

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher:
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Friday 25th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Can you believe we've reached the end of half term already? Time has flown by, and what an incredibly busy and successful half term it's been!

We are so proud of our wonderful school community. This half term has seen us face another important inspection: our Catholic Schools Inspectorate Inspection. You will remember we only recently had our Ofsted inspection in May. To remain focused and positive through both inspections is a real testament to the dedication of our children, staff, and families.

During the RE inspection, it was heartwarming to witness the children's deepening faith and their genuine love for the school. Their enthusiasm for learning and for living out our school's values shone brightly. We are incredibly proud of them. A huge thank you to all parents for your support during the inspection, particularly for your valuable feedback through the questionnaires. I also want to extend a massive thank you to our staff, who have worked tirelessly throughout this period. They were observed teaching RE and were also seen leading prayer and liturgy sessions. Their commitment to nurturing both the academic and spiritual growth of our children is remarkable.



Staffing Update

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of a staffing update. Mrs Schofield (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) will unfortunately be leaving us at Christmas. It has been a difficult decision for Mrs Schofield to make and her decision has not been taken lightly. She has truly loved working with the children and seeing them grow in the 6 years that she has worked in the school. Mrs Schofield will be relocating out of County and unfortunately the commute is too far for her. We wish her well with her future endeavours. We are all sorry to see Mrs Schofield go; she will be greatly missed. Good luck and thank you for your commitment over many years, Mrs Schofield!

Communal Displays

We hope you had the opportunity to enjoy our Class Saint communal displays during the recent parent consultations. At the start of this term, each class spent time learning about their chosen Saint, and the children put so much effort into creating beautiful and thoughtful displays to showcase what they had learned. It was wonderful to see their creativity and enthusiasm shine through as they deepened their understanding of their class Saint's life and values. We are so proud of their hard work, and we hope you enjoyed seeing their learning brought to life!

Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our Church, our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him
At St Margaret Clitherow School we are committed to Safeguarding Children

Racial Equity Week

Last week, our school dedicated time to Racial Equity Week, where the children engaged in meaningful learning about the importance of racial equity, inclusion, and respect for all. Through discussions and activities, they explored how we can all contribute to a fairer and more just society. The week concluded with our participation in the Show Racism the Red Card charity's Wear Red Day, where children and staff wore red to show their support for this important cause. It was a powerful reminder of our commitment to standing against racism and promoting kindness, unity, and respect in our school and beyond. In total, you raised £220 to show our collective support against all forms of racism. After Christmas, our children in Years 4-6 will take part in a Show Racism the Red Card workshop.

Harvest Giving Project

Thank you for joining with us for our Harvest Mass this half term. It was a wonderful opportunity to join for the first time this school 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. We also prayed for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict. We celebrated Mass with Father Frank, and he was very impressed! Thank you for sending in your generous Harvest offerings. We ran out of space on the stage! Our Year 6 children organised the donations. These have been shared out between the elderly and housebound of our Parish and Feed Up Warm Up. I know that there will be many grateful recipients.

Attendance and Lateness

Our school target for attendance is set by the Local Authority at 96%. **Our current whole school attendance figure since September is 96.1%.** Attendance figure includes unauthorised absences, absences related to illness, medical appointments, and lateness. We must all work together to ensure children are in school providing they are well enough. Please find current class attendance below.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
92.2%	92.7%	96%	97.6%	97.8%	97.1%	97.2%	96.7%

Please be reminded that your child's school day begins at 8:45am. As soon as the children enter the school building, their learning journey begins and every second counts. I have noticed several children arriving around 8:55am and some after 9:00am. They are missing key learning opportunities each day and over the weeks and months, the time soon adds up.

Please also be reminded that our Attendance Policy includes information about fixed penalty notices. This policy can be found on our school website.

