

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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

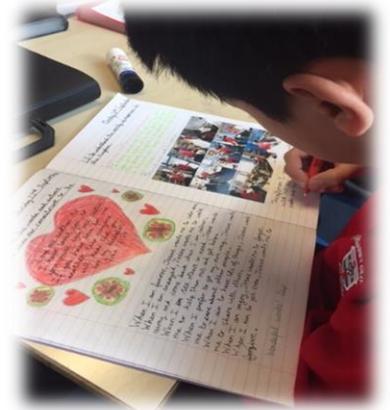


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Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

It doesn't seem possible that we are heading towards the end of our first half term of the new academic year – where has the time gone? So much has been achieved in this half term and I hope that you will enjoy the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher over the coming week at parent consultation appointments to explore what has been achieved already.



## Parent Consultations

Following parent consultations, please do take time to look at the displays in the hall: one will provide an opportunity for you to take note of workshops / meetings that have already occurred this year and will indicate those that are planned to follow; one will help you to understand further the 17 characteristics of learning that we promote through our Building Learning Power strategy; and one will ask for input that will help us to put together the information that will be presented at our Sex & Relationships Education evening next week (18<sup>th</sup> October 7pm – all welcome!)

## Feedback



We are always keen to receive and act upon feedback. Both myself and governors will be available at parent consultations to gauge your views – please do talk to us! We will also be encouraging all parents to complete a simple Ofsted questionnaire at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login>. Data gathered from this is not only used by Ofsted in evaluating the school but also by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body in order to gauge areas that we should focus on.

## Staff news

Mrs Karen Edmonds has worked at our school for 15 years and throughout this time has supported many children so ably with their learning. Now that her children are all grown up, Mrs Edmonds has decided that she will take a new career path and will be leaving us at half term. We are all sorry to see Mrs Edmonds go and I know that you will join staff and governors in wishing her well in her new career. Mrs Edmonds will be greatly missed; however, do not fear, we have been working for some time to ensure that her very specific skillset will be covered adequately in her absence. Good luck and thanks for your commitment over many years, Mrs Edmonds – you will be sorely missed!



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## Opportunity

An opportunity has arisen for a **temporary learning support role** in our Early Years Foundation Stage. This would initially be for **one term only** and would be for **15 hours per week**. Applicants would need to enjoy working with children and be able to work directly under the supervision of the class teacher. Some experience in a school setting would be advantageous. Interested candidates would need to undergo full Disclosure and Barring Service checks prior to commencement. If you would like to know more please make an appointment to come and see me to find out about the application process by 17<sup>th</sup> October; alternatively email [head@clitherow.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@clitherow.herts.sch.uk) to register an interest.

## The Big Read

Congratulations to all of the children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge this year. 114 children have been awarded with a certificate and a box of maltesers to recognise their efforts this year. For the 12<sup>th</sup> year running, we were the top school in Stevenage for the number of children participating – this is amazing considering the fact that we are one of the smaller schools! Thank you for your support in achieving this – it is great for the children to realise that we all really value reading.



## Harvest Mass – thanks!

By the time that you read this letter we will have celebrated our Harvest Mass. Thank you for joining with us if you were able to. Thank you also for sending in your Harvest offerings. These will be shared out between the elderly and housebound of our Parish as well as with Stevenage Food-Bank. I know that there will be many grateful recipients – thank you!



## Car park

Thank you to those families who have been able to make a commitment to parking elsewhere (eg Fairlands Valley or Roaring Meg) – this really helps! We still require a reduction in the use of the car park by a further 40 cars on a regular basis. Thank you also to those who have changed their habits and no longer park on the hedge side of the access road. This keeps the car park much safer and we have demonstrated that, with patience, it can work. However, I am also aware that on the occasions when I am not out in the car park, this rule is regularly ignored. I find this incredibly disappointing and frustrating; I am aware that many of you do too! It is a poor use of my time to be policing the traffic. New habits need to be created and sustained and should be driven from a collective desire to make the car park a safer environment. I should remind everyone that it is a distinct possibility that Stevenage Football Club could remove our current privileges in using this facility at very short notice. If you value the opportunity to park here, please work with us to encourage good habits. Governors are currently exploring whether it is possible to create a safe drop off point for older pupils (Yr 5 & 6) in order to ease congestion. Please do keep the ideas coming about ways to improve the current system – email [head@clitherow.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@clitherow.herts.sch.uk).



