

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we welcome the season of spring, we also find ourselves at the end of a busy and productive term. This time of year is not only a chance to reflect on the growth and accomplishments of the past few months, but also to embrace the spirit of renewal and reflection during Lent. It's a season that invites us to deepen our faith, engage in acts of kindness, and grow closer as a community. We are grateful for the opportunity to journey together through this meaningful period and look forward to the many blessings the coming weeks will bring.

Holy Week is fast approaching, and our Lenten preparations are drawing to a close. Throughout this season, the children have wholeheartedly embraced the spirit of almsgiving, both at school and at home. A standout event this term was our whole-school sponsored walk/run at the Stevenage Football Stadium. Many of our students went above and beyond, with several completing an impressive 9 laps in just 20 minutes - truly showcasing some amazing distance-running talent! This was a special and memorable experience for both the children and staff, and we are deeply grateful to the football stadium for hosting us throughout the day. A heartfelt thank you also goes to our PSFA team for their generous time and support. Your kindness and generosity this Lent have been deeply appreciated, a record amount of £2820 has been raised and will benefit the Catholic Children's Society, Father Kakuba's Ugandan Kanyike Project (<https://www.kanyikeproject.org.uk/about-us>) and CAFOD's recent appeal for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Myanmar last week.



## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Plans for our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass are well underway, and we are all very much looking forward to celebrating this special milestone as a whole community. This term, the children have had the opportunity to work with a talented local artist to create beautiful designs, painting boards above each classroom door to celebrate our class saints. I hope you had a chance to see them during the parent consultations – aren't they incredible? The children's creativity and enthusiasm truly shine through, and these pieces will serve as a lasting tribute to our school's rich history and faith. We can't wait to celebrate together!

## Staffing Update

Mr Shields, our part-time Nursery Teacher will be leaving us to take on a full-time position in another Catholic School in Hertfordshire. While we are sad to see him go, we are excited for him as he embarks on the next chapter of his career. Mr Shields will be leaving at the end of the summer term. We want to extend our

heartfelt thanks to him for his hard work and dedication during his time with us. We wish Mr Shields all the very best in his new role!

We would also like to announce that Mrs Babb, a dedicated and valued teaching assistant since September 1995, will be retiring at the end of this school year. Over the years, Mrs Babb has made a lasting impact on both children and staff, and her contribution to our school community has been immeasurable. We will greatly miss her expertise, kindness, and commitment. As she steps into this new chapter, we hope she enjoys some well-earned rest and relaxation. Please join us in wishing her all the best in her retirement.

### **Year 3 and 4 Performers**

Earlier this half term, our Year 3 and 4 children confidently took to the stage in their powerful performance of The Tale of the Three Trees. Their performance not only showcased their incredible talent but also invited us to reflect on the profound messages of Easter. Through their storytelling, they reminded us of the importance of trusting in God's plan for each of us, much like the story of the Three Trees teaches us about finding purpose in God's vision. Well done Year 3 and 4 – we are so incredibly proud of you all! A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Newham, and the entire Year 3 and 4 team for preparing the children so wonderfully.



### **Update from the Governing Body**

*As we near the end of another busy term, the Governors would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support. It was wonderful to catch up with so many parents during the recent parent consultations. It was clear from these conversations that our school community continues to grow and thrive, with so much positive feedback about the children's progress and the work of the staff. We are looking forward to the busy term ahead, and as always, we remain committed to supporting the school in its continued development. Wishing you all a peaceful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you in the final term!*

### **Year 6 Entrepreneurs**

I am incredibly proud of Alexandra, Jasmine, Eliana, Olivia, and Ella from Year 6, who recently took on the role of entrepreneurs! They planned and organised a World Book Day sale a couple of weeks ago, selling items they had created themselves. Their creativity, initiative, and teamwork were truly impressive – Alan Sugar, watch out! The girls raised over £450, and they will now decide together how to spend the money. Well done to all of them for their hard work and entrepreneurial spirit. We can't wait to see what they come up with next!



### **Parent consultations**

It was truly lovely to catch up with so many parents during the recent consultations. It was wonderful to hear such positive conversations about the children's progress and achievements this term. We feel incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated staff team working closely with our children, and equally lucky to have such a

supportive parent body. A special thank you to all who attended – we were thrilled to have 100% attendance at the parent consultations, a true testament to the strong partnership between school and home. Your continued support makes a world of difference to our children’s success and well-being.

### 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 96.48%.** 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. Please find current class attendance below.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
95.02%	94.23%	96.88%	97.7%	96.56%	97.08%	96.78%	97.04%

A reminder that your child’s school day starts at 8:45am. Once the children enter the building, their learning begins, and every moment is important. If your child arrives at 9am, they miss out on valuable learning time - over a week, that’s 1 hour and 15 minutes, and it adds up quickly over time.

