

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't believe the end of half term is here...although I do think we are all ready for a week off! I am proud of the way our children have settled into new routines and their attitudes to learning. It's been a great first half term!

Parent Partnership

We ended term with parent consultations. Along with the Governors, I enjoyed talking to you all about the achievements of your children and other important school matters. Thank you for completing our parent questionnaire – 98% of parents would recommend our school to another parent. In total you purchased £1096.51 worth of books at the Book Fair. We look forward to spending the commission of £548.26 on more books for school. A tremendous amount! Thank you for supporting our school and our love for reading. Please remember that 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.



Message from Mrs Curtis, Chair of Governors

It was wonderful to see so many parents at parent consultation evening on Wednesday. Thank you for taking the time to complete our questionnaire, the results of which will be looked at next curriculum committee meeting.

We welcome two new members to the Governing Body, Shiana Monterio (Parent of Kyler in Year 1 and Caoimhe in Year 3) as our new Parent governor and Ryan Moore as our new Staff Governor. We thank them for putting themselves forward for the role and we look forward to working with them over the coming months. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank both Femi Akintobi, Parent governor, and Bernie Hurley, Staff Governor, as their terms of office have ended. We still have a vacancy for a Foundation governor, if anyone would like further information on the role please contact Maria Streeter, clerk to the governing body at admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk



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Governors are pleased to share with parents that the due diligence work for our academy application has been completed, this is now in the hands of the Diocese. We will keep you updated as our application progresses.

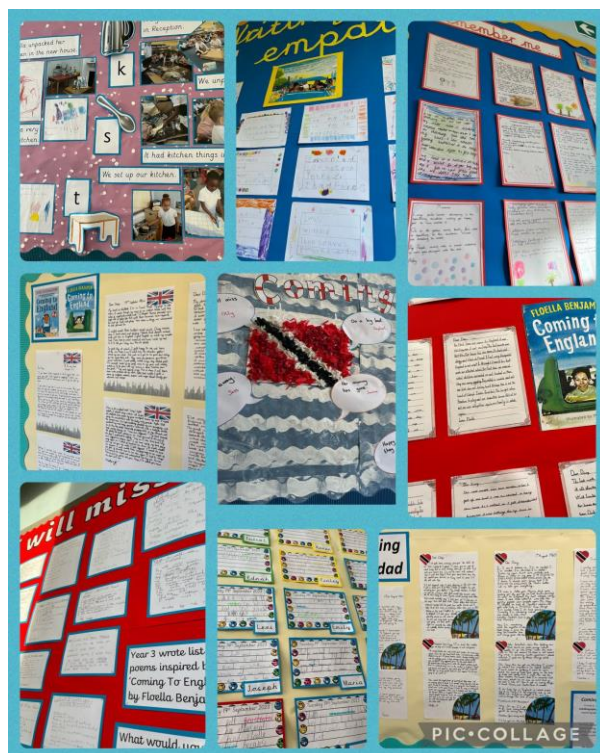
Wishing you and your families a lovely half term break.

Farewell Mrs Lawless

Earlier this week we said farewell and good luck to Mrs Lawless; we are sad to see her leave. Mrs Lawless has worked as a Midday Supervisory Assistant in the school since April 1993. Mrs Lawless would often be found administering first aid or supporting the children in the dining hall. All the best and God bless, Mrs Lawless.

Coming to England

Our communal displays this term have been inspired by the children's learning from Floella Benjamin's Coming to England. It is a story about the triumph of hope, love, and determination. Coming to England is the inspiring true story of Baroness Floella Benjamin: from Trinidad to London as part of the Windrush generation, to the House of Lords. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the text and have completed a variety of writing tasks which you hopefully saw on display during parent consultations. Floella Benjamin herself enjoyed seeing our displays and writing pieces on X (twitter). Her post about our school had an incredible amount of likes and reposts!



