



# Autumn Term Newsletter

Number 427 – 13th October 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

We are almost at the end of this half-term and the weeks seem to just flown by. We have been very busy at St Margaret Clitherow School and so many wonderful things have been happening. We also have a very busy schedule for the next half-term so please keep an eye out on the School Jotter for all upcoming dates to ensure that you don't miss out.

## New Site Manager

We are delighted to welcome Miss Kareena Kelly as our site manager who will be on site every day up till 2.15pm. Mr White will still continue to cover the afternoon sessions. I am sure you will all make her feel very welcome.

## Maths Week

Next week is maths week at St Margaret Clitherow School. We have a whole school focus on shape and many wonderful and exciting lessons have been planned to teach children more about this topic.

## RSE information session for parents

This will take place on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October** in the school hall at 2.30pm. Please do attend to find out more how we teach Relationship and Sex Education in our school. This is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions.

## Reception Tie-ing In Assembly

On **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 11:00am**, we will officially welcome our new Reception Class children to our school. Fr Albert will lead the celebration and we hope that as many parents as possible will join us on this special occasion.

## Gordon Brown Trip

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November Year 6 will go on a residential trip to The Gordon Brown Centre. I know that they are very much looking forward to this and we hope that the weather will be kind to us. Please use the half term to get organised for the trip. Also, please remember to return any outstanding medical forms by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

## Coffee Morning for The Friends of St Margaret Clitherow

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October the Friends of St Margaret Clitherow will host a coffee morning in the school hall. We hope to see lots of parents there. It will be an opportunity to welcome the new parents to our school. The Friends of St Margaret Clitherow play a very important role in supporting the school with organising events and fundraising. If you would like to join in this wonderful organisation, please come along on Friday.

## Phonic Workshop for Parents of children in Reception and Year 1

On **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** a workshop will take place in the school hall for parents of children in Reception. It will take place at **2:15pm** and should not take more than 30 minutes. We strongly advise that you come along to this workshop to help you understand more about how we teach phonics in school and how you can help support your child in their reading and writing at home to ensure that they can reach their full potential.

A workshop for Year 1 will take place on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 2:15pm**.

## Open Evening

Letters will be going out after half term inviting you to a meeting with your class teacher. These meetings will take place on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November** and **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November**. Please keep an eye out for this as it is very important that you attend.

Should you have any queries please contact us on: [admin@clitherow.brent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@clitherow.brent.sch.uk)  
[ihath@clitherow.brent.sch.uk](mailto:ihath@clitherow.brent.sch.uk) or [bnolan@clitherow.brent.sch.uk](mailto:bnolan@clitherow.brent.sch.uk)



# News Items



## **Black History Month**

Throughout October, the children have been learning more about Black History. All classes have been learning about various important events and notable individuals from Black History. While black history is celebrated year-round, Black History Month is marked annually. It recognises and values the inspirational individuals and events that have shaped our world. During Black History Month we remember and celebrate the important people from the past and also those who contribute to and help our society today. Although, it goes without saying, these are histories and lives that must be recognised and valued throughout the year; October is a special time when we acknowledge them nationwide. Some of the topics covered and activities so far have included, assemblies and lessons, focusing on key black historical figures, African stories, racism, segregation and the slave trade, African art.

## **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Please note that the school will be closed on this date. All staff will go to St Gregory's Catholic Science College to attend training as part of our Academy Trust.

## **EWO**

We were delighted to welcome our Education Welfare Officer for Brent, Carol White, to our school this week. We are concerned about absence levels and also late arrivals and pick up at the end of the day. We will be working closely with Carol to address these issues.

## **PE**

Please ensure that your child wears the school jogging bottoms for PE as this lesson takes place outdoors and the weather is now much colder; shorts are no longer appropriate. Children are not permitted to wear tights under shorts as this is not hygienic.

## **Contact numbers/ Medical/Dietary Updates**

Please ensure that the office has the most up to date contact numbers so that we can update your records. It is extremely important that we have three numbers that enable us to contact you in case of emergency. Make sure that you provide us with any updates on your child/ren's medical conditions or dietary requirements.

## **Considerate Parking**

I am getting quite a lot of complaints from the local residents. Parents are parking across the resident driveways and at times this has caused extreme difficulty where residents have been unable to access or leave their drive. Residents also report that parents are being rude when they are asked to move or not park there. I appreciate you think that you won't be long but please do not block their driveways. We would like to continue to have a good relationship with our local residents.

## **Uniform-**

Now that the weather is getting colder, please ensure that your child is wearing a coat to school. School coats need to be in school colours of black or navy. All parents have signed a home school agreement to follow the school requirement for uniform. If people persist in ignoring this, you will be asked to have a meeting with the Chair of Governors to discuss this. Also, please ensure that you have labelled all items of uniform. We have an abundance of uniform items which have not been labelled. We will put them out in the hall next Friday at the coffee morning.

## **Secondary School Applications**

The deadline for secondary school applications is fast approaching. All secondary school applications must be submitted online to Brent by the deadline of **31 October 2023**.

Your child is less likely to be offered a place at their chosen schools if you miss the deadline for applications. I include the link below to further information on the Brent website. <https://www.brent.gov.uk/education-schools-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-schoolplace#planandprepare>

Remember that if you are applying for a place in a Catholic School, you also need to complete the school's SIF (supplementary information form) available from the secondary schools. If unsure, please ask us. If you need any support with the application, please let us know. We are always happy to help.

