

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:  
Carmela Puccio BA (Hons)



Tel: 01438 352863  
Website: [www.clitherow.herts.sch.uk](http://www.clitherow.herts.sch.uk)  
Email: [admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk)

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

Dear Parents / Carers

How is it half term already?! It's been such a busy first half term back – lots of learning and an RE inspection as well! I have been fortunate enough to see lots of excellent learning behaviours this half term, it is great to see our children continuing to enjoy new challenges, try their best and persevere with their work. I enjoyed speaking to some of you at Parent Consultations last week; do not forget to come and talk to us if you have a concern or question, even if you think it is something small.

### RE inspection – thank you!

We have an incredibly wonderful school and our visitors agreed with us! They were impressed with our children and our community. They commented on the 'feel' of our school and we are so lucky to work in such a great place. Thank you once again for your overwhelming support (exact words our visitors used!) before and during our inspection. St. Margaret Clitherow School truly is a great place to be and I am so proud of the team and everyone involved in the inspection.



Please find below comments from Jane Goring, the Chief Inspector of Schools.

*The Catholic life stands out, particularly in the way you are developing future Catholic leaders, supporting a rich and vibrant prayer life, with pupils acting as witnesses in their faith to their peers. They have many opportunities to understand our call to be in service to each other, both in school and outside. I have no doubt that your focus on Catholic Social Teaching will reap its rewards when your pupils play their part as adults in their own communities. I was impressed by the extensive links you have with the groups which make up your school and your engagement particularly with parents as you create a truly cohesive outstanding Catholic community. The report also celebrates the ways in which you make classroom religious education challenging and rigorous, building the pupils' religious literacy and their confidence and so they can articulate their faith with enthusiasm.*

### Year 5 update

I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Mrs Hastings as our Year 5 teacher from January 2019. Mrs Hastings will teach the children every morning and three afternoons a week. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Hastings to our team.

### Harvest Mass

Thank you for joining with us for our Harvest Mass yesterday. It was a wonderful opportunity to join together for the first time this year to thank God for everything that is provided for us and to take time to make a difference to those living near us in need. Thank you also for sending in your generous Harvest offerings. These will be shared out between the elderly and housebound of our Parish, Stevenage Food Bank and Stevenage Haven for the Homeless. I know that there will be many grateful recipients – thank you!



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## Message from the Youth Leadership Team (YLT)

*This term, in the YLT, we have been cutting up the bottom of plastic bottles for our poppy field. The children on the YLT are Gabriel, Niamh, Simon, Blossom, George, Sacha, Ben, Thomas, Daniella, Gareth, Ava and Victoria. We are hoping to help out the school later on this year. We wish you a good holiday. From the Youth Leadership Team.*

## Summer Reading Challenge – Winners again!!

We won the Summer Reading challenge for the 14<sup>th</sup> year running – thank you for support and encouraging your child to take part. We had the highest number of pupils taking part in Stevenage.



## Admissions

### Nursery

This year the governors intend to offer 15 hours (morning only) or 30 hours (morning and afternoon) in our Nursery. The application process opened on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October and will close on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Please contact the school office for an application pack or visit our school website for further details.

### Reception

Applications for our Reception class for September 2019, for children whose dates of birth fall between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 will open on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### Year 7

Secondary school applications close on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October (during half term) please make sure you have made your application to County and if necessary the chosen school by this date.



## Fire Brigade Visit

The children enjoyed a visit from the fire brigade this half term. It was an opportunity for the children to find out about the fire brigade, use the firehose (highly exciting!) and take a closer look at a fire engine. Unfortunately, the fire engine had difficulty leaving the site as some parents still continue to park along the hedge side of the car park. Thank goodness they did not need to attend an emergency situation as I dread to think what the outcome could have been. I am not sure how many more times I can ask that parents park in marked bays only and not along the hedge or entrance to the school.

## PSFA Update

I would like to thank the members of our previous PSFA for their time and commitment to their roles, they worked tirelessly to raise a significant amount of funds for the school. I would like to welcome our new PSFA – Chiara Darrington (Chair), Kebby Tongola (Treasurer) and Melanie Farr (Secretary). The first school disco of the year was a great success and we look forward to working alongside our new PSFA to raise essential funds for our next school project! We will be hosting a PSFA coffee morning in the school hall on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November straight after drop off – please join us for tea, coffee and a treat! Please note that the Christmas Fayre will take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 3:45pm – 5:30pm.



## General 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 or in the open space near the entrance to the school. Please abide by this simple rule both before and after school.**
- **All children** must be accompanied by an adult through the car park.
- The junior play equipment must not be used by anyone before or after school.
- The infant play equipment must only be used by children, with care, under parental supervision. **This equipment must not be used by adults.**
- Small play equipment (balls etc) must not be taken from the containers before or after school.
- Bikes and scooters must be walked through the playground.
- Balls are not permitted on the playground or field before or after school.
- The learning area outside Year 1 and 2 must not be used before or after school.

## Uniform reminders

Can I remind you that trainers are only permitted in PE lessons and should not be worn as general outdoor shoes. I have noticed that some children are coming into school with 'extreme' haircuts, for example with tram lines, patterns or shaved on one side only. I would like to remind you that these haircuts are not allowed in school. Please remember that long hair should be tied back where possible and hairbands should be simple.

## Sporting updates!

- Our Year 6 sports leaders have been chosen from Year 6 and they have received their initial training from Stevenage Sporting Futures Team.
- Netball and football training sessions are now in full swing – thank you to Jess Baird and Mr Luis! Our girls' football training sessions have also commenced this term.
- Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school at the annual Cross Country Festival at Fairlands Valley – well done all of you!



## Message from the office

Please remember to return your flu vaccine consent forms (Reception – Year 5) by Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November. The form must be returned to confirm whether you consent or not.

God Bless

*Puccio*

Carmela Puccio  
Headteacher

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

Fri, 26<sup>th</sup> October

Finish for half term (3.30pm)

*Mon, 29<sup>th</sup> October – Fri, 2<sup>nd</sup> November Half Term*



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Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Return to school: 8.45am
Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Individual and sibling school photographs
Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Flu vaccine consent forms to be returned (Rec – Yr 5)
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Remembrance Mass (9:30am) all welcome
Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	PSFA coffee morning (straight after drop off in the hall)
Friday, 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	PSFA Christmas Fayre (3:45pm – 5:30pm)
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2018	Flu immunisations (Rec – Yr 5)
Tuesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Year 5 & 6 Carols at St. Hilda's Church (6:30pm)
Friday, 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	EYFS Nativity Performance (9:30am)
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	KS2 Christmas Performance Year 3&4 (7pm)
Wednesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	KS1 Christmas Performance (9:30am)
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Whole School Advent Mass 9:30am all welcome
Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	Finish for Christmas break: <b>1:45pm</b>

**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
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