

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher:  
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Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents

What a half term! I think it's safe to say we all deserve this half term break! I want to reiterate the message I shared with you after our Ofsted inspection last week:

*I must express how immensely proud we are of our children. Their enthusiasm and passion for their school were a testament to their remarkable abilities and the supportive environment fostered by our school community.*

*The past couple of days have been both busy and relentless, as our team worked diligently to showcase the incredible work happening within our school community. Your continuous support and smiles have been a source of strength for us all.*

Thank you once again for your words of encouragement; it truly meant a lot and gave us the strength to get through the inspection. It was an exhausting week, both physically and mentally but we were pleased to be able to showcase our wonderful school.

### **Congratulations Year 6!**

I would like to congratulate our children in Year 6 for their diligence, resilience and exemplary attitude in response to their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) last week. I have been incredibly proud of our Year 6 children – completing their tests and being part of an Ofsted Inspection is some achievement! The children were confident and ready to shine! The tests have all been sent off for marking and we await the results with anticipation. We are all so proud of you, Year 6 ~ your SATs, however, do not give the full story about you; most of your achievements over this past year and indeed your whole time with us cannot be tested or measured. I thank Year 6 for being such superstars!

A huge well done to our children in Year 2 for completing their assessments this half term too. This year the Year 2 SATs were made optional. We decided to complete them as usual, to confirm teacher assessments. We had completed assessments in the same way earlier in the year anyway and the children were supported throughout. Once again, our children presented themselves incredibly well during the assessments and we are very proud of them. Later this term our children in Year 4 will be completing their Multiplication Times Tables Check and our Year 1 children will complete their phonics assessments.

And finally, a thank you to our committed and dedicated team for preparing the children. Not only for ensuring that the curriculum is taught in an engaging and memorable way but also for supporting our children to live our school values and rights by being the best that they can be!



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

## Catholic School Parent Survey

Earlier this term we asked you to complete our Catholic School Parent Survey (another one!!) in preparation for our RE Inspection from September 2024. The responses were overwhelmingly positive with 98% of parents stating they understand the school's Catholic mission and they are supportive of it. The only area we need to work harder in is making sure we let you know how your child is doing in RE and letting you know what they need to do to improve as a small percentage of parents disagreed or weren't sure. We will make sure we use parent consultations next term to share this information with you. Please note that our website includes information about how we deliver RE learning in our school and the topics the children will cover. Please use this link and click on all the tabs to find out more: <https://clitherow.herts.sch.uk/catholic-life.html>

## First Holy Communion Celebrations

Congratulations to our children who celebrated their First Holy Communion this year. Well done to all the children and families for being so prepared for such a special Sacrament. Our Year 3 children will be leading their own special First Holy Communion Mass next half term and they will also be leading our Corpus Christi Procession in June (weather permitting). As this procession takes place outside, all parents are invited to attend. Please see important dates below for dates and times.

## Some highlights this half term:

- Surviving Ofsted! 😊
- Year 5 children meeting Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister on their trip to London and being in The Times (although they said it was St. Margaret Clitherow in Kent!) and The Comet.
- Eggs-cellent arrival – 8 chicks!
- Year 5 and 6 K'NEX Challenge.
- Year 5 trip to London – Shrek Adventure, Sea Life Centre and 10 Downing Street visit.
- Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony Camp
- Children and parents taking part in the St. Joseph's Drama group's incredible performance of 'Beauty and the Beast'.
- Some Year 4 children taking part in a maths challenge against other schools in the County.
- Year 5 and 6 netball and football teams winning their league and cup matches.
- Year 1 trip to Hertfordshire Zoo.
- Year 3 Tag Rugby Festival
- Meeting our new Nursery and Reception parents – welcome to the SMC family.
- PSFA Coffee Morning.
- Introducing Family Prayer bags.
- Year 3 and 4 Football tournament.
- Year 4 trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor Hindu Temple.
- Reception Action Mats with Stevenage Sporting Futures.
- PSFA Cultural Day.
- Fire Pit Friday!



## A message from the Governing body

*I know parents and carers will join with governors in thanking Miss Puccio and the team for their hard work over the last half term and especially during our Ofsted inspection last week. During the inspection, everyone in school demonstrated a real sense of calm and purpose using the opportunity to celebrate our wonderful school. It is a privilege for governors to be able to serve at St Margaret Clitherow School and we look forward to sharing the outcome with you once the report has been written and quality assured.*



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We wish you and your families a peaceful half term break and look forward to working with you in the summer term.

### 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 96.4%. 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. Several children continue to arrive 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. The policy can be found on our school website.

### Message from the PSFA

What an exciting few months we have coming up! As we head into our final half term of school, we have already got a bursting calendar. Our annual Summer Fete will be held on Saturday 6th July 2024. Please ensure you keep it free as we have a range of new and exciting stalls. If you can support on the day for an hour running a stall, please contact the PSFA to let them know -

[stmargaretclitherowpsfa@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretclitherowpsfa@gmail.com) we cannot run this event without your help! In the lead up to the fete we have some non-uniform days booked in, an ice-cream sale, a donut sale and the Father's Day market! Our markets are always such a success so thank you for getting involved.

Following on from our Easter competition where 3 students won a £10 Smyths voucher, we will be releasing our summer competition after half-term. Make sure you get involved to be in with a chance to win! Once again thank you all for the outstanding support you give.



### 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.

I would really encourage you to follow us on twitter (@StMClitherow) to gain an insight into school life. I post daily and I share achievement from out of school as well.

I hope you all have a peaceful and relaxing half term holiday.

Yours sincerely



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## Important Dates this term

Fri, 26th May

Finish for Half Term (normal time)

*Half Term*

*Mon, 27th May - Fri, 31st May*

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

INSET DAY – no school for children

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Year 6 PGL residential trip

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June

eSafety session for parents - 5pm in the hall – all welcome

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Corpus Christi 9:30am on the school field – all welcome

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Athletics at Ridlins (some Year 5 & 6 children)

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June

Reception trip to Knebworth

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Nursery trip to Radlett Theatre – The Lion Inside

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June

Year 2 trip to Woburn

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June

First Holy Communion Mass – 9:30am in the hall – all welcome

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Sports Day – 9:30am on the field

W/b 1<sup>st</sup> July

Year of Prayer Week in school

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Year 6 Herts Farming Day

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Leavers' Mass - 9:30am in the hall

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July

School reports to parents

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Year 6 attending SJHN Community Mass

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July

PSFA Summer Fair (12pm-3pm)

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Secondary Transfer and Moving Up Day

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Year 6 Leavers' Play – 6:30pm in the hall

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Break up for the summer holidays at 1:15pm!

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

INSET DAY – no school for children

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

INSET DAY – no school for children

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Return to school at 8:45am