## Punctuality and Attendance

The doors open at 8.45am and school officially starts at 8.50am. Following regulations, once the register is closed (9am) any arrival has to be marked as 'late after the register is closed' and is marked as 'unauthorised absent' for the whole morning session unless I have reason to believe there is a reason that can be validated. Arrivals after the register has been taken but before 9am are marked as 'late before the register is closed' and as such can be authorised. Records of 'minutes late' are recorded in the digital register. Such records are monitored by me weekly and by the School Attendance Officer termly. I have asked all staff to ensure that classroom doors are opened promptly at 8.45am each morning and that the school gates are locked promptly at 9am each morning. Anyone arriving late after 9am must enter via the main office and must be signed in. Staff at the office will always ask why a child is late in order that a decision can be made about whether lateness is authorised or not.



Thank you to the PSFA for their continued efforts to make money 'out of nothing'! We were awarded second place nationally in the 'pen recycling' project recently which is fantastic. Each recycled pen raises us 2p and this soon mounts up. Please do keep collecting pens in your workplace and homes.

## One person's junk is another person's treasure!

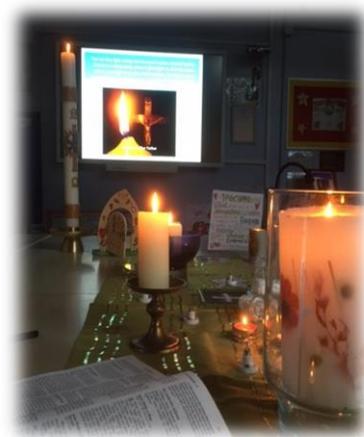
There are two collection points: one outside the main office and one by the main vehicular entrance to the school. We are now also collecting biscuit wrappers – also valued at 2p each. Other items to be recycled via sale on Ebay can be given to Paul or Alex Williams, or left in the containers in the recycling shack! Turn your rubbish into cash for the PSFA. A massive thanks to the PSFA for their excellent efforts in this area. Every little helps!!!



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## Summer projects

During the course of the summer holidays a number of projects occurred around the school **funded by your generous donations**. The metal container on the field, which is used as additional school storage, had a new roof fitted (funded through donations to the school building fund); and 6 new interactive screens were installed in the classrooms (partly funded through the school budget share, PSFA funds and your donations to the School Building Fund). At half term, a new intruder alarm will be installed, also funded through your School Building Fund donations. We are currently bidding for funds to completely refurbish all pupil toilets. This is a desperately needed project and even if grant funded, as a Voluntary Aided school we are required to find at least 10% of the total costs from the School Building Fund. Thank you for your generous donations to the school through the PSFA and the School Building Fund. Without these streams of voluntary funding our building and environment would suffer.

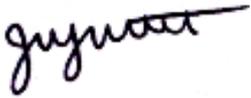


Other future projects include completing the interactive screen installations; window and door replacement throughout the school to improve thermal efficiency; replacement of the nursery boiler and improvements to the security of vehicular and pedestrian gates; as well as general redecoration and refurbishment of classrooms on a rolling programme. Thank you for your generosity!

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support during this busy first half term. Enjoy the half term break when it arrives!

May God bless you and those most dear to you.

Yours sincerely



**Jon White**  
**Headteacher**





*Please check the website for any changes*

Wednesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultations (3.50-5.00pm)
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> October	KS1 mini Olympics (Year 1) (AM)
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> October	No Football or Netball training after school
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultations (5.00-8.00pm)
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Busy Fingers Open Session (Nursery and Reception) (8.45-9.45am)
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> October	No after school club
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> October	School Disco – see website for more details
Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October	SRE Workshop for Parents (7pm)
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up for half term (12 noon Nursery/3.25pm Infants/3.30pm Juniors)
Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> October	INSET DAY: no school for children

### **October Half term**

**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> October – Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Return to school
w/b Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Beautifully diverse week
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> November	PSFA meeting (6.30pm)
Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Bags2School collection
Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> November	School Nurse to see Years 1-3 (flu immunisation)
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>KS1 Advent Mass (9.30am) – everyone welcome</b>
Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	EYFS Nativity performance (9.30am)
Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Christmas Journey for Year 2
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>KS2 Advent Mass (9.30am) – everyone welcome</b>
Tuesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Performance (Y3 and Y5 parents) (7pm)
Wednesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner day!
Wednesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Performance (Y4 and Y6 parents) (7pm)
Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Performance (9.30am)
Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Party
Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 5 and 6 Christmas Party
Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Break up for Christmas holidays (3pm) (no after school club)

### **Christmas Holidays**

**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 – Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to school
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