

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 15th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are almost at the end of another challenging year. Thank you for your support and prayers throughout the year, they were well received by the team here in school. When we reopened the school in September, I did not think we would be facing another lockdown so quickly. Our school community adapted to lockdown life so quickly and seamlessly moving into remote learning and learning for our critical workers. A huge thank you for supporting and teaching your children at home, you all deserve headteacher awards! A thank you also to the staff here for moving over to online learning but also continuing to teach their critical worker children in school. Your children were incredibly well prepared for 'back to school' life in March – I was incredibly proud of them. A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful staff here at St. Margaret's for saying 'yes' to all that I asked of them. Staff continue to laugh and smile and ensure that our school is a great place to be.

A Message from our Full Governing Body

Governors have continued to meet via Zoom to fulfil their statutory duties. Our minutes are available on the school website and any feedback from parents is warmly welcomed.

Governors continue to engage with our Trustees, the Diocese of Westminster, regarding conversion to academy status. We are currently spending time learning about how being an academy would work for us and learning more about the family of schools we would be a part of. We will keep parents informed of key points along the way. More information regarding academies can be found on the Diocesan website www.rcdow.org.uk

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Puccio and the team at St Margaret Clitherow for all of their hard work and dedication in what was another unusual and difficult academic year. They have gone above and beyond what was expected of them, we wish them a wonderful and well-deserved break over the summer.

We would also like to thank parents for your support over the last year. We wish you and your families a safe and happy summer break and look forward to working with you next term.

SMC Governing Body

Farewell and Good luck

Farewell and good luck to our Year 6 children and the 15 Year 6 families that leave us this term. I am incredibly proud of the young adults that they have become. We will miss them all but know that they are ready for the exciting paths that they will now take. Our Year 6 children enjoyed an action-packed, end of Primary School outdoor day this week.

A blessing for our Year 6 Leavers:

May the Lord of the future go before you, bless you and keep you in a world that needs your generous hearts more than ever. May you be agents of change, ambassadors of a kingdom of tenderness and reconciliation in which your light, your skills, your imagination will bring healing to broken hearts, bring justice, peace and hope.

(Raymond Friel)



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

After 29 years we must sadly say 'goodbye' to the lovely Mrs Stewart. We feel it is time that she finally has a rest! Mrs Stewart will be missed by all here in school and I know a lot of families and children will be sad to see her leave us. Mrs Stewart works tirelessly behind the scenes ensuring school plans run smoothly. She organises all the events in school and makes sure the children make lasting memories. Staff here will miss Mrs Stewart, not only as a colleague but as a friend. We are disappointed that we have not been able to give Mrs Stewart the send-off she truly deserves. We will be inviting Mrs Stewart back in the autumn term to celebrate and thank her for all the wonderful things she has done for our children, families, and staff here, past and present. Mrs Stewart, you are one in a million and we are all so very lucky that you have been a part of our school community. Thank you! Good luck in your retirement, Mrs Stewart, you have certainly earned it! I know that St. Margaret's will always hold a special place in Mrs Stewart's heart, and she will always be welcomed here. In fact, she has agreed to come back as a Foundation Governor to support our school and we look forward to working with her in this new role.



We also say goodbye to Mrs Wolfram and Mr Moran this week. We wish them all the very best with their new roles and adventures! Thank you both for your dedication and commitment to our school.

Welcome!

Next term we welcome Mrs Locke to our school community. Mrs Locke will be teaching in Year 5 and teaching in Year 2 and 6 on alternate weeks to cover Mrs Briscoe and Mr Peck's leadership time.

Sports Days

The children enjoyed different sports days this year and I am sorry we could not celebrate their sporting achievements in the usual way. Videos will follow shortly for you to get a flavour of their sessions. Great fun was had by all!



Summer works – toilet refurbishment

Over the summer holidays we are planning a refurbishment in the Junior and Infant toilets. We received some funding from the Diocese earlier this term and this has allowed the refurbishment to take place alongside the 10% School Building Fund allocation. Thank you for your monetary support when paying your monthly/annual school building fund donations.



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First Holy Communion Celebrations

Congratulations to our children in Year 4 and Year 3 who celebrated their First Holy Communion this year. Well done to all children and families for adapting to online sessions and for being so prepared for such a special Sacrament.



Fundraising – thank you!

Thank you for supporting our 'Wear Purple Day' for Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. In total you raised £304 for a worthwhile charity. Thank you also for supporting our non-uniform day last week with the proceeds going directly to our PSFA – a profit of £587.45 for our school. That is phenomenal, thank you!

Summer reading challenge

Last weekend marked the start of the Summer Reading Challenge at Stevenage Library. Ensuring that our children keep up with their reading over the Summer Holidays reaps many benefits for their progress. Remember to visit the library and sign up for The Reading Challenge this year!

SchoolGrid

From September we are hoping to be back in the hall at lunchtimes. Children will be able to use the new system to collect their lunches each day. Please remember to order school dinners (Reception – Year 6) from home and ensure all dinners are paid for in advance. As we should be back in the hall, the children will once again be able to choose their own vegetables and salads. We will be starting on Week 1 and the menu is available on our website.

COVID-19 Update – Summer holiday contact tracing

We have been asked by Hertfordshire County Council to monitor our admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk account over the summer holiday to ensure that we are able to quickly identify those that need to self-isolate. Can I please remind you that 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 follow Government guidelines regarding testing and isolation. Testing is available and anyone (staff and children) showing signs or symptoms will be expected to be tested. **You must inform us of the outcome of a test as soon as possible. If you need to contact us out of school hours please email admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk This account is monitored out of school hours, including weekends and holidays.**

Please ensure you have spent time reading my September 2021 update. Let us hope I do not need to be in contact again over the holidays with further updates.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful summer holiday; a chance to recharge and a chance to enjoy family time together. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Thursday 2nd September 2021 for the new school year.

Please continue to follow local and Government guidelines to keep our community safe.

Yours sincerely

Carmela Puccio
Headteacher



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