

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher:  
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Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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 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/>). Mary from the Kanyike Project and Emily from the Catholic Children's Society delivered assemblies explaining how the money will be used.

A heartfelt thank you for your kind and generous donations for our brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria. In total, a staggering £832.47 was received and sent to the British Red Cross.

Last week we organised a Lent Giving Week. It was our chance to thank God for everything that is provided for us and to take time to make a difference to those living near us in need. Many donations were received, and the items were shared with St. Hilda's Foodbank and Feed Up Warm Up.

A huge thank you for your kind and generous donations this half term especially when families are facing financial pressures at home. Your generosity and the enthusiasm of the children in reaching out to others is much appreciated. Thank you!

### Welcome to baby boy Marron!

I am delighted to announce that on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March Miss Marron and her family welcomed their baby boy. Both mother and baby are doing well...albeit a little bit tired! Congratulations to Miss Marron and her family.

### Farewell, thank you and good luck!

This term we say farewell to our part-time Year 5 teacher, Mrs Vincenti-Morrison. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Mrs Vincenti-Morrison well with her future and thank her for her contributions to the school since joining us. I would like to welcome Mrs Moore to our team here at St. Margaret Clitherow. Mrs Moore joins us as our new part-time Year 5 teacher.

### Tale of Three Trees

Well done to Year 3 & 4 for their fantastic performance of 'The Tale of Three Trees'. We learnt that everything has a purpose through the retelling of this poignant story. It just goes to show that God has a plan for every single one of us. It was lovely to have Father Michael join with us as well. Thank you, Year 3 & 4!



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## Catholic Life and Mission

It was wonderful to gather as a whole school community earlier this half term for our Ash Wednesday Mass and our Lent Mass. Following our Lent Mass, the children in Year 4-6 were given the opportunity to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Michael or Father Frank.

Each week in our whole school assembly, the children make links to the weekly Gospel with our school values. They use the Gospel to come up with our weekly mission. A particular favourite of mine this half term was to 'let our light shine'.

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

- Continuation of school paid after school clubs for Reception – Year 6.
- Awe and wonder moments with our 9 chicks!
- Reception trip to Stevenage Library
- Members of our Youth Leadership Team attended Stevenage School Parliament in the Council Chambers.
- Participation in netball and football league.
- Visit from our Diocese of Westminster Religious Education advisor.
- Year 3 school trip to Celtic Harmony Camp.
- Celebrated World Book Day with various activities (including a teacher swop!) taking place throughout the day. Thank you for supporting your child with their World Book Day wooden spoon creations. Some of the spoons are currently on display in the school library.
- Nursery and Reception Big Walk, Year 1 and 3 sponsored bounce, Year 2 sponsored obstacle course, Year 4 'sweets in a jar', Year 5 cake sale and Year 6 Jack and the Beanstalk performances.
- Year 6 took part in Bridgebuilders' Easter Journey at Longmeadow Church.
- Year 6 attended The Saint John Henry Newman's performance of 'Grease'.



## PSFA

A huge thank you to the PSFA committee who put in so much effort (much behind the scenes work too) to put on the events that we have been accustomed to. This term our PSFA led a community coffee morning which was well attended. They also organised our Mother's Day gift sale and Easter art competition. Our PSFA will be making a £4000 donation to the school to go towards our class wish lists to match the Governors' donation. This essential fundraising ensures that we can invest in projects that make a real difference to your children's education.

## Parent Consultations

It was lovely to see so many of you at **Parent Consultations** yesterday. With the Governors, I enjoyed talking to you all about the achievements of your children and other important school matters. **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



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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.

### **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 figure 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.

Please be reminded that your 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.

### **Message from the Governors**

*As always it has been a busy term for the governing body with our committees working on the following –*

*Admissions committee – As our own admissions authority, we have ranked applications according to our over subscription criteria, and allocated places for the September 2023 intake to our Reception class. In line with guidance, offers will be sent to parents on Monday 17th April.*

*Curriculum committee – Our curriculum committee have focused on how our high-quality curriculum is delivered. Our focus this term has been the delivery of both Religious Education and PSHE. We have also looked at the pupil questionnaire carried out in December 2022; it was wonderful to see an overwhelmingly positive set of results from the children.*

*Finance and Personnel – A focus of the finance committee continues to be pupil premium. We would encourage parents who think they qualify for free school meals and therefore the associated pupil premium received by the school, to contact Mrs Streeter in the office. Our pupil premium strategy statement can be found on our website under the statutory information tab. As a committee we continue to focus on the budget and how we can save money where possible. As such, over Easter we have new LED lighting being installed in our Reception to Year 6 classrooms, we are hoping to see a good return on this investment. The school building fund will be liable for 10% of the cost of this, so we would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for your continued support through your donations to the school building fund. Finally, finance governors have asked teachers (with the help of their children) to put together a wish list for their class. We have allocated £4000 across the school to fulfil this; we look forward to sharing some of their wishes later in the year!*

*Health and Safety – The health and safety committee continues to ensure the whole school environment is a safe place for both children and adults.*

*It was a pleasure for governors to have the opportunity to meet with parents at parent consultations on Wednesday. Should anyone wish to learn more about what being a governor involves or would like to join our governing body, please contact Mrs Streeter in the office.*

*Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Puccio and the whole team for their work this term and to wish you and your families a wonderful Easter break.*

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)

Thurs, 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Finish for Easter break (1:15pm)
Fri, 31 <sup>st</sup> March	INSET Day – no school for children
<i>Mon, 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Fri, 14<sup>th</sup> April Easter Break</i>	
Mon, 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to school (8.45am)
Tues, 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Reception maths workshop for parents (9:00am in the hall)
Wed, 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 1 maths workshop for parents (9:00am in the hall)
Thurs, 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 2 maths workshop for parents (9:00am in the hall)
Fri, 28 <sup>th</sup> April	PSFA School Disco – all classes
Mon, 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday Monday
Wed, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Nursery school trip – Radlett Theatre (Smeds and Smoos)
Thurs, 4 <sup>th</sup> May	King's Coronation picnic lunch
Mon, 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday Monday (additional Bank Holiday due to King's Coronation)
Tues, 9 <sup>th</sup> – Fri, 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs Week
Thurs, 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 school trip to London
Mon, 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Class photos and Year 6 Leavers' photos
Wed, 24 <sup>th</sup> May	RSE talk for Year 6 parents (5pm in the hall)
Thurs, 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception school trip to Knebworth
Fri, 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Finish for Half Term
<i>Mon, 29<sup>th</sup> May - Fri, 2<sup>nd</sup> June Half Term</i>	
TBC	Year 1 school trip to Buzzworks
Mon, 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Inset day (no school for children)
Tues, 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Return to school (8.45am)
Wed, 7 <sup>th</sup> June – Fri, 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 residential trip to PGL
Thurs, 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Corpus Christi Procession (9.30am) All welcome
Wed, 14 <sup>th</sup> June	NSPCC workshops for Year 5&6
Thurs, 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 2 school trip to Woburn
Fri, 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Sports Day for all classes (9.30am)
Thurs, 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communicants Mass (9.30am) All welcome
Tues, 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Herts School Food and Farming Day
Thurs, 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass (9:30am)
Tues, 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Play (6:30pm)
Wed, 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Finish for Summer holidays (1.15pm)
Mon, 4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	INSET Day – no school for children
Tues, 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Return to school (8.45am)