Harvest Giving Project

Thank you for joining with us for our Harvest Mass last week. It was a wonderful opportunity to join together for the first time this school year 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. We also prayed for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict. It was the first time we celebrated Mass with Father Nigel, and he was very impressed! Thank you for sending in your generous Harvest offerings. Our Chaplaincy team organised the donations. These have been shared out between the elderly and housebound of our Parish and Feed Up Warm Up. I had to ask Feed Up Warm Up to come back on another occasion as more donations came into school! I know that there will be many grateful recipients.

PSFA coffee morning

It was wonderful to see so many parents at the PSFA's coffee morning earlier this term. Thank you to the parents who have applied to join the PSFA. The PSFA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Friday 3rd November at 9am in the school hall whereby the PSFA's roles will be filled.

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 96.9%. Attendance figure includes unauthorised absences, absences related to illness, medical appointments, and lateness. We must all work together to ensure children are in school providing they are well enough.



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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.

Please also be reminded that our Attendance Policy includes information about fixed penalty notices. This policy can be found on our school website.

Some gentle reminders

Please remember the following guidelines, which aim to keep our school a safe place to be:

- **Only park in designated spaces in the car park – not along the hedge, yellow zig zag lines, in the open space near the entrance or in front of the school gates.**
- All children must be accompanied by an adult through the car park.
- **Children are encouraged to dismount their bike/scooter when entering the Stevenage FC carpark.**
- The climbing frames must not be used by anyone before or after school.
- Small play equipment (balls etc) must not be taken from the containers before or after school.
- Bikes and scooters must be walked through the playground.
- Balls are not permitted on the playground or field before or after school.



Admissions 2024-2025

Nursery

Was your child born between 1/9/2020 - 31/8/2021?

This year our Governors intend to offer 15 hours (morning only) or 30 hours (morning and afternoon) in our Nursery. The application process is now open and will close on Friday 24th November.

Please contact the school office for an application pack or visit our school website for further details.

Reception

Applications for our Reception class for September 2024, for children whose dates of birth fall between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 will open on Wednesday 1st November.

Year 7

Secondary school applications close on Tuesday 31st October. Please make sure you have made your application to County and if necessary, the chosen school by this date.

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 only 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.



Some highlights this term:

- After school clubs available for every class
- Beginning of term Liturgy for staff
- Whole school writing unit – Coming to England
- Youth Leadership Team and Eco Committee elections
- Introduction of Chaplaincy Team
- Class learning about St. Margaret Clitherow
- Year 5 & 6 Cross Country event at Fairlands Valley. Daria from Year 6 came 3rd overall!
- Bridgebuilder's assembly
- Year 5 visit to Stevenage Museum

Please follow us on twitter (@StMClitherow) to gain an insight into school life. Our twitter feed can also be accessed via our school website.

Have a wonderful half term rest!

God Bless

Puccio

Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Friday, 20th October 2023

Finish for October break (normal time)

Half Term: Monday, 23rd October to Friday, 27th October 2023

Monday, 30th October 2023

Return to school: 8.45am

Thursday, 2nd November 2023

EYFS curriculum evening: 6:30pm

Monday, 6th November 2023

Individual and sibling photos

Friday, 17th November 2023

Children in Need non-uniform day

Monday, 27th November 2023

Flu vaccinations Reception – Year 6 (details to follow)

Wednesday, 29th November 2023

Year 6 trip to Westminster Cathedral – Advent Service

Friday, 1st December 2023

EYFS Nativity: 9:30am in the school hall

Thursday, 7th December 2023

Advent Mass: 9:30am in the school hall. Confession for Yr 4-6

Tuesday, 12th December 2023

Year 5&6 Carol Concert: 6:30pm at St. Hilda's Church

Wednesday, 13th December 2023

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Friday, 15th December 2023

Key Stage 1 Christmas play: 9:30am in the school hall

Wednesday, 20th December 2023

Finish for Christmas break: **1:20pm**

Christmas Break: Thursday, 21st December to Wednesday, 3rd January 2024

Thursday, 4th January 2024

Return to school: 8.45am

Future date

Wednesday, 14th February 2024

Ash Wednesday Mass: 2:00pm in the school hall

Thursday, 14th March 2024

Lenten Mass: 9:30am in the school hall

Tuesday, 19th March 2024

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



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