

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 22nd May 2026

Dear Parents

It has been wonderful to finally enjoy some sunshine this half term and make use of the school field again. I could hear the cheer from my office on the first day the children were able to go onto the field, which says it all! It has been lovely to see children of all ages (including our Nursery children!) playing together and making the most of the space. Although it has been a short half term of just six weeks, we have managed to fit in an incredible amount and there has been so much to celebrate across the school.

Congratulations Year 6!

I would like to congratulate our wonderful Year 6 children for the fantastic way they approached their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) last week. They showed great resilience, maturity and determination throughout, and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them. The children approached the tests with confidence and a positive attitude, truly giving their best. The papers have now been sent off for marking and we look forward to receiving the results.

That said, SATs are only one small part of the picture. They do not capture the many achievements, personal growth and successes our Year 6 children have shown throughout this year and across their time at our school. You have been a wonderful group, and we are very proud of you all!

Looking ahead, our Year 4 children will soon complete their Multiplication Tables Check, and our Year 1 children will take part in their phonics assessments later this term.

Finally, I would like to thank our dedicated staff team for their continued hard work in preparing the children. Their commitment ensures that learning is engaging and meaningful, while supporting our pupils to grow in confidence and live out our school values each day.

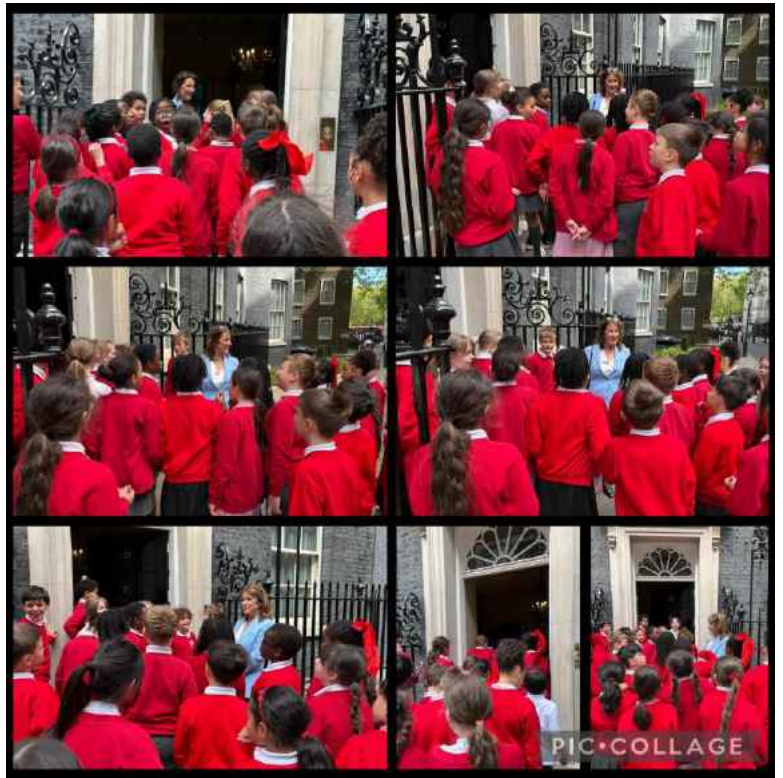
First Holy Communion Celebrations

A very special congratulations to our Year 3 children who have recently made their First Holy Communion. This is a significant and joyful milestone in their faith journey, and we are incredibly proud of the reverence and commitment they have shown throughout their preparation. Thank you also to families for your support and dedication in helping the children reach this important moment. We look forward to celebrating further as our Year 3 children lead our Corpus Christi Procession wearing their First Holy Communion outfits next half term (weather permitting).



Out and About!

We have had a very busy and exciting half term for school trips, and I am always incredibly proud to hear the positive feedback we receive about our children when they are out in the community. Visitors consistently comment on their excellent behaviour and the way they represent our school so well. This term, Year 4 visited Bhaktivedanta Manor, Year 3 enjoyed a trip to Celtic Harmony, Reception explored Knebworth House, and Year 5 had a fantastic visit to London, including Shrek's Adventure, the Sea Life Centre and a stop outside 10 Downing Street. This year was made even more memorable when we had the unexpected opportunity to meet Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who kindly invited us in for an impromptu visit - an experience the children (and staff!) will not forget!



Wear Green Day

Thank you to everyone who supported our Eco Committee's recent "Wear Green Day." It was wonderful to see the children embracing the theme and contributing towards improving our prayer garden, helping us to further develop this special reflective space within our school grounds. This initiative is closely linked to Pope Leo XIV's proclamation that 2026 will be a Special Franciscan Jubilee Year to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. It has provided a meaningful opportunity for our children to understand that faith is not only something we learn about, but something we live out each day through our actions. Through this, we continue to encourage our children to care for creation, show kindness and promote peace within our school community.

Culture Day

Our Culture Day was a wonderful celebration of the diversity within our school community, led by our PSFA and volunteer parents who worked incredibly hard to plan and run their own stalls representing their culture and heritage. The event continues to grow year on year, and this year we were delighted to host it as a full-day experience, with parents investing significant time and effort in selecting meaningful items and activities for their tables. It was particularly lovely to see so many children proudly wearing clothing and colours that reflected their own cultures, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere throughout the day.



