lessons will continue to take place outside (weather permitting), please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing for this. Our children in Reception can wear their PE kit if they want to.
- Mrs Luchies will continue to teach the junior children music on Tuesday mornings.
- Classroom layouts will be different, where possible, children will be facing the front.
- Toilet handles, taps and doors will be cleaned throughout the school day.



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- Classroom windows and doors will be kept open throughout the day to ensure good ventilation – please ensure your child wears layers on colder days.
- The school will continue to receive a weekly sanitisation of the classrooms and communal areas using an electrostatic sprayer (fogging).
- Basic first aid will be administered in the child's classroom.
- Each class will have their own set of resources and if shared with another class, they will be cleaned beforehand. Class resources will continue to be cleaned.
- Children will have a designated outdoor space for break/lunchtimes and for outdoor learning.
- Each child should have their own water bottle which is clearly labelled. Children should bring them in each day.
- Only bring in essential items from home, e.g: pencil case (Years 3 - 6), healthy snack, labelled water bottle, lunch (if necessary). We will be able to send reading books home. We will rotate books, so they are not shared each day.
- Staff will be permitted to move across classrooms to help support the delivery of the curriculum, however, we will only do this to cover staff absence.
- School gatherings (assemblies, Masses and productions) will sadly not take place; however, we will continue with our weekly Zoom assemblies in school.

If you or your child show any of the symptoms of COVID-19 – a high temperature (37.8 or more) or a new continuous cough or a change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you must not come into school and you must follow Government guidelines regarding testing and isolation. Testing is now available and anyone (staff and children) showing the signs or symptoms will be expected to be tested. You must inform us of the outcome of a test as soon as possible.

If your child is ill (not COVID-19 related) you should continue to follow school rules regarding this and keep them home for the permitted time. You must of course, notify the school of any absence.

Should a member of our community (staff or child) have a confirmed case of COVID-19, I will of course notify you of this. It is incredibly important that you notify us of any changes to your contact details.

If school loaned a laptop to your child/children, please return the laptop to the school office on Monday 8th March. Please do not ask your child to hand it in to their teacher.

Please do call the school or email admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk with any questions you may have about the return to school. Please ask me any questions, rather than worrying about it. I may not have all the answers, but I will endeavour to find out for you!

Thank you for your continued support. Thank you also to our dedicated staff for preparing the school for the wider reopening.

We look forward to coming together as a whole school community again soon.

God Bless and stay safe.

Puccio

Miss Puccio
Headteacher



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