

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:
Carmela Puccio BA



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

Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

This term has been joyful and filled with memorable moments. As we approached Christmas, the school was full of a calm sense of excitement, from rehearsals to carols drifting through the corridors, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.

We have enjoyed seeing our youngest children shine on stage in the Nursery and Reception Nativity, followed by Years 1 and 2 who delighted us with their fantastic performance of *Christmas with the Aliens!* Our Year 5 and 6 pupils impressed us all with their beautiful Carol Concert at St. Hilda's, and Year 3 and 4 beautifully led our Advent Mass, offering a special moment of reflection for the whole community.

A huge thank you to all parents for your support and to our wonderful staff for their dedication in bringing these special moments to life. The children showed incredible courage and enthusiasm as they performed in front of friends and family, and we could not be prouder of them.

A message from the Governing Body

Governors would like to say a massive thank you to Miss Puccio and all school staff for another busy and successful term. It has been a pleasure and blessing to be invited to share in the beautiful Advent Mass, the EYFS Nativity, Year 1 and 2's Christmas play and the Year 5 and Year 6 Carol Service at St Hilda's Church. The children's performances were exceptional and filled hearts with joy. We are very proud of our children and want to thank them for getting us all in the festive spirit! Governors would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and may God bless you with a happy and peaceful New Year.

Academies Update

We continue to make positive progress in our journey to join the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust (DOWAT). We are currently completing Stage 1 of the due-diligence process and have submitted our application to the Department for Education to begin the formal conversion. Our stakeholder consultation, an important opportunity for parents, staff, and the wider community to share their views, will take place in the spring. We will keep you updated as we move through each stage.



Roles and Responsibilities

This term, our Eco-Committee members took the lead in organising a successful 'Switch Off Fortnight', encouraging the whole school to be more energy conscious. Additionally, two of our Year 6 pupils proudly represented the school at a Stevenage Parliament Meeting held at the Council Chambers, where they spoke on behalf of their peers. The event was attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Youth Mayor, giving our pupils an exciting opportunity to engage with local democracy and develop their confidence as young leaders.

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 96.6%.** 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 RAG (red, amber and green) rated class attendance below.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94.12%	96.6%	96.4%	96.9%	97.5%	97%	97.6%	96%

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.

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.

Advent Charities – thank you!

Thank you for supporting our Advent Giving Week this half term. The donations were greatly appreciated by Feed Up Warm Up and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We are also grateful to the families who attended the beautiful Carol Concert at St. Hilda's and donated to CAFOD. The Chaplaincy Team will use these contributions to purchase CAFOD World Gifts, supporting sustainable development projects in communities with real need. It was also wonderful to support the St. Joseph's Drama Group last month by attending their phenomenal performances of 'Aladdin'. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in bringing the show to life. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and generous contributions this Advent!

Advent Trips

Year 6 had the honour of representing our school at The Catholic Children's Society Advent Service held at Westminster Cathedral. The service was truly memorable, featuring live actors bringing the Christmas story to life and even including real animals! A special congratulations to George from Year 6, who confidently read the bidding prayers to a full Cathedral, we were all so proud of him.



This term, our Year 5 children brought festive cheer to Garden House Hospice's Community Hub, performing Christmas carols for individuals who are lonely, socially isolated, or living with a life-limiting illness. It was wonderful to be able to make a difference and spread joy in the community this Christmas.

Message from your PSFA

What a busy and fun term! So much has happened to help the children prepare for Christmas. We saw a very successful Christmas Market. The children were so well behaved and beaming with excitement when picking out their gifts. It was wonderful to see their interactions with each other and helping each other with ideas. We had a fun filled dance-a-thon at the disco where all the children sang their hearts out and partied with their friends. We were all dancing along in the background! The bake sale saw some delicious winter bakes, including gingerbread people, snowflakes and delicious treats. The children experienced a travelling theatre presenting Aladdin and were festive in their Christmas jumpers. Father Christmas paid a visit to the school to deliver a present to each child. This term we were able to donate to the school for the painting outside the school office where the children's work will be displayed. If you haven't seen it, we would recommend a quick visit as it is beautiful! Thank you for all your support. We hope you have a wonderful, festive break and we will see you in the New Year. Merry Christmas!



Reception Admissions 2026-2027

Applications for our Reception class for September 2026, for children whose dates of birth fall between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 closes on Thursday 15th January 2026.

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.**
- **Please drive slowly when entering the car parks**
- 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.
- Bikes and scooters must be walked through the playground.

A few highlights this half term:

- Supporting The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal
- Whole school Act of Remembrance
- Stevenage FC assembly which included a Q&A session with one of their first team players
- Anti-bullying Week
- First football league match and win of the season from Year 5&6
- Year 2 Stevenage Museum Great Fire of London workshop
- Year 5&6 football team participated in the EFL Kids Cup
- Travelling Theatre performance of Aladdin



- Bridgebuilders assembly
- Book vending machine winners for this half term
- Our talented local artist returned to create a beautiful mural and additional artwork by the office, funded by the PSFA.
- Christmas dinner and jumper day
- Visit from Santa and a gift for every child organised by the PSFA
- Children in Need and Garden House Hospice non-uniform day
- Year 5 Mini Police winning team and 'highly commended' team visited the local Police Station.
- Year 3 and 4 football team played their first match this half term
- PSFA Christmas Market
- 2 of our Eco-Committee members represented the school at Stevenage Parliament held at the Council Chambers



We are excited to share that we are now posting updates on Instagram as well as X (Twitter). Follow us at @stmargaretclytherow to see all the latest news and highlights from our school. We try to share photos of the children every day.

As we approach the festive season, we celebrate the warmth, kindness, and welcoming community that make our school so special. Thank you for being part of our journey this year and for all the support, encouragement, and care you bring. May this Christmas be full of joy, laughter, and treasured moments with your loved ones, and may the New Year bring hope, happiness, and new opportunities for us all.

Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

Carmela Puccio

Important dates this term (dates and times subject to change – please check our website)

Christmas Break: Monday 22nd December to Friday, 2nd January 2026

Monday, 5th January 2026	Return to school: 8.45am
Tuesday, 6th January 2026	Year 1 maths workshop in the hall
Thursday, 8th January 2026	Reception maths workshop in the hall
Friday, 9th January 2026	Year 4 mental wellbeing workshop
Thursday, 15th January 2026	Year 1 Stevenage Museum workshop
Thursday, 22nd January 2026	Year 5 walking to Stevenage Museum for workshop
Friday, 6th February 2026	Nursery school trip to Radlett Theatre
Friday, 6th February 2026	NSPCC Number Day (Reception – Year 6) and open morning for parents 9:00am – 9:30am
Monday, 9th February 2026	Year 6 non-uniform day for class Saint Feast Day
Wednesday, 11th February 2026	Reception height and weight (AM)
Thursday, 12th February 2026	Year 6 walking to Stevenage Museum for workshop
Friday, 13th February 2026	NSPCC Number Day and open morning for Nursery parents 9:00am – 9:30am
Friday, 13th February 2026	Break up for half term (normal finish)

Half term: Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026

Monday, 23rd February 2026

Future dates

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Wednesday 25th March 2026

Return to school: 8.45am

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

Parent Consultations: 1:15pm – 7:30pm

