

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Headteacher:
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Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the October half term, it's wonderful to reflect on what has been a great start to the school year. The children have settled back into school life with enthusiasm, showing curiosity, kindness, and a real love of learning. It has been an incredibly busy and productive half term, with so many achievements to celebrate across the school. Next half term promises to be even busier as we begin our preparations for Advent and look forward to the special events that mark this joyful season in our school calendar.

A Joyful New Arrival!

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Mr Moore and his wife welcomed a baby boy earlier this half term. We send our warmest congratulations to them both and wish their family every happiness at this special time.

Racial Equity Week

Last week, we dedicated time to Racial Equity Week, giving the children the opportunity to engage in thoughtful learning about the importance of inclusion, respect, and racial equity. Through discussions and activities, they considered how each of us can contribute to a fairer and more just society.

The week concluded with our participation in Show Racism the Red Card's Wear Red Day, where children and staff proudly 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 both within our school and beyond. Together, we raised £198 to support the charity's vital work.

Parent Partnership

We ended the half term with our parent consultations, and it was a real pleasure, along with our Governors, to speak with so many of you about your children's achievements and wider school life. Your support at the Book Fair was equally fantastic, an incredible £1727.33 worth of books were purchased (last year £1299.89), earning the school £1038.20 in commission (£714.94 last year) to spend on even more books for our children. Thank you for continuing to nurture our love of reading together.

As always, please remember that no concern is ever too big or too small to discuss. We often remind our children to talk about their worries early and the same applies to all of us. If there's anything you'd like to discuss, please do come and talk to us; an early conversation can make all the difference.



Governor Update

I know that parents and carers will join the Governing Body in thanking Miss Puccio and all the staff team for an incredible start to the academic year. It has been wonderful to see the children settling into the first half of the term and thriving in their new classes. The Governing Body have been busy attending committees to concentrate on the year ahead with a focus on the due diligence for St Margaret's to become a member of the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust (DOWAT). More information will be shared with you all in due course on the progress of this transition. Governors and parents had the privilege of being invited to an uplifting and joyful Harvest Mass this month. It never fails to amaze us of how beautifully the children represent the school. Our school community is one of kindness and generosity and the donations made for the harvest were testament to this. Governors would like to wish Miss Puccio and the staff team, all our children and their families a peaceful half term and may God bless you all.

Harvest Giving Project

Thank you for joining us for our Harvest Mass this half term. It was a wonderful first opportunity this school year to come together to thank God for all that we are blessed with and to consider how we can help those in need in our local community. We also held prayers for those whose lives have been affected by conflict. Mass was celebrated with Father Robert, who celebrated Mass with us for the first time and was very impressed by the children's participation! Thank you for your generous Harvest offerings - we ran out of space on the stage! Our Chaplaincy Team organised the donations, which have been shared with the elderly and housebound in our Parish, St. Hilda's Food Bank, and Feed Up Warm Up. I am sure these contributions will make a real difference to 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 97%.** 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
94.66%	98.33%	97.24%	97.92%	97.94%	98.07%	97.97%	96.46%

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. I have spent a great deal of time recently completing leave of absence forms for families who have booked holidays during term time, and sadly, our attendance this week is the lowest it has ever been. This is such a shame when we work so hard to promote good attendance. I would like to sincerely thank the parents who always prioritise school attendance and never take holidays during term time - your support makes a real difference.



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 2026-2027

Nursery

Was your child born between 1/9/2022 - 31/8/2023?

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 21st 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 2026, for children whose dates of birth fall between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 will open on Monday 3rd November.

Year 7

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

PSFA Update

We hope you have all settled in well to the new school year. It was wonderful to see so many of you over the Summer Holidays at our Teddy Bear Picnic for new parents. The children had lots of fun and met some new friends before beginning in their classes in September. We have been busy making plans for this term and have some exciting events coming up; we have a Disco on 7th November, a bake sale and the return of our Christmas Market with a range of gifts for everyone. We will post a calendar on our Facebook page with some of the activities we have planned. We have already had our first competition of the year with two winners, and all entries were fantastic! We are coming up with new ideas for the Easter and Summer competitions too. We have donated £3,000 to the school already this year to support with sourcing new resources for outside learning and within the classrooms. We have also organised for a travelling theatre to visit the school and are very excited for the children to enjoy this. We had a great year last year raising lots of funds for the school and hope you all enjoy them this year too. We really couldn't do it without you all; thank you for your continued support. We always welcome feedback and input from all.



