

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:  
Carmela Puccio BA (Hons)



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Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents

What a year! We finally received a visit from Ofsted. It's been a long time coming, and I couldn't be prouder of the children and staff for the way they showcased our beautiful school. I always knew the children loved the school, but the inspection revealed their passion on a whole new level.

A huge thank you to our entire school community - children, governors, and staff - for being incredible. Every week, I feel more and more proud of our school community, I really do.

### Year 6 PGL

Our Year 6 pupils and three staff members had a fantastic time during their June residential visit to PGL in Liddington. I loved seeing the photos and hearing about their adventures when they returned. A big thank you to the staff for making the trip so memorable! They volunteered their time and effort for this event, working around the clock over the three-day period. So once again, a huge THANK YOU!!



### Farewell

This week, we prepare to bid farewell and wish good luck to the nursery children who won't be joining us for Reception class. It has been wonderful getting to know you and your families, and we look forward to hearing about your future successes. We also say goodbye and thank you to Mrs. Edwards (Year 1 maternity cover teacher), who is leaving us this term. Finally, we send our best wishes to our fantastic Year 6 children as they move on to their secondary schools in September. They have been a credit to their families, working hard and supporting the younger pupils. The children and parents enjoyed watching Year 6's leavers' production of Camelot, and we were all proud of their achievements in the evening performance. You are all superstars!

We will miss you but know you are ready for the exciting paths ahead. Year 6, please don't forget us – we're always eager to hear what you're up to, so come and visit us soon! Good luck and God bless you all!



*Dear Year 6 children,  
Always remember that you are special in God's eyes,  
and that you are blessed with many gifts and talents – use these well to make the most of your life.  
Each and every one of you has the potential to be whatever you want to be,  
to go wherever you want to go and to achieve all that you set out to achieve.  
You are unique – but remember ...  
you are not better than anyone else,  
however, no one is better than you!  
Treat all those you meet in the way you would like to be treated.  
Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.*

*Live life the way you have imagined.  
And as you journey through life make sure you take God with you –  
Always keep your faith.  
May God bless you in all that you do.  
And our very best wishes go with all of you.*

### **Staffing update**

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Howard has completed her teacher training and will become a fully qualified teacher from September 2024. We are incredibly proud of Mrs Howard and are pleased that she can continue her teaching career with us as our new Year 3 teacher. We have also appointed Miss McTait as our new Lower Key Stage 2 Teaching Assistant. We look forward to working with Miss McTait and welcoming her to our school community.

### **Religious Education**

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Our Father, and the children have spent time this half term deepening their understanding of this special prayer. Each child was given a prayer card to commemorate their learning. As part of our Other Faiths learning this term, the children spent time finding out about Judaism.

### **Class Saints**

*"The saints are not superman, nor were they born perfect. They are like us, like each one of us. They are people who, before reaching the glory of heaven, lived normal lives with joys and sorrows, struggles and hopes. What changed their lives? When they recognized God's love, they followed it with all their heart without reserve or hypocrisy. They spent their lives serving others, they endured suffering and adversity without hatred and responded to evil with good, spreading joy and peace. This is the life of a Saint."*

Pope Francis, Angelus, 1st November 2013

At St Margaret Clitherow, we aim to help our children respond to Pope Francis' call to holiness. The Saints play a crucial role in inspiring our pupils by motivating them to lead joyful lives, serving as role models, teaching that holiness means being true to oneself, and praying for us from heaven, providing the strength to fulfil our divine purpose. In September, each class will be dedicated to a specific Saint, carefully selected for them. This Saint accompanies the cohort throughout their time at the school, shaping their identity. The children will find out about their class Saint when they return in September.

Nursery: St Joseph  
Reception: St Pope John Paul II  
Year 1: St Alphonsa  
Year 2: St Kateri Tekakwitha  
Year 3: St Óscar Romero  
Year 4: St Teresa of Calcutta  
Year 5: St John Henry Newman  
Year 6: St Josephine Bakhita

### **Catholic Life and Mission**

Our Year 3 led our beautiful Corpus Christi Procession out on the field last month. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with our school community and with parishioners from St. Hilda's. Our Year 3s then led their own First Holy Communion Mass here in school and parents were invited to attend. It was lovely



to see the children in their First Holy Communion outfits and receive the Eucharist for the first time here in school – such a special and memorable moment. Our Year 6 children led their final Mass in Primary School; each child had an important part to play in their Leavers' Mass and we were pleased to invite their parents in to join and celebrate with us. I hope you have enjoyed making use of our Family Prayer Bags this term. I have enjoyed reading your comments in the journal with each bag. The bags will continue to be shared with families next term.

