

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 18th July 2025

Dear Parents

What a year it's been! As we reach the end of another busy and joyful school year, it's the perfect time to reflect on everything our wonderful children, staff, and families have achieved together. From exciting learning adventures and school trips to sports days, concerts, and classroom milestones - it's been a year full of laughter, growth, and unforgettable memories. We're so proud of each and every child and thankful for the support of our whole school community.

Year 6 PGL

Our Year 6 pupils - along with three dedicated staff members - had an unforgettable time during their residential trip to PGL in Liddington this June. It was such a joy to see the photos and hear all about their exciting adventures when they returned! A heartfelt thank you to the staff who made the experience so special. They generously gave their time and energy, supporting the children around the clock throughout the three-day trip. We are truly grateful - thank you again for everything!



Farewell

As the school year comes to a close, we prepare to say goodbye to several much-loved members of our school community. After an incredible 30 years of dedicated service, Mrs Babb is retiring, a remarkable milestone and one that leaves a lasting legacy. Mrs Hudspith is also moving on, choosing to embrace more flexibility to spend time with family and travel, and Mr Shields will be increasing his hours as he takes up a new role in another Catholic school. Each of them will be sorely missed, and we thank them for everything they have brought to our school over the years.

This week, we also say farewell and good luck to the nursery children who won't be joining us in Reception. It has been a pleasure to get to know you and your families. We wish you all the very best in your next adventures and hope you stay in touch!

And of course, we send a very special goodbye to our brilliant Year 6 pupils as they get ready for their next chapter at secondary school. They have been a credit to their families, showing maturity, kindness, and determination - and we couldn't be prouder. Their leavers' production of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies* was a true highlight, and both the children and parents thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Well done, Year 6, you are all absolute superstars!

We will miss you but know you are ready for the exciting paths ahead. Year 6, please don't forget us – we're always eager to hear what you're up to, so come and visit us soon! Good luck and God bless you all!

*Dear Year 6 children,
Always remember that you are special in God's eyes,
and that you are blessed with many gifts and talents – use these well to make the most of your life.
Each and every one of you has the potential to be whatever you want to be,
to go wherever you want to go and to achieve all that you set out to achieve.
You are unique – but remember ...*

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

*you are not better than anyone else,
however, no one is better than you!
Treat all those you meet in the way you would like to be treated.
Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.
Live life the way you have imagined.
And as you journey through life make sure you take God with you –
Always keep your faith.
May God bless you in all that you do.
And our very best wishes go with all of you.*

Staffing update

We have some exciting news to share - congratulations to Mr Moore (Year 2 class teacher) and his wife, Mrs Moore, who are expecting a baby later in September! We wish them all the very best as they prepare for this wonderful new chapter.

Catholic Life and Mission

Last month, our Year 3 pupils led a beautiful Corpus Christi Procession on the school field. It was a joy to come together in celebration of the Eucharist with our school community and parishioners from St. Hilda's. Seeing the children take part in their First Holy Communion outfits made the occasion even more special. A truly memorable moment for everyone involved.

Our Year 6 children also marked a significant milestone as they led their final Mass at primary school. Each child took on an important role in the Leavers' Mass, and we were delighted to welcome their parents to join us in prayer, reflection, and celebration.



Summer Reading Challenge 2025

Reading over the summer is a great way to keep young minds active and engaged and it has a real impact on children's learning and progress. We encourage all families to visit their local library and sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

The 2025 theme is Story Garden, which celebrates creativity through books and the arts. Children will discover exciting new reads and enjoy free, themed activities at the library.

Don't forget to tag us in any photos of your children taking part via our Twitter account, we'd love to see them and share their reading adventures with the wider school community!



Message from the Governors

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding school year, the Governing Body would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Miss Puccio and the whole team at SMC. Their dedication and care continue to make our school such a special place for our children to learn and grow.



This year has been filled with memorable moments, none more so than the beautiful celebration of our school's 60th anniversary. It was incredibly special to gather as a community and mark this significant milestone with an outdoor Mass. We were delighted to welcome past headteachers, teachers, and governors, as well as representatives from both the local authority and the diocese. The occasion was a powerful reminder of the rich history of our school and the values that continue to guide and inspire us.



