

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:  
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Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

## Welcome to Reception Class

I, Mrs Cooper (*Class Teacher*), am delighted to welcome you to Reception class this year. I'd like to introduce to you Mrs Murphy, Miss Cameron, Mrs Ridgers-Latif and Mrs Darrington (*Teaching Assistants*) who support our class at different times during the day. Music sessions on a Tuesday afternoon are led by Mrs Newham (*Music lead in school*). On Wednesday and Friday mornings, Reception have PE with 'Mr L'. Remember to come into school wearing PE kits on those days.

## Life in Reception Class

Your children are settling extremely well into life at school and are quickly learning the routines and systems we have set up in class. They are learning to put their book bags into the lockers and find their early work task.

Please ensure the children have a raincoat and wellington boots in school every day as much of our learning takes place outside. Please also send in change of underwear, socks and trousers or skirt in a small labelled bag as accidents do happen! Encouraging your children to put on, and take off, their shoes, jumpers and coats independently will support their sense of self-esteem at school too.

Please label ALL clothing and property including shoes. The children can get upset if they can't find their own things or someone else takes it by accident.

Book bags should be in school every day as there are often 'special pictures to show' as well as letters, books and activities from school to be taken home.

## Reading

Learning to read as well as developing a great love for reading is a cornerstone of our curriculum at St Margaret Clitherow School, and this year we are pleased to adopt the Little Wandle phonics scheme. To find out more, please do read the information at:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Your children will bring a variety of books to share at home. During the week, they will bring a 'sharing book' home from the school library. We would not expect your child to read this book independently, although they may be able to spot letters learned in class or read some of it. This is a book to share and enjoy with an adult. You can read it to your child or share the reading with them or even just spend a few minutes discussing what you like about the book. Later this half term, on Wednesdays, your child will bring home a book that they have practised reading in school. Please celebrate the reading skills they have shown while reading this book and then return this book on Friday when another decoding book will be sent home to be shared. More information will follow to support reading at home.

## **Communication**

Starting school is a very busy time and there is lots of new information to learn. If you have a question or need to pass on a message in the morning, a written note is best as welcoming and settling the children is our focus at that time. However, we are available every afternoon to speak to you and answer any questions ... or just to say "hello!" and catch up.

Please be patient, if you do wish to meet, as staff will need to dismiss the children from class first.

## **Remember...**

This is an exciting, emotional, and enjoyable time in the life of your child and your family. It is an exhausting time too, so your child may not want to talk about their day very much and will need time at home to rest and recuperate. Come and speak to the Reception team if you have any queries about your child's day...however large or small your comment is. We appreciate feedback too!

We are very much looking forward to working with your child and your family to make this first year in full time education a successful one.

Yours,

Mrs Claire Cooper  
Class teacher