Some gentle 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, in the open space near the entrance or in front of the school gates.**
- All children must be accompanied by an adult through the car park.
- **Children are encouraged to dismount their bike/scooter when entering the Stevenage FC carpark.**
- The climbing frames must not be used by anyone before or after school.
- 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.



Admissions 2025-2026

Nursery

Was your child born between 1/9/2021 - 31/8/2022?

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 22nd 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 2025, for children whose dates of birth fall between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 will open on Friday 1st November.

Year 7

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

PSFA Update

THANK YOU for making the start of the school year a brilliant one. With over £1000.00 raised at our first school disco we are so excited to see what we can raise this coming year. Our Asda fundraising pot is also creeping up with funds now at £226.88 and our Christmas card order has seen an additional £211 generated. We cannot thank you enough! All the money raised goes back into the school to enhance the children's experience.

How can you help? We still have 40 days left to raise funds at Asda. Any shopping you do make sure you download the app to add to the St Margaret's pot. Attending events, the PSFA works extremely hard to put on events for the children and parents, to attend so please get involved whenever you can. Join our facebook page and community whatsapp page to keep up to date with news, events and reminders.

We cannot wait to see what this school year brings. If you have any feedback or comments, please get in touch and let us know!

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 only 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.

Some highlights this term:

- Beginning of term Mass for staff and Governors
- Whole school writing unit – Coming to England
- Youth Leadership Team and Eco Committee elections
- Introduction of Chaplaincy Team
- Year 5 trip to Wagamama
- Visit from Mr Carrasco-Morley – Headteacher from The Saint John Henry Newman School
- Nursery home visits
- RSE evening for parents
- Swimming commenced for Year 3 and 4
- Year 5 and 6 Football Tournament
- Year 5 Mini Police sessions have started this half term
- Learning about St. Margaret Clitherow and Class Saints
- Year 5 & 6 Cross Country event at Fairlands Valley
- Class Feast Day celebrations in Year 4, 5 and Reception
- Bridgebuilder's and Feed Up Warm Up assembly



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Please follow us on twitter (@StMClitherow) to gain an insight into school life. Our twitter feed can also be accessed via our school website.

Thank you again for your continued support. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break!

God Bless



Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Half Term: Monday, 28th October to Friday, 1st November 2024

Monday, 4 th November 2024	Return to school: 8.45am
Monday 4 th November 2024	Other Faiths Week
Monday, 4 th November 2024	Individual and sibling photos
Thursday, 7 th November 2024	Year 5 Stevenage Museum Visit
Friday, 8 th November 2024	Year 4 Stevenage Museum Visit
Friday, 15 th November 2024	Children in Need non-uniform day
Monday, 25 th November 2024	Flu vaccinations Reception – Year 6 (details to follow)
Friday, 29 th November 2024	EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Nativity: 9:30am in the school hall
Wednesday, 4 th December 2024	Year 6 trip to Westminster Cathedral – Advent Service
Thursday, 5 th December 2024	Advent Mass: 9:30am in the school hall. Confession for Yr 4-6
Friday, 6 th December 2024	Year 2 Christmas Journey to St Hugh and St John Church
Tuesday, 10 th December 2024	Year 5&6 Carol Concert: 6:30pm at St. Hilda's Church
Wednesday, 11 th December 2024	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Thursday, 12 th December 2024	Key Stage 1 Christmas play: 9:30am in the school hall
Monday, 16 th December 2024	Year 5 carol singing at Roaring Meg Community Arts Centre
Friday, 20 th December 2024	Finish for Christmas break: 1:15pm

Christmas Break: Monday 23rd December to Friday, 3rd January 2025

Monday, 6 th January 2025	Return to school: 8.45am
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Future dates

Wednesday, 5 th March 2025	Ash Wednesday Mass: 2:00pm in the school hall
Tuesday 18 th March 2025	Year 3&4 Easter Play: 9:30am in the school hall
Thursday, 20 th March 2025	Lenten Mass: 9:30am in the school hall