

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:
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Friday 10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

This half term is an unusually short one, but it still contains a great deal of activity as you will see from this newsletter!

Staffing update

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Ms Miller as our new Year 1 maternity cover teacher. Ms Miller will spend some time with Miss Marron over the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition for our Year 1 children. We look forward to working with Ms Miller and welcoming her to our school community.

Mrs Vincenti-Morrison (Year 5 class teacher) will sadly be leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Vincenti-Morrison will be leaving us to take a break from the teaching profession and to spend some time with her young family. We wish her well with her future endeavours. The recruitment process is underway, and we will keep you posted.

STEM visit

Our Year 3, 4 and 5 children were treated to an inspiring day at the STEM Discovery Centre here in Stevenage earlier this half term. The children went to the EXOMars viewing gallery where Airbus engineers were testing Mars Rover Prototypes. They also took part in a selection of curriculum linked activities to inspire their scientific minds. The children and staff were buzzing on their return to school, having had such an exciting day. It looks like we may have some budding scientists and engineers on our hands!

After school clubs

This term we have introduced some additional after school clubs and most are funded by the school. Each class, from Reception to Year 6 now has the opportunity to attend a club. We have various activities taking place (art, cookery, multisport, rugby, netball and football) and it has been great to see the children engaging in the sessions. On one day we have over 60 children staying for a club. Rising Stars continue to offer their wraparound care and bookings can be made via their website <https://risingstars.magicbooking.co.uk/>



Attendance and Lateness

Our school target for attendance is set by the Local Authority at 96%. Our current whole school attendance figure since September is 95%. Attendance figures includes unauthorised absences, absences related to illness, medical appointments, and lateness. The target of 96% is still achievable if we all work together to ensure children are in school providing they are well enough. Each week in our whole school assembly weekly attendance figures of the highest class are shared with the children along with our whole school figure.

Please be reminded that you child's school day begins at 8:45am. As soon as the children enter the school building, their learning journey begins and every second counts. I have noticed several children arriving around 8:55am and some after 9:00am. They are missing key learning opportunities each day and over the weeks and months, the time soon adds up.

Key highlights this term

Despite the half term being only 5 weeks long, we have managed to enjoy the following:

- Year 1 visit from Stevenage Museum – Box of childhood memories
- Year 3 visit to Stevenage Museum – Art on the doorstep
- Year 4 visit to Stevenage Museum – Egyptians
- Year 5 visit to Stevenage Museum – New Town
- Year 5 workshop with Retune exploring mental health
- Year 6 visit to Stevenage Museum – World War 2
- NSPCC Number Day
- Feeling Good Week
- Year 3, 4 and 5 visit to STEM Discovery Centre
- Parent workshops – introduction to wellbeing and self-regulation sessions
- Home football match vs Fairlands – 5-1 victory to SMC
- Heart Health session for Year 5
- Youth Leadership Team's Turkey and Syria emergency appeal



Academies update

Governors continue to engage with the Diocese of Westminster and its Academies programme. Earlier this week, the Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust (DOWAT) came to school, and he shared information with the Governors and staffing team about the DOWAT. It was an informative session and the school will continue to move along the Academies journey.

Feeling Good Week – this week

Feeling Good Week is a Hertfordshire-wide event that encourages schools and the wider community to promote children and young people's emotional wellbeing by raising awareness of mental health and showing where support can be accessed within the community. This year's theme is 'Be kind: Connect'. The children have been completing various activities this week focusing on their mental health and wellbeing. It was lovely to see our Governors join with some of the sessions this week. Thank you to the parents who were able to join with us for the parent sessions throughout the week.



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

Free School Meals

If your situation has changed, or you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please visit <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx> The application takes a couple of minutes to complete. Please do notify the school if you are eligible. Even if your child is in a class (Reception – Year 2) that receives a Government funded free school meal, it is still worth making an application as the school receives additional funding.

Please follow us on twitter @StMClitherow to get an insight into school life.

I wish you all a fantastic half term with your families; often not a peaceful time I know but one in which we can all focus on those whom we love most and enjoy some time together. Have a fantastic break – I look forward to welcoming you back to the Lenten journey towards Easter which will be with us before we know it.

God Bless

Puccio

Miss Puccio
Headteacher

KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Friday, 10th February

Finish for half term: normal pick up time

Half term: Monday, 13th to Friday 17th February 2023

Monday, 20th February 2023

Return to school: 8.45am

Tuesday, 21st February 2023

Year 1 parents to view children's books in class: **8:45-9:15am**

Wednesday, 22nd February 2023

Ash Wednesday Mass: **2pm in the hall. All welcome**

Thursday, 23rd February 2023

Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony Camp

Friday, 24th February 2023

Year 1 Parent Consultations: **9am-4:00pm**

Tuesday, 28th February 2023

Reception visit to Stevenage Library

Thursday, 2nd March 2023

Lenten Mass: **9:30am in the hall. All welcome**

Thursday, 16th March 2023

Year 4 trip to Hindu Temple

Tuesday, 21st March 2023

Year 6 Easter Journey at Longmeadow Church

Wednesday, 22nd March 2023

Year 6 visit to JHN to watch Grease

Thursday, 23rd March 2023

Year 3 & 4 Easter Play: **9:30am in the hall**

w/b 27th March 2023

No after school clubs – only Rising Stars wraparound

Wednesday, 29th March 2023

Parent consultations: school finishes at 1:15pm

Thursday, 30th March 2023

End of term: school finishes at 1:15pm

Friday, 31st March 2023

INSET DAY: School closed for children

Easter Holidays: Monday, 3rd to Friday 14th April 2023

Monday, 17th April 2023

Return to school: 8:45am



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