### Summer reading challenge 2024

Ensuring that our children keep up with their reading over the summer holidays reaps many benefits for their progress. Remember to visit the library and sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge. This year's Challenge theme, Marvellous Makers, is all about creativity. From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone! Children will be able to find new reads linked to their favourite creative arts, and access free activities at the library. Please tag us into photos of your children taking part via our twitter account and I will retweet them to share with the rest of the community.

### Message from the Governors

*We know you will join with us in saying a huge thank you to Miss Puccio and the whole team here at St Margaret Clitherow School for their hard work and dedication this year. Our recent Ofsted report was a fantastic way to end the year; we're so proud of our school. Thank you to the whole team at school and to parents and carers for your continued support. We look forward to working with you again in September when we will look to update you on our academy conversion process.*

*We wish our Year 6 children the very best of luck as they move on to secondary school and we wish you and your families a fantastic summer break.*

### Message from the PSFA

*Well, what can we say?! What an amazing year we have had and it's all down to the wonderful support we have had from our parents, guardians, friends, children and staff. Our Summer Fete raised an extraordinary £2622.62. This is outstanding and we are so proud. All our funds go back into the school and this year we are so pleased to have contributed to the growth of the library with a range of new books, we have enabled the progression of the children's religious education with all new bibles, we said goodbye to our lovely Year six group with a donation towards their end of year celebrations, our wonderful Year 3 communion group received a small keepsake and our new starters in nursery were welcomed at the new parents meeting. Once again, we had a great response to our markets and even threw in a donut, ice cream and bake sale - it's been a busy year! While we are looking forward to the summer, we are busy planning next year with even more new and exciting events to come! We can't wait to share them with you.*

### Some highlights this half term:

- Third place in the Netball league and second place at the netball festival for our Year 5 and 6 netballers
- KNEX workshop for Year 5 & 6
- eSafety session for parents led by Herts for Learning
- Year 6 PGL residential trip
- Selected Year 5 and 6 children took part in Ridlins Athletics Festival
- Reception School trip to Knebworth House
- Year 5 Taster Day at St. John Henry Newman School
- Taster days for our new children and families
- Selected Year 3 and Year 6 children taking part in a County wide maths challenge
- Nursery school trip to watch 'The Lion Inside' at Radlett Theatre
- Sports Day



- Mary from the Kanyike Project (one of the charities we support) joined us for assembly
- Year 2 trip to Woburn Safari
- Year 6 Farming Day
- Key Stage 2 taking part in Sing Up Day with a rousing rendition of 'I belong'
- Violin assembly – what a talented group of children!
- Year 5 visit to Wagamama
- Moving Up Day – the children spent time with their new teachers
- Youth Leadership Team attendance at Stevenage Parliament
- Year 6 surprise bowling treat
- Ice cream van and inflatables day – a thank you to our wonderful children
- Year 6 attended St. John Henry Newman's Community Mass

### Attendance and Lateness

Our school target for attendance is set by the Local Authority at 96%. Our current whole school attendance figure for this year is **96.2%**. Attendance figure includes unauthorised absences, absences related to illness, medical appointments, and lateness.

**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.

### 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 and we are also able to apply for supermarket vouchers for you. **If you are eligible for free school meals and your child is in Year 2, you will need to reapply once your child moves into Year 3.** Please be reminded that school dinners for children in Year 3 – 6 are £3.40 per meal. Dinners must be paid for in advance via SchoolGrid.

Please follow us on twitter (@StMClitherow) to gain an insight into school life. Our twitter feed can also be accessed via our school website.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Parents, tag, you're it, love from your SMC family! xx

Yours sincerely

*Puccio*

Carmela Puccio  
Headteacher

DEAR PARENTS,  
**TAG!**  
YOU'RE IT!

## KEY DATES

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

<b>Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024</b>	<b>INSET DAY: no school for children</b>
<b>Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024</b>	<b>INSET DAY: no school for children</b>
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Return to school: 8:45am
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Home visits for Nursery children
Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Staggered start for Nursery children
Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	All of Nursery in school
Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Finish for October break

**Half term: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024**

Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Return to school: 8.45am
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Individual and sibling photos
Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Flu Vaccinations (Reception – Year 6)
Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Finish for Christmas break: <b>1:15pm</b>

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025**

Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Return to school: 8.45am
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