**Also, please note the end of day timings: Nursery to Year 2 finish at 3:15pm, and Year 3 to Year 6 finish at 3:20pm. Arriving late for pick-up affects staff, as they need to stay with the children when they should be in meetings or training. Lastly, after-school clubs end at 4:30pm—please be mindful of staff time and collect your child on time. Thank you for your cooperation!**

### Highlights this term:

Despite the half term being just 6 weeks long, we have managed to enjoy the following:

- St. Joseph Feast Day celebration for Nursery
- St. Oscar Romero Feast Day celebration for Year 3
- Catholic Children’s Society Assembly
- K’NEX Challenge for Year 5 and 6
- Year 3 and 4 school football team friendly matches
- Ash Wednesday Mass and distribution of ashes
- A beautiful Lent Mass
- Year 4 trip to Hindu Temple
- World Book Day
- Stevenage Museum workshop for Nursery and Reception
- Bridgebuilders Assembly – Easter



### Update from the PSFA

*What another wonderful term we have had! A successful disco with the children dancing away. We had our “Love is all around” bake sale with some delicious baked goods. Our Mother’s Day market was buzzing and the children enjoyed picking out their gifts. We are in the planning process for the summer term events and we will be sending out our updated calendar soon so keep an eye out for it. Thank you to everyone who has helped throughout this term.*

## Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed or you believe 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 few minutes to complete. If you are eligible, please inform the school. Even if your child is in Reception to Year 2, where they automatically receive a Government-funded free school meal, it's still worth applying as the school receives additional funding.

Stay connected and get a glimpse of school life by following us on Twitter @StMClitherow.

As we approach the Easter break, we would like to wish everyone a joyful and restful time with family and loved ones. We look forward to returning for our final term, which is sure to be our busiest yet! Thank you for your continued support, and we can't wait to see all the wonderful things the next term will bring. Wishing you all a blessed Easter!

God Bless

*Puccio*

Miss Puccio  
Headteacher

## KEY DATES



**Please check the school website for any changes to dates**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Finish for Easter holidays at 1:15pm

Easter Holidays: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

Return to school: 8.45am

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025

PSFA Culture Day

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

PGL Meeting for Year 6 parents – 5pm

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Year 3 Stevenage Museum visit

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Reception trip to Knebworth House

W/beginning 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

SATs Week – Year 6

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Reception and Year 1 visit to St. Hilda's

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul: 2pm on the school field. NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

SMC non-uniform day (details to follow)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Finish for half term (2pm finish due to music festival)



# PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) EASTER HOLIDAYS 2025

[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)



## **BURGER KING**

From Monday 7th - Sunday 20th April 2025, Kids Eat Free with every adult meal, via the app.

## **BILLS**

Kids eat free Mondays - Fridays, from Monday 7th - Friday 25th April 2025.

## **FARMHOUSE INNS**

2 kids eat FREE with one paying adult, Monday 7th - Friday 25th of April. Sign Up Required

## **TGI FRIDAYS**

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)

## **ZIZZI**

Sunday 6th - Sunday 27th April 2025 kids eat free with every adult main. (excludes Saturdays)

## **CAFE EIGHTY NINE @ THE RANGE**

Kids eat free Sat 5th April - Mon 21st April 2025

## **YO! SUSHI**

Kids eat free all day (monday - friday) during all school holidays, when dining with an adult

## **SIZZLING PUBS**

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids eat for £1.

## **ASDA**

Kids eat for £1 every, with no adult spend.

## **TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN**

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

## **GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS**

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day

## **WHITBREAD INNS**

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

## **BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE**

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

## **IKEA**

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

## **PREZZO**

Kids receive a free, 3 course kids meal, everyday at Prezzo between 31st March - 27th April 2025

## **COCONUT TREE**

One child (under 10) eats free every day, 12pm - 6pm from Monday 7th - Sunday 27th April 2025

## **PIZZA HUT**

Kids eat free buffet from Monday 7th - Sunday 27th April, after 3pm daily with a £10 spend

## **PRETO**

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

## **SAINSBURYS CAFES**

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

## **BELLA ITALIA**

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Sun to Weds. All Day Thursdays

## **MORRISONS**

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

## **LAS IGUANAS**

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

## **TABLE TABLE**

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult!

## **PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM**

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

## **HUNGRY HORSE**

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

## **THE REAL GREEK**

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

## **SA BRAINS PUBS**

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

## **FUTURE INNS**

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

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