Some highlights this half term:

- PSFA led Culture Day – huge thank you to parents who volunteered their time for this wonderful event!
- Year 5 & 6 football team were runners up in the league – huge well done!
- PGL parent meeting
- Bridgebuilders Assembly
- Year 3 Stevenage Museum visit
- PSFA Coffee Morning

- Maria (Year 5) won Stevenage FC's "Design a Programme Cover" competition as part of their Junior Boro Takeover Day!
- Year 1 Commonwealth Champions sessions
- Year 5 and 6 Cybercrime and awareness session led by Herts Police
- Our chicks have been a much-loved addition to school life this term, giving the children the opportunity to observe new life up close and learn about growth, care and responsibility.
- New Nursery and Reception for September 2026 meeting
- Vending Machine winners
- Year 4 water safety workshop
- Football and netball league and friendly matches



A message from Mrs King, our Chair of Governors

I would like to thank Miss Puccio and the entire staff team for their continued hard work this term. There has been so much taking place across the school, and the Instagram page provides a wonderful reflection of this, enabling us all to celebrate and share in these achievements.

This term, the governors have focused on the academy transfer to the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust (DOWAT). A series of steering group meetings have been held to consider the legal aspects of the process, and progress continues to be positive. We remain on track for conversion to academy status on 1 September 2026.

We also had the pleasure of meeting the parents and carers of our next nursery and reception cohort who start with us in September. We warmly welcome them to our school community and wish them all the best for a smooth transition.

As always governors would like to thank you all for your continued support and partnership which ensures St Margaret's is a thriving community to be part of and we hope you have a blessed and restful half term break.

Attendance and Lateness

While the Local Authority attendance figure currently stands at 96%, we have decided to set ourselves a higher target of 97%, reflecting our commitment to excellent attendance and learning. Our current whole school attendance figure since September is 96.5%. 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
94.6%	96.5%	96.5%	96.3%	96.8%	97.3%	97.1%	96.5%

*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 promptly. Thank you for your cooperation!***

Message from the PSFA

The half term sees us finalising plans for our Summer Fete - we have games, face painting, an ice cream van and food stalls. We have even more inflatables than last year and will be pre-selling tickets again from Monday 15th June. We are still looking for volunteers for our stalls so if you can help please let us know.

Another way you can support is with Match-Funding; find out if your employer will help match funds raised on the day with a simple form.

This half term we held a coffee morning, provided "First Day" packs to the new parents with children starting their journey in September and helped welcome them at the New Parent meeting.



We held our third Culture Day which was a full day event for the children to learn about different cultures. The children saw different clothing, games, treats from the different countries and even got to make pizza and pasta. It was wonderful to see them enjoy themselves.

Next half term is a busy one and we are looking forward to all the fun activities planned; ice cream sales, donut sales, a colour run and so much more. Keep an eye out for information on our new, updated notice board (on the infant playground), our Facebook page or the WhatsApp community.

Don't forget to get your Father's Day slips in!

Thank you, as always for your continued support.

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.

Stay connected and get a glimpse of school life by following us on Instagram @stmargaretclytherow

I hope you all have a peaceful and relaxing half term holiday.

Yours sincerely

Carmela Puccio
Headteacher

Important Dates this term

Fri, 23rd May

Finish for Half Term at 3:15pm

Half Term

Mon, 25th May - Fri, 29th May

Monday 1st June

INSET DAY – no school for children

Wednesday 3rd – Friday 5th June

Year 6 PGL residential trip

Friday 5th June

PSFA Donut sale & World Cup sweepstake

Monday 8th June

Year 5 Taster Day at JHN

Tuesday 9th June

Year 1 trip to Hertfordshire Zoo

Wednesday 10th June

Year 6 Crucial Crew trip (PM)

Thursday 11th June

PSFA Father's Day Market

Friday 12 th June	PSFA rainbow raffle coloured non-uniform day
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 5 and 6 Athletics Festival for selected children
Thursday 18 th June	Year 2 trip to Woburn
Saturday 20 th June	PSFA Summer Fete 12pm-3pm
Tuesday 23 rd June	Cello and violin assembly 2:30pm (invite only)
Thursday 25 th June	Corpus Christi 9:30am on the school field – all welcome
Friday 26 th June	Whole school Sports Day – 9:30am on the field
Friday 26 th June	PSFA summer term competition ends
Tuesday 30 th June	Year 6 Herts Farming Day
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass - 9:30am in the hall
Friday 3 rd July	School reports to parents
Friday 3 rd July	Year 4 at SJHN Community Mass (AM)
Thursday 9 th July	Secondary Transfer and Moving Up Day
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 2 Feast Day non-uniform day
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Play – 6:30pm in the hall
Wednesday 15 th July	PSFA Colour Run
Thursday 16 th July	Year 1 Feast Day non-uniform (feast day in the summer holidays)
Friday 17 th July	Break up for the summer holidays at 1:15pm! 😊
Tuesday 1 st September	INSET DAY – no school for children
Wednesday 2 nd September	Return to school at 8:45am (Reception – Year 6)