

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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Friday 25th October 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

It was great to catch up with so many of you last week at parent consultations. We are lucky to have such a supportive parent body who are able to work with us to improve outcomes for all pupils. It is this positive relationship, alongside the carefully planned teaching, learning and feedback, all underpinned by our Catholic ethos, that ensures our children such successes in life. Thank you for working with us to build that. It has been a busy half term and we are all in need of a well deserved rest ... the half term break will soon be here!



Welcome

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Katie Davies will be joining our team as our Year 6 class teacher after Christmas. We look forward to welcoming and working with Mrs Davies over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition for our children.

'The God who Speaks': The Year of the Word (30th September 2019 – 31st December 2020)

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has designated 2020 as '**The God Who Speaks': A Year of the Word** to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini* - Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord', and the 1600th anniversary of death of St Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin. The Year of the Word will be a year of **celebrating, living** and **sharing** God's word. The children have found out some information about this special year and we will be planning various activities throughout the year with each class.



Harvest Mass

Thank you for joining with us for our Harvest Mass yesterday. It was a wonderful opportunity to come 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 and Stevenage Food Shed. I know that there will be many grateful recipients – thank you!



Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our Church, our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him
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Nepal trip

We are delighted to be a part of the British Council's 'Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning' project. Miss Coleman spent a week in Nepal earlier this term and spent time with our partner teacher from the Reliance Public School. She had a wonderful adventure and we have already starting working our way through the programme. Our partner teacher will come for a visit next October and we look forward to sharing our school life with her.



Freedom from Abuse

On Monday 30th September we welcomed Marilyn Hawes from Freedom from Abuse. Marilyn spent time in the morning delivering a Preventing Harm and Critical Thinking workshop for parents and Governors. She then spent the day working with our children from Year 3 – 6 talking about staying safe online but also in the local area. Marilyn will return to our school on Monday 11th November at 6:00pm in the school hall to deliver her workshop to parents again. I urge you to join us if you can, the first session was incredibly well received and thought provoking. You may also bring any older children (Year 7+) to this evening session.

Governor Update

Congratulations to Mrs Elizabeth King and Mr Femi Akintobi, they have now been appointed as our new Parent Governors. We look forward to welcoming them both to their first Governing Body meeting next half term. Thank you to Mrs Nicole Davids for her time and support during her 4 years on the Governing Body.

Date change – Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert at St. Hilda's – ALL WELCOME!

Please note that the Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert at St. Hilda's will now take place on Wednesday 11th December at 7pm. This wonderful event is open to the whole school, please join us if you can.

Keep our children safe!

I am going to keep this section short and sweet – please do not park on the yellow lines on the bend by the Broadhall Suite. Only park in marked bays; not along the hedge or by the entrance gates to the school. I have received numerous complaints from concerned parents. Please remember that parking is available at the Roaring Meg and in the Valley Showground. Thank you for helping us to keep our children safe.

PSFA – Thank You!

Our PSFA team have been busy working behind the scenes this half term. Thank you to the parents that joined us for our AGM earlier this week. Please note the following key dates for the PSFA:

- Infant Disco – Friday 8th November 5:30pm – 6:30pm
- Junior Disco – Friday 8th November 7:00pm – 8:30pm
- Bring a bottle non uniform day – Monday 18th November (please note date change)
- Christmas Fair – Friday 29th November 3:45pm – 5:30pm

Sporting updates!

- Our Year 6 sports leaders have been chosen 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!
- Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school at the annual Cross Country Festival at Fairlands Valley – well done all of you! Our Year 5 boys came third overall and so did our Year 6 girls. Huge well done to all of our runners.



Dinner Monies – another gentle reminder!

Please remember that school meals **must** be paid for in advance. The preferred payment method is via Parentpay, however cash or cheque payments can also be made via the school office. I kindly ask all families that are currently in debt to pay now.

Please note that if you “top up” your child’s account, you must then allocate payment to the “dinner” tab.

Parentpay offers the option to set up low balance alerts. If you wish to set this up on your account, please follow these instructions:

1. Login
2. Go to Communications
3. Go to Alert Settings
4. Select the type of Alert (low balance and/or new item) and select how you want to receive alerts, email and/or SMS Text.



Email alerts are free of charge. If you opt for SMS text alerts there is a small charge per text.

Remember – no problem is too big or too small!

We are always keen to work with parents as a problem arises. Please do not let things fester. Whether it is perceived as a big problem or a minor one – please do make contact and we’ll try to help you! Initially a word with the class teacher either in person or on the phone can help to share the worry; if after this point it still remains a worry, please make an appointment to discuss the matter with a member of the Senior Leadership Team via the school office. Remember – if it is a worry for you or your child then it is a worry for us! Please do not be concerned about bothering busy staff – it’s what we are all here for. Please also feel free to just come and say hello!

Admissions

Reception 2020 - 2021

Applications for our Reception class for September 2020, for children whose dates of birth fall between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 will open on Monday 4th November.

Nursery Admissions 2020 - 2021

Was your child born between 1/9/2016 - 31/8/2017?

This year our governors intend to offer 15 hours (morning only) or 30 hours (morning and afternoon) in our Nursery. The application process is now open and will close on Friday 29th November. Please contact the school office for an application pack or visit our school website for further details.

Year 7

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

Have a wonderful half term break!

God Bless



Carmela Puccio

Headteacher



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

Friday, 25th October 2019

Finish for October break: **3.30pm**

Half Term: Monday, 28th October to Friday, 1st November 2019

Monday, 4th November 2019

Return to school: 8.45am

Monday, 4th November 2019

Individual and sibling school photographs

Thursday, 7th November 2019

Remembrance Mass (9:30am) **all welcome**

Wednesday, 4th December 2019

Year 6 trip to Westminster Cathedral

Thursday, 5th December 2019

Advent Mass 9:30am **all welcome**

Friday, 6th December 2019

EYFS Nativity Performance (9:30am)

Wednesday, 11th December 2019

Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert at St. Hilda's (7pm) **all welcome**

Thursday, 12th December 2019

KS1 Christmas Performance (9:30am)

Wednesday, 18th December 2019

Christmas dinner day

Friday, 20th December 2019

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

Christmas Break: Monday, 23rd December to Friday, 3rd January 2020

Monday, 6th January 2020

INSET Day – no school for children

Tuesday, 7th January 2020

Return to school: 8.45am

Future diary date

Our Year 3&4 pupils will perform an Easter Play on Tuesday 31st March 2020 at 9:30am.