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
- Meet the teacher sessions
- Emotional wellbeing and coping strategies workshop for Year 5 and 6
- 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
- EYFS Curriculum session for parents
- Vending machine winners for this half term
- Swimming commenced for Year 3 and 4
- 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 – Amy from Year 6 came 2nd overall and our Year 6 boys and girls team also came 2nd overall. Our Year 5 team won the Values Award
- Class Feast Day celebrations in Year 4, 5 and Reception
- Year 4 Stevenage Museum visit and Victorians workshop
- Wild about nature session for Reception delivered by Stevenage Sporting Futures Team
- Reception and Year 1 phonics workshop for parents
- Bridgebuilders assembly



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

Thank you for your continued support and partnership - it makes such a difference. I wish all our children and families a happy, safe, and restful half term break.

God Bless

Cuccio

Carmela Puccio
Headteacher



KEY DATES

Please check the school website for any changes to dates

Half Term: Monday, 27th October to Friday, 31st October 2025

Monday, 3 rd November 2025	Return to school: 8.45am
Monday, 3 rd November 2025	Individual and sibling photos
Monday 3 rd November 2025	Other Faiths Week
Friday, 7 th November 2025	PSFA Disco (details to follow)
Tuesday, 11 th November 2025	Act of Remembrance
Friday, 14 th November 2025	Children in Need – non-uniform day
Thursday, 20 th November 2025	Year 2 Stevenage Museum workshop in school
Friday, 28 th November 2025	EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Nativity: 9:30am in the school hall
Wednesday, 3 rd December 2025	Year 6 Advent Service at Westminster Cathedral
Thursday, 4 th December 2025	Advent Mass: 9:30am in the school hall. Confession for Yr 4-6
Tuesday, 9 th December 2025	Travelling Theatre in school – Christmas jumpers can be worn
Tuesday, 9 th December 2025	Year 5&6 Carol Concert: 6:30pm at St. Hilda's Church
Friday, 12 th December 2025	Key Stage 1 Christmas play: 9:30am in the school hall
Wednesday, 17 th December 2025	Christmas Dinner day (Reception – Year 6)
Friday, 19 th December 2025	Finish for Christmas break: 1:15pm

Christmas Break: Monday 22nd December to Friday, 2nd January 2026

Monday, 5 th January 2026	Return to school: 8.45am
Future dates	
Tuesday 17 th March 2026	Year 3&4 Easter Play: 9:30am in the school hall
Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Parent Consultations: 1:15pm – 7:30pm



ANGUS STEAKHOUSE Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm	IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am
ASDA Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend	LAS IGUANAS Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App
ASK ITALIAN Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays	MARCO PIERRE WHITE Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend
BELLA ITALIA Children eat for £1 with any adult main	MORRISONS Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend
BILLS Kids Eat Free weekdays, 27th - 31st October 2025	PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day
BREWDOG 1 Kid eats free with 1 adult. Scotland 13th - 17th Oct England & Wales 27th - 31st Oct	PREMIER INN 2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast
BURGER KING From 13th Oct - 2nd Nov, Kids Eat Free (via app)	PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult
CHIKITO Kids eat FREE Daily 27th - 31 st October	PUREZZA Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal
COCONUT TREE Kids eat FREE Daily Mon 27 th Oct - Sun 9 th Nov 2025	SA BRAINS PUBS Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays
DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch	SIZZLING PUBS Kids eat for £1. Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm
FARMHOUSE INNS 2 Kids eat free From Mon 6 th - Fri 17 Oct (Scotland) & Fri 17 th - Fri 31 Oct (England & Wales).	TABLE TABLE 2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult
FLAMING GRILL 1 Kids eats free, Mon 13 th - 20 th Oct (Scotland) & Mon 20 th - Fri 31 Oct (England & Wales)	TGI FRIDAYS Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)
FUTURE INNS Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal	THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend
GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day	TRAVELODGE 2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast
HUNGRY HORSE 2 Kids eat free From Mon 6 th - Fri 17 Oct (Scotland) & Fri 17 th - Fri 31 Oct (England & Wales).	WHITBREAD INNS 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast
	YOI SUSHI Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

♥ NOVEMBER POP UP EVENTS ♥

Coats 4 Kids

**FREE PRELOVED WINTER COATS
FOR FAMILIES IN NEED.
ZERO COST. ZERO JUDGEMENT.**

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 9:30AM - 10:30AM
KAOTIC ANGELS FOOD RESCUE, LYTTON PLAYERS,
VARDON ROAD, STEVENAGE SG1 5PZ

WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 12PM - 2PM
FOODSHED, UNIT 1 - THE ORBITAL CENTRE,
COCKERELL CLOSE, STEVENAGE SG1 2NB

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 3PM - 6PM
ARLESEY VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, ARLESEY SG15
6SN - ARLESEY CHRISTMAS FAIR

PLEASE DONATE YOUR COATS TO YOUR LOCAL FIRESTATION
STEVENAGE, HITCHIN, LETCHWORTH/BALDOCK OR ROYSTON

✉ **FOR URGENT COAT REQUESTS PLEASE EMAIL LAURAHHAZELTON@GMAIL.COM**
CALL 07950 403823 OR POP ME A MESSAGE ON FACEBOOK

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