

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

I cannot believe it's the end of term already! I must start by thanking our wonderful children, dedicated staff, supportive parents and fantastic Governors for their/your support in my first year of headship! I would like to thank the staffing team at St. Margaret Clitherow School – their dedication and hard work this year has been second to none. Many members of staff have increased their hours, taken on additional roles and led on various initiatives this year and I cannot thank them enough for doing so. Thank you also to Mrs Briscoe for her support and leadership this year in her role as Acting Deputy Headteacher – she has been a great support to me and to the school. It has been a rollercoaster of a year but I have enjoyed every single second!

We look forward to welcoming Daniel Hewitt (Deputy Headteacher and Year 6 teacher), Amy Schofield (SENCO), Tara Flynn (part time Year 3 teacher) and Louise Sinclair (part time Year 3 teacher) to our wonderful team in September. I am delighted to say that we will have a full quota of staff from September!

## Catholic Life

We enjoyed a wonderful 'Love in Action' week this term culminating in an open morning for parents and Governors. The children were given the opportunity to explore in greater detail the various themes of Caritas Westminster's Love in Action. Thank you to our teachers for planning such creative and innovative activities throughout the week.

Celebration was a key theme this term. Our Year 3 children marked the start of Adoremus 2018 when they led our Corpus Christi Procession in June. They also reverently led our First Holy Communicants' Mass and we were all so very proud of them. They looked so grown up in their First Holy Communion clothes.

Our Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed their pilgrimage to York in June and supported CAFOD's 'Share the Journey'. They visited the home and shrine of St. Margaret Clitherow, York Minster, York Castle Museum and the Train Museum. It was a wonderful trip and the children were constantly commended on their behaviour by members of the public – well done boys and girls. Thank you to Mrs White for organising and leading the trip. Thank you also to the parents, staff and Governors that accompanied our children on their trip – an exhausting but worthwhile and memorable day!



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

## Key stage results

Congratulations to everyone – our results show strong progress against starting points and we are very proud of all of our children for their achievements at the end of each Key Stage. SATs and other tests measure just a small part of your children's achievements – their successes are many and varied across a breadth of activities and learning. We hope that you enjoyed reading your child's report which aims to celebrate this.

## Sporting Success

We've had another busy half term in terms of sporting achievements. Some of our Year 4, 5 and 6 children represented our school at the Athletics Festival in June. Our team won many individual events and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the overall competition. A fantastic achievement considering we are competing against much larger schools.

We also hosted the Bishop's Cup where our children participated in a number of netball and football matches. Well done to all of the children that represented our school, especially to the children that stepped in at the last minute to form a new team. Thank you also to the members of staff that helped to set up and run the afternoon. Special thanks to Mr Kilbey for organising the entire tournament!



## Further Achievements!

We joined together to celebrate the achievements of the school and award cups to house teams. The Sports Day Cup was awarded to St. Francis. The relay cup was won by St. Cecilia. 1<sup>st</sup> place for housepoints was awarded to St. Bernadette. Well done everyone!

We look forward to our Violin Assembly every year and this year it did not disappoint. We are all so proud of our violinists and thank Mrs Phelps for her dedication and the time she gives to our children.

Our Governors' Assembly was 'tweaked' again this year and the Governors awarded certificates to children that have freely given their time to support others within the school. Certificates were awarded to our Youth Leadership Team, Altar Servers, Sports Leaders and Junior Travel Ambassadors. Thank you boys and girls!

## Mischief Makers – Summer Reading Challenge 2018

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 Reading Challenge.



Anyone completing the challenge (by reading 6 library books) will be presented with a box of Maltesers in school providing Mrs Stewart has seen the certificate! For 13 years now, we have been the top Stevenage school for participation in this event, which is great considering we have fewer pupils than many. Last year we won by one child, the other schools are getting closer! I wonder if we can retain the title this year?! Let's give it a go – enjoy your reading!

## **Farewell!**

This week we prepare to say farewell and good luck to the children in nursery who will not be with us for Reception class. It has been lovely getting to know you and your families and we look forward to hearing of your future successes. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Obuchowicz and we are sad to see her leave. Mrs O has worked at our school for 11 years now and she has had a positive impact on many children and families within our school. Enjoy putting your feet up for a while Mrs O, although we're not sure if that will be possible with a young grandson! Good luck and God bless!

A farewell assembly was also held for Mr Smith last week. Mr Smith works for Rising Stars and he has been working at the school for a number of years. Good luck in your new role, Mr Smith, we will miss you! We also said farewell to Mrs Ramirez earlier on this half term – good luck and God bless.

We also prepare to say farewell and good luck to 30 Year 6 children who will be moving on to secondary schools in September. Our Year 6 children are a real credit to their families: they work so hard and are a great support to the younger pupils in the school. The children enjoyed watching Year 6's leavers' production of *Oliver Twist* and parents were equally proud of their achievements in the evening performance. What superstars you all are!!

We will miss them all but know that they are ready for the exciting paths that they will now take. Please don't forget us Year 6 – we're always keen to know what you are up to – please do come and see us all again soon! Good luck and God bless you all!

## **PSFA – Thank you!**

Thank you to our dedicated and hard working PSFA. After many years, Alex and Paul Williams and Neil Ashman have decided to step down from their roles within the PSFA. We thank all three members for their time and effort running the PSFA. The PSFA does an incredible amount for our school, from raising funds to purchasing gifts for our children. Since they took over the PSFA we have been able to buy a new lighting system in the hall, furniture for the KS1 library, drawers for under the stage, interactive whiteboards, a defibrillator and lots more! We are truly grateful for everything they have put in place for our children and our school. We look forward to working with a new PSFA from September after our successful coffee morning last month, further details to follow!



## **Safeguarding Results**

Thank you to the parents that completed the Safeguarding survey at our Parent Consultations last term. The results were shared with our Curriculum Committee and we were pleased to see that 96% of parents felt their child is happy at school. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our Anti-Bullying Policy is available on our school website and if you have any concerns you should speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment to see me.



The staff have asked me to pass on to you their sincere thanks for kind words, cards and gifts at the end of term – you are very generous and it is much appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful family break; a chance to recharge and a chance to enjoy family time together. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 for the new school year.

God bless you and those most dear to you.

Yours sincerely



**Carmela Puccio**  
**Headteacher**

### KEY DATES

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

**Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018**

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**INSET DAY: no school for children**

Return to school: 8.45am

Violin lessons start

Swimming starts for Years 3 and 4

Year 6 trip to Crucial Crew (AM)

PSFA EGM 6.30pm

Finish for October break: **3.30pm**

**Half Term: Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> October to Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Return to school: 8.45am

Individual and sibling school photographs

Finish for Christmas break: **1:45pm**

**Christmas Break: Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> December to Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Return to school: 8.45am

