

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:
Carmela Puccio BA (Hons)



Tel: 01438 352863
Website: www.clitherow.herts.sch.uk
Email: admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk

Friday 23rd May 2025

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of the first half of the summer term, it's hard to believe how quickly the time has flown. While it may have only been a 5-week term, we certainly packed in a lot! It was short, but sweet! It's been a busy and joyful few weeks at St. Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, enthusiasm, and community spirit shown by our children, staff, and families. We look forward to the rest of the term and all the wonderful moments yet to come!

Celebrating 60 wonderful years of SMC

Yesterday we celebrated a momentous occasion - our 60th anniversary with a beautiful outdoor Mass. The Mass was a joyful and reverent celebration, marking six decades of faith, learning, and community. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan, with our Parish Priest Father Michael Doherty, and several local priests, who together prayed with us in gratitude for the school's rich history and bright future. Former and current members of staff, including headteachers and governors, as well as parents and past pupils, gathered for the occasion, along with representatives from the Diocese of Westminster and other local Catholic schools.

This is my 8th year as the Headteacher of St. Margaret Clitherow School, and I am incredibly proud of the vibrant, faith-filled community that has developed here over the past 60 years. The Mass was not only a reflection of the school's long-standing commitment to excellence in education but also a powerful testament to the deep sense of community that defines us.

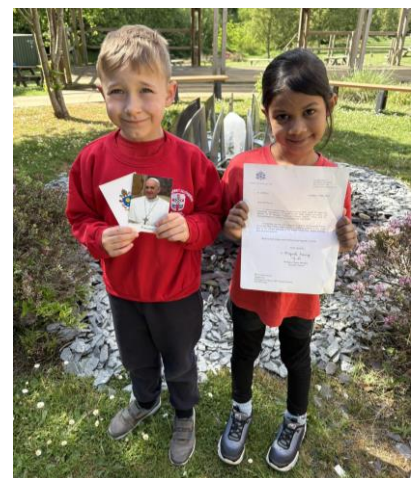
The outdoor Mass was a truly moving and prayerful experience, with our children filling the air with beautiful hymns and prayers. The occasion was both a joyous celebration and a moment of quiet reverence, bringing together generations of the St. Margaret Clitherow family in gratitude for the countless blessings we have received.

It was a day to remember, one that highlighted the enduring legacy of our school and the many people who have contributed to its success over the years. We are excited to continue nurturing faith, knowledge, and community as we look forward to the next 60 years!

Pope Francis

It is with deep sorrow that we reflected on the passing of Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, earlier this half term. In the days following his death, our school community came together in prayer, with each class holding a special time of reflection. The children created their own private messages for a book of condolence, which was then sent to the Vatican via the Apostolic Nunciature in London. This book served as a heartfelt expression of our shared faith, and gratitude for the Holy Father's dedicated service to the Church and the world.

We received a kind letter from the Apostolic Nuncio in response to our book of condolence, along with some beautiful tributes to our late Holy Father, Pope Francis. As we continue to remember Pope Francis in our prayers, we also pray for our new Pope, Pope Leo XIV and ask for God's guidance and strength for him as he leads the Church forward. May our prayers and support be a source of comfort as we move forward in faith together.



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

Congratulations Year 6!

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our Year 6 children for their hard work, resilience, and outstanding attitude during their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) last week. I am incredibly proud of how they approached the tests. The children tackled everything with confidence and readiness to shine. The tests have now been sent off for marking, and we eagerly await the results. We are all so proud of you, Year 6! However, your SATs scores don't tell the whole story; many of your achievements throughout this year and over your entire time with us cannot be measured or tested. Thank you, Year 6, for being such superstars!

Later this term, our Year 4 children will take their Multiplication Times Tables Check, and our Year 1 children will complete their phonics assessments.

Finally, a special thank you to our committed and dedicated staff for preparing the children. Their hard work not only ensures that the curriculum is taught in an engaging and memorable way but also supports our children in living out our school values and striving to be the best they can be!