To our Year 6 pupils, we offer our warmest congratulations as you prepare to take the next step in your educational journey. We wish you every success and happiness in your new schools. May you carry with you the friendships, lessons, and happy memories from your time at SMC.

Wishing all of our families a restful and joyful summer break. We look forward to working with you again in September.

Message from the PSFA

What a wonderful year it has been! We've had some lovely, busy markets, some fantastic entries to our free to enter competitions, met the new parents, had some delicious bake sales, fun-filled discos and we raised a huge £2,533.85 at our summer fete!

This year we have been able to donate £3,000 to the school and bought new musical instruments, sofas and bean bags for the library as well as gifts for those children making their First Holy Communion and a contribution towards the Year 6's leavers' celebrations. None of this would have been possible without you all, so THANK YOU! Thank you for supporting our events and thank you to all those who volunteer their time to ensure these events are possible.

We hope you have a great and relaxing summer and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Some highlights this half term:

- Second place in the Netball league and second place at the netball festival for our Year 5 and 6 netballers
- Year 6 PGL residential trip
- Selected Year 5 and 6 children took part in Ridlins Athletics Festival
- Year 6 Walk Thru Café enterprise project
- Reception School trip to Knebworth House
- Year 5 Taster Day at St. John Henry Newman School
- Taster days for our new children and families
- Sports Day
- Year 3 and 4 Girls' Football Festival
- Key Stage 2 Water Safety assembly
- Year 1 trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
- Year 2 and Year 1's Feast Day celebration
- CAFOD assembly
- Summer Reading Challenge assembly
- Year 6 Crucial Crew at the Lamex Stadium
- Year 5 trip to London – Shrek's Adventure, 10 Downing Street and Sealife Centre
- Year 2 trip to Woburn Safari
- PSFA's colour run celebrating 60 years of SMC
- Year 6 Farming Day – the children met Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Edinburgh



- Violin and Cello assembly – what a talented group of children!
- Moving Up Day – the children spent time with their new teachers
- Year 4 attended St. John Henry Newman's Community Mass
- Surprise ice cream van visit for the children on the last day of term!
- Year 6 outdoor day cooking their own lunches using the profits from their enterprise project

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 96.55%.** 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
95.36%	94.21%	96.76%	98.01%	96.83%	97.3%	96.6%	96.98%

A reminder that your child's school day starts at 8:45am. Once the children enter the building, their learning begins, and every moment is important. If your child arrives at 9am, they miss out on valuable learning time - over a week, that's 1 hour and 15 minutes, and it adds up quickly over time.

Also, please note the end of day timings: Nursery to Year 2 finish at 3:15pm, and Year 3 to Year 6 finish at 3:20pm. Arriving late for pick-up affects staff, as they need to stay with the children when they should be in meetings or training. Lastly, after-school clubs end at 4:30pm - please be mindful of staff time and collect your child on time. Thank you for your cooperation!

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 and we are also able to apply for supermarket vouchers for you. **If you are eligible for free school meals and your child is in Year 2, you will need to reapply once your child moves into Year 3.** Please be reminded that school dinners for children in Year 3 - 6 are £3.55 per meal. Dinners must be paid for in advance via SchoolGrid.

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

I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday, and I look forward to welcoming you back on Thursday 4th September.

Parents, tag, you're it, love from your SMC family! xx

Yours sincerely

Carmela Puccio

Carmela Puccio
Headteacher



DEAR PARENTS,
TAG!
YOU'RE IT!

KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Thursday, 4th September 2025

Thursday, 4th – 9th September 2025

Wednesday, 10th – 11th September 2025

Friday, 12th September 2025

Monday, 22nd September

Friday, 24th October 2025

INSET DAY: no school for children

Return to school: 8:45am

Home visits for Nursery children

Staggered start for Nursery children

All of Nursery in school

Flu Vaccinations (Reception – Year 6)

Finish for October break

Half term: Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025

Monday, 3rd November 2025

Monday, 3rd November 2025

Friday, 19th December 2025

Return to school: 8.45am

Individual and sibling photos

Finish for Christmas break: **1:15pm**

Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January 2026

Monday, 5th January 2026

Return to school: 8.45am

