



ST MARGARET CLITHEROW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

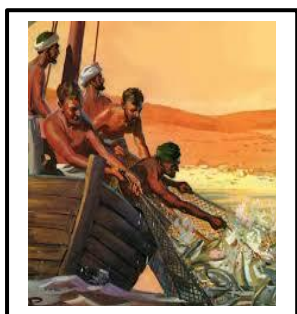
www.stmargaretclitherowschool.org.uk

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**Learning for life, loving God
Ourselves and others
Valuing all of His creation
Enabling us to do our best**

NEWSLETTER No 30 - 6 May 2025

Reflection



This week we are celebrating our ongoing friendship with the risen Jesus. Through the Gospel story of Jesus sharing a miraculous breakfast with His disciples, we learnt that we can trust Jesus to provide for our needs - because He loves us!
'Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some."' John 21:5-6

THIS WEEK



Blessed Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, I come to you with a heart full of gratitude for your unwavering love and for your role as compassionate advocate. Thank you for your obedience and your faith in Jesus, which has led to countless blessings for humanity.

OUR NEW POPE



Yesterday on the 8th May, after just two days of voting in the conclave, white smoke appeared from the chimney above the Sistine Chapel and the bells rang out, signalling that a new pope had been elected. Cardinal Robert Prevost has been elected as the 266th Successor of Saint Peter and he will be taking the name 'Pope Leo XIV'. He has chosen the name Leo. The last pope with this name was Pope Leo XIII, over one hundred years ago, whose work was the basis for Catholic Social Teaching. A big part of our Catholic life teaching in school.

He is the first pope from North America and the first pope who is a member of the Augustinian religious order. As we celebrate this Year of Jubilee when we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope, we give thanks that Pope Leo will continue to speak up for those who are poor or marginalised in our world. In his first speech, Pope Leo said, 'We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs his light. Humanity needs Christ as a bridge to be reached by God and his love. Help us, and help each other, build bridges.'

NATIONAL OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY - THURSDAY 8 MAY

Yesterday we celebrated National Outdoor Classroom day. Every child had the opportunity to take part in a timetable of events organised by Mrs Lucas. There was landscape sketching, pond observations, sporting events and painting taking place utilising the wonderful outdoor space that we have at school. We were lucky to have 15 Tonbridge Angels Academy team players join us to help with the day. Thank you to them for their enthusiasm and support. The children had a great day taking their learning outside and enjoying all our wonderful grounds.



VE DAY

Yesterday marked 80 years since the end of WWII in Europe. The war had been raging for almost five years when US and Allied Forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France on 6 June 1944. The invasion signalled the beginning of the end for Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. In less than a year, Germany would surrender. We marked this celebration with various activities in class and a two-minute silence across the school. ARC held an afternoon picnic tea for the children, which included cheese and cucumber sandwiches. They all loved being part of this special celebration!



PARKING ON SITE

We have noticed a significant increase in parents wanting to drive on site to drop off children who are late for school. I would like to remind you that **ONLY** parents with specific agreement from me can drive on site to drop off or collect at the beginning and end of the school day. If you are late bringing children to school, you will need to park in the street and walk down the drive. If you need to park on site for a medical reason, please email me for permission. Parents who have permission should use the top car park only and walk down the path, please don't walk across the grassed area. Thank you.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This week my **Headteacher Awards** go to: Humphrey & Joshua (Rec), Leo & Alentina (Yr1), Cassie & Pacey (Yr2), Martha & Connor (Yr3), Joe & Mila (Yr4), Lyra & Edward (Yr5) and Harry & Arthur (Yr6). Well done to each of these winners for showing their aspirations to learn and be great role models. We are very proud of you all.



STAFF OUTDOOR SEATING AREA

You may have noticed our new seating area near the top car park. This is an area that has been generously supported by the Governors for the sole use of our staff. It is a wellbeing/mental health area that is so important for our staff and will be used for meetings, lunch breaks or quiet reflection. Please may I ask that parents/visitors **do not** use this area or walk on the grassed area/bank. Thank you.

SCHOOL DRIVE

We continue to have parents and children using the driveway to walk into and home from school. A member of staff was parking when children ran in front of her car! Please keep children with you at all times and use the path to enter and exit the school grounds. We appreciate it does get busy, but it is the safest route to keep all concerned safe.

OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS

We have many families that have outstanding balances on Parentpay. We would very much appreciate it if you could check your account and make any outstanding payments as soon as possible. Thank you.

ADVANCE NOTICES

SMC HOLIDAY CLUB

We are very excited to be able to offer parents a Holiday Club from Monday 21 July to 1 August 2025. Further details and booking information will be sent out before the half term.

Year 5/6 catch up swimming, for those children whose parents have signed them up, will start on Monday 12 May for two weeks.

We will be holding our next Parent Prayer group on Wednesday 14 May at 3pm. All welcome, please sign in at the office.

The Year 4 trip to Port Lympne Safari Zoo will take place on Monday 19 May, please consent via Parentpay to enable your child to attend.

There will be