First Holy Communion Celebrations

A huge congratulations to all our children who received their First Holy Communion this year. Well done to both the children and their families for their dedication and preparation for this special Sacrament. Next half term, our Year 3 children will be leading our Corpus Christi Procession in June (weather permitting). Please see the important dates and times below for more details.

Some highlights this half term:

- YLT Team led a Spring Bonnet competition
- PSFA led Culture Day – huge thank you to parents who volunteered their time for this wonderful event!
- Pilgrims of Hope Week
- PGL parent meeting
- Year 3 school trip to Celtic Harmony
- Bridgebuilders Assembly
- PSFA Disco
- VE Day assembly
- Year 4 Maths Challenge for selected children
- Year 3 Stevenage Museum visit
- Reception school trip to Knebworth House
- New Nursery and Reception for September 2025 meeting
- Vending Machine winners
- Walk to School Week
- Strings Day for violinists
- Reception and Year 1 visit to St. Hilda's Church
- Non-uniform day celebrating SMC



A message from the Governing body

It was wonderful to have governors, both past and present, join the whole school community in celebrating our school's 60th anniversary with a special Mass. We were delighted to welcome many familiar faces, including former headteachers Geraldine Cartwright and Jon White. We are all immensely proud to be part of such a vibrant and supportive community. Occasions like this don't just happen - huge thanks go to Miss Puccio and the whole team for their hard work and dedication in making it such a memorable event. We wish you and your families a restful 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 96.7%.** 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
95.3%	94.1%	96.6%	98%	96.7%	97.3%	96.8%	96.7%

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!



Message from the PSFA

This half term we had our last disco of the school year, and it was nice to see the children dancing and playing together. We also met the new Nursery and Reception parents in their welcome meeting earlier this half term.

We are in the midst of planning some fun events for the upcoming half term. We will be holding a Colour Run, a Krispy Kreme sale and a second-hand uniform sale. All information will be shared closer to the events.

Our Summer Fete will be on Saturday 5th July 12-3pm. We have received some generous donations and offer of help; if anyone is interested in helping, please let us know. Keep an eye on our social media. We hope to see you all there.

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 X (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



Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

Important Dates this term

Fri, 23rd May

Half Term

Monday 2nd June

Tuesday 3rd June

Wednesday 4th – Friday 6th June

Wednesday 11th June

Thursday 12th June

Friday 13th June

Friday 13th June

Tuesday 17th June

Tuesday 17th June

Thursday 19th June

Friday 20th June

Friday 20th June

Wednesday 25th June

Friday 27th June

Friday 27th June

Tuesday 1st July

Thursday 3rd July

Friday 4th July

Friday 4th July

Saturday 5th July

Thursday 10th July

Monday 14th July

Monday 14th July

Tuesday 15th July

Wednesday 16th July

Thursday 17th July

Friday 18th July

Wednesday 3rd September

Thursday 4th September

Finish for Half Term at 2pm

Mon, 26th May - Fri, 30th May

INSET DAY – no school for children

Class photos and Year 6 leavers' photos

Year 6 PGL residential trip

Year 5 Taster Day at JHN

Year 2 trip to Woburn

PSFA rainbow raffle coloured non-uniform day

PSFA Father's Day Market

Year 1 trip to Hertfordshire Zoo

Year 5 and 6 Athletics Festival for selected children

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

PSFA bring a bottle non-uniform day

Year 6 Crucial Crew trip

Year 5 trip to Shrek Adventure, 10 Downing Street and Sea Life

Whole school Sports Day – 9:30am on the field

PSFA doughnut sale

Year 6 Herts Farming Day

Leavers' Mass - 9:30am in the hall

Year 4 at SJHN Community Mass (AM)

School reports to parents

PSFA Summer Fete 12pm-3pm

Secondary Transfer and Moving Up Day

Year 2 Feast Day non-uniform day

Violin concert 2:30pm (invite only)

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

Year 1 Feast Day non-uniform (feast day in the summer holidays)

PSFA Colour Run

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

INSET DAY – no school for children

Return to school at 8:45am