

# ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher:  
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Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

## Welcome to Reception Class

I, Mrs Cooper (*Class Teacher*), am delighted to welcome you to Reception class this year. I'd like to introduce to you Miss Roberstson and Mrs Ridgers-Latif (*Teaching Assistants*) who support our class at different times during the day. Music sessions on a Wednesday afternoon are led by Mrs Newham (*Music lead in school*). On Friday morning, Reception have PE with the Rising Stars team. Remember to come into school wearing PE kits on that day.

## Life in Reception Class

Your children are settling extremely well into life at school and are quickly learning the routines and systems we have set up in class. They are learning to put their book bags into the lockers and find their early work task. Our EYFS uniform has changed this year, so bare this in mind when buying new items for school. *See original pack from Induction evening in May.* Old uniform can be worn until it becomes too small. Please also ensure the children have a raincoat in school every day as much of our learning takes place outside. Wellies can be kept in school if your child prefers their own. Please send in a change of underwear, socks and joggers **in a small, labelled bag** to keep in school as accidents and spillages do happen! If items are borrowed from school, return them as soon as possible as we do not have many spares. Encouraging your children to put on, and take off, their shoes, jumpers and coats independently will support their sense of self-esteem at school too. Please **LABEL ALL** clothing and property including shoes. The children can get upset if they can't find their own things or someone else takes it by accident. Book bags should be in school every day as there are often 'special pictures to show' as well as letters, books and activities from school to be taken home.

## Reading

Learning to read as well as developing a great love for reading is a cornerstone of our curriculum at St Margaret Clitherow School, and we follow the Little Wandle phonics scheme. To find out more, please do read the information at:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Your children will bring a variety of books to share at home. During the week, they will bring home a 'sharing book' from the school library. We would not expect your child to read this book independently, although they may be able to spot letters learned in class or read some of it. This is a book to share and enjoy with an adult. You can read it to your child or share the reading with them or even just spend a few minutes discussing what you like about the book. Later this half term, on Wednesdays, your child will bring home a book that they have practiced reading several times in school. Please celebrate the reading skills they have shown while reading this book and then return this book on Friday when another decoding book will be sent home to be shared. More information will follow to support reading at home.

## Communication

Starting school is a very busy time and there is lots of new information to learn. If you have a question or need to pass on a message in the morning, a written note is best as welcoming and

settling the children is our focus at that time. However, we are available every afternoon to speak to you and answer any questions ... or just to say "hello!" and catch up. Please be patient, if you do wish to meet, as staff will need to dismiss the children from class first. Remember to regularly check your emails for dates of events coming up in school. The website and social media are also great ways to see what is happening in school.

**Remember...**

This is an exciting, emotional, and enjoyable time in the life of your child and your family. It is an exhausting time too, so your child may not want to talk about their day very much and will need time at home to rest and recuperate. Come and speak to the Reception team if you have any queries about your child's day...however large or small your comment is. We appreciate feedback too!

We are very much looking forward to working with your child and your family to make this first year in full time education a successful one.

Yours,

Mrs Claire Cooper  
Class teacher