

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monkwood Lane Stevenage Herts SG2 8QJ

Headteacher:
Jonathan W J White (B.Ed Hons, NPQH)



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

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Dear parents and carers

How wonderful to see our infant and EYFS children in school this morning wearing their beautifully decorated **Easter bonnets**. The judging was incredibly difficult – thank you for your support in helping the children to be so creative. We were all very impressed! The children enjoyed parading with their hat and took a journey through the whole school so that everyone could see their creations.



This week also saw **Year 5 performing their Easter Play** at St Hilda's after two dress rehearsals in the school. St Hilda's proved to be a beautiful setting for the play and many in the audience commented on what an emotional performance it was. I would like to thank the children and their teachers for providing this beautiful opportunity to reflect on the life of Jesus through song, dance and acting. In Mass yesterday, Father Michael commented on how their performance had helped him to prepare for the great feast of Easter; I heard many others echoing his sentiments and commenting on such an outstanding performance. I'm not sure that we've ever had a Proclaimers song in an Easter Production either!!



Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our Church, our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him
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Well done, Year 5 – we are all very proud of you!

It was lovely to see so many of you at **Parent Consultations** last week. With the Governors, I enjoyed talking to you all about the achievements of your children and other important school matters. We hope that you enjoyed Herts Catering's taster session for the new school menu. I should add that Herts now source their fresh chicken and minced lamb and beef from a local butchers. This has significantly improved the taste of many dishes, all of which are freshly prepared on site by Lee and her team.

Some information from our School Nurse: The School Nursing Service is provided by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, for children and young people aged 5 to 19 in mainstream schools. As well as providing a service for schools and parents as required, the school health team also manages a local Health for Kids website, designed to deliver topical health messages and advice for children, parents and carers, through interactive tools and creative marketing materials. 'Health for Kids' – aimed at those aged 4 to 11 – can be seen, via www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire. The website is kept updated with local information and events.

Herts County Council have asked all schools to publish the following information: **Law change for using your mobile phone whilst driving.** It is illegal to use a hand-held phone or similar device while driving, or when riding a motorcycle - this is still the case stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic. Did you know it is also illegal to use a hand-held mobile when supervising a learner driver or rider? New penalties now mean that motorists and motorcyclists caught using a phone while driving and riding will receive six penalty points on their licence and a £200 fine. This means that new drivers, within two years of passing their test, run the risk of losing their licence for a single offence. Check out the HCC website [Keep safe](#) .

Can you help? Currently we are looking for someone (or a group of people) with 'green fingers' to provide some TLC for our green house and allotment area. Once organised, it would be great if someone could come into school on a regular basis during a lunch time and work with a small group of children to make better use of this area. If we had a team of volunteers for this the commitment would be lessened. If you might be able to help with any of these projects, please email head@clitherow.herts.sch.uk.



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School Funding: I am always aware of the pressures on everyone's finances. Like you, schools are all feeling the pinch in the current economic climate. Due to very careful financial planning by our Finance Governors, our budget forecast does not foresee us making significant cuts over the next financial year. However, we are having to eat into our reserves in order to do this and, as such this cannot last forever. We continue to be immensely grateful for your contributions to the School Building Fund which enable us to ensure the upkeep and repair of the building and invest in, for example, the ICT infrastructure. We are also very grateful for your generous support of PSFA activities which have become an essential stream of funding for us. It is amazing that 7 out of the 8 classes have been fitted with new interactive screens this year and we hope that the final class will be fitted by the end of the year – thank you for your generosity in supporting PSFA events. This would not be possible without the dedicated support of the PSFA committee to whom I offer sincere thanks – please do lend them a hand if you are able to. They will be holding a **coffee afternoon at 2.30pm on Tuesday 25th April 2017** – please do join them to share your ideas if you can.

Headteacher appointment: you will be aware that preparations are underway to appoint a new Headteacher for September 2017. Interviews are scheduled for the first week back after Easter and Mrs Curtis, Chair of Governors, hopes to be able to bring news to all parents by the end of the first week back. Sally wrote to parents earlier in the week with further details. This letter, if you missed it, will be available on the website shortly.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term? I know that you are very proud of your children's efforts as are we. They are a credit to you!

Please note that Tuesday 18th April is an INSET day (staff only). Children return to school for the start of the Summer Term at 8.45am on Wednesday 19th April 2017.

I hope that you enjoy a wonderful Easter break with your families. May the feast of Easter, when it arrives, bring you many blessings and much happiness.



God bless you and those most dear to you,

Jonathan W J White
Headteacher

