

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 22nd October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

How have we reached the end of the first half term already?! It has been a rollercoaster of a term, from removing some back-to-school measures in September to switching back over night to control measures following an outbreak in our school. Thankfully the outbreak was controlled and on the 7th October, we moved away from Local Authority support. A huge thank you to the children, staff and to you as parents for your understanding and being ready to adapt to new measures. Once again, our special community pulled together to keep everyone safe.

Welcome to baby Enola!

I am delighted to announce that on Saturday 25th September Mrs Vincenti-Morrison and her family welcomed Enola Giovanna Morrison. Both mother and baby are doing well...albeit a little bit tired! Congratulations to Mrs Vincenti-Morrison and her family.

Cross Country

On Thursday 7th October, 24 of our Year 5 & 6 children represented our school at Stevenage Sporting Future's Cross Country event. We were incredibly proud of all the children, not only for their efforts on the day but the way they supported and encouraged each other during a challenging event. Our children were a real credit to our school and they looked amazing in our new kit as well! A special congratulations for Amelia from Year 5...she came 1st out of 72 runners, what an achievement! Well done Amelia!



Swimming

The 7th October was a busy day in school, as it was also the first swimming trip for our Year 3 & 4 children. There were lots of happy and excited children travelling down to Stevenage Swimming Pool. Once again, our children were a real credit to our school.



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Year of St. Joseph

Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph, in honour of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church. Pope Francis said he was establishing the year so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfilment of God's will." Each class learnt about St. Joseph and the various roles that he had and created these fantastic communal displays.



Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity (RJED)

We are pleased to be part of the Diocese of Westminster's RJED programme this year which aims to educate, inform and inspire schools to actively work to achieve racial justice and equality in our communities. We all have a responsibility to protect our children from racial injustice and ensure equality. Any forms of racism or injustice will not be tolerated at our school. We have spent time this term reworking our curriculum to ensure our beautifully diverse community is represented and celebrated. Our assemblies each week continue to be based on our 10 school values and they are used as a chance to explore our school's mission and follow in the footsteps of Jesus, reinforcing that difference and diversity is celebrated.

New furniture

Just before we broke up for the summer holidays, we were able to purchase some new tables and chairs for our children in Year 3 – 6. The last set of chairs have now arrived and we think they look great! We know how to spoil our children!

Thank you!

Thank you for your generous harvest donations last week. These will be shared out between the elderly and housebound of our Parish and local Stevenage projects. I know that there will be many grateful recipients – thank you!

Parent Consultations reminder – Wednesday 3rd November

Please remember that this term we will hold our Parent Consultations virtually using Zoom. We will continue to use the ParentMail system to book appointments and **you will be able to book your virtual appointment from Sunday 17th October at 13:35pm. The system will close on Sunday 31st October at 13:35pm. I**



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would encourage you to log into the system as soon as it opens to ensure you get your preferred time slot. A selection of your child's books will be sent home before your appointment, please ensure they are returned to school the next day as they will be needed. Please take extra care with the books when they are at home. Zoom codes will be parentmailed after half term. Thank you for completing the online questionnaire about parent consultations; we will use the information provided to plan our next set of consultation meetings.

If you would like to book an appointment with Mrs Schofield (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), please contact the school office and they can arrange this for you.

Nursery Admissions 2022 - 2023

Was your child born between 1/9/2018 - 31/8/2019?

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 26th November 2021. Please contact the school office for an application pack.

Squid Game – for adults only!

It has been brought to our attention that some children in school have been watching or discussing the new Netflix series 'Squid Game'. This series is rated 15+ and contains adult content which is highly inappropriate for primary aged children. It includes a high level of gore, death, violence and physical assault. It also has graphic depictions of suicide, murder and sexual assault. Children may not be aware of the content that the show contains and may have heard about it via word of mouth or from social media. Please note that the video content can also be found on Tik Tok. We will be speaking to any children discussing this in school and we will be speaking to parents. I would strongly encourage you to check the parenting controls you have on your Netflix account as a matter of urgency.

Free School Meals

If your situation has changed, or you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please visit <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx> The application takes a couple of minutes to complete. Please do notify the school if you are eligible. Even if your child is in a class (Reception – Year 2) that receives a Government funded free school meal, it is still worth making an application as the school receives additional funding.

School website

Please visit our school website (<http://www.clitherow.herts.sch.uk>) to see a drone video of our beautiful school grounds and a clearer section on learning in school and how you can help at home. I would like to remind you that you can also find all the school policies on our website, which includes our recently reviewed Preventing and Dealing with Racist Incidents policy.

Please follow us on twitter @StMClitherow to get an insight into school life.

God Bless



Miss Puccio
Headteacher



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