Have a lovely weekend and thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Heath



# News Items



**Children who have been awarded certificates w/e 13/10/2023**

**Year 1 - Eric, Laura**

**Year 2 - Andra, Mia G**

**Year 3 - Melany, Malachy**

**Year 4 - Blanca, Ricky**

**Year 5 - Zuzanna, Emmanuel**

**Year 6 - Nela, Lacey-Ann**

**Chaplin Award- Eric Y1, Eduard Y3**

## Class Saints Day

**The children can wear their own clothes and celebrate their Saint.**

**Reception: St Francis of Assisi – 4th October**

**Year 1: St Patrick – 17th March**

**Year 2: St David – 1st March**

**Year 3: St Andrew – 30th November**

**Year 4: St George – 23rd April**

**Year 5: St Vincent De Paul – 27th September**

**Year 6: St Martin de Porres – 3rd November**

## FORTHCOMING DATES

16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	RSE Parent Information Meeting @2.30pm in the School Hall
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Reception Tie-ing In Assembly 11.00am
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	9.00 am Coffee Morning for parents organised by Friends of St Margaret's – School Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Half Term
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Reception Phonic Workshop @ 2.15pm – School Hall
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	School closed-ACADEMY DAY
6 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Yar 6 trip to Gordon Brown Centre
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 Phonic Workshop @ 2.15pm
13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Kittle Photographer in Open Evening
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Open Evening
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Last day of Autumn Term</b>
<b>Please check out the calendar on the jotter for dates and times of events.</b>	

## ATTENDANCE WEEK COMMENCING 2nd to 6th Oct 2023

Year 1 – 98.7%  
Year 2 – 99%  
Year 3 – 90%  
Year 4 – 95.8%  
Year 5 – 95.6%  
Year 6 – 96%  
Whole school overall – 95.9%

## ATTENDANCE WEEK COMMENCING 9th to 13th Oct 2023

Year 1 – 95.7%  
Year 2 – 94.5%  
Year 3 – 96.1%  
Year 4 – 95.5%  
Year 5 – 94.3%  
Year 6 – 97.7%  
Whole school overall – 95.6%

# Every school day counts. Every lesson counts.

We are regularly reminding parents and carers about the importance of pupil attendance and punctuality. This half term we have seen a growing number of pupils reporting as absent from school and with no recorded reason. At St Margaret Clitherow's, we are committed to encouraging and supporting parents in ensuring their children achieve maximum possible attendance and that any problems that prevent this are identified and acted on promptly.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, it is important that the school is informed by 9am. Failure to do so, will mean we will want to speak with you about any unauthorised absence. You are committing an offence if your child misses school regularly because of unauthorised absences. This will result in Our Education Welfare Service (EWS) making contact with families inviting them to attend a formal meeting to discuss your child/ren persistency absence record.

The EWS has legal powers to give parents:

- a formal warning
- an Education Penalty Notice - a £120 fine which is reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days
- an Education Supervision Order
- a Parenting Order.
- in very serious cases the EWS will prosecute.

We have also seen a drop in some pupils' punctuality this term where pupils are arriving to school after 9am. The school gates will close promptly at **8.50am**. Families arriving after this time are officially late and must report to the school office to sign the lateness book. Learning starts at 8.50am for all pupils and therefore it is important that your child/ren are on time and punctual every day. The school operates a 'Soft Start' where the gates are open from 8:30am allowing for 20 minutes before the official start of the day. This supports pupils to settle and prepare themselves for a full day of learning.

From the Autumn term, the EWO (Education Welfare Officer) will be making unannounced visits to the school and will be present on the school gate. She has already made her first visit this week.

Should families be late, the EWO will be talking directly with you.

To avoid this, **PLEASE BE ON TIME!**

**Please work with the school to ensure that your child/ren have**





## School Prayer Focus

### October 2023

October falls during the liturgical season known as Tempus per Annum or Ordinary Time (formerly Time After Pentecost), which is represented by the liturgical colour green. Green is a symbol of hope, as it is the colour of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The liturgical colour green is worn during the praying of Offices and celebration of Masses of Ordinary Time.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> October we celebrate the Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels. Each person on earth has a guardian angel who watches over them and helps them to attain their salvation. Angels are servants and messengers from God. "Angel" in Greek means messenger. In unseen ways the angels help us on our earthly pilgrimage by assisting us in work and study, helping us in temptation and protecting us from physical danger.



October also marks Black History Month, remember to show respect and acceptance to everyone, just as Jesus would. In our school family we will be marking Black History Month in class and as a school. Look out in your classrooms and newsletter for more information and events as we move into October.

### Tolerance

This month please talk to your children about the value of Tolerance. Tolerance means appreciating and respecting the differences in people.

- I can be tolerant.



# the Rosary Challenge!

WWW.FIRSTSATURDAY.CO.UK

## Joyful Mysteries



The  
Annunciation



The  
Visitation



The  
Nativity



The  
Presentation



The finding in  
the Temple

## Luminous Mysteries



The Baptism



The wedding  
at Cana



Preaching of  
the Kingdom



The  
Transfiguration



The institution  
of the Eucharist

## Sorrowful Mysteries



The agony in  
the garden



The scourging  
at the pillar



The crowning  
of thorns



Jesus carries  
the cross



The  
crucifixion

## Glorious Mysteries



The  
Resurrection



The  
Ascension



The descent  
of the Spirit



The  
Assumption



The crowning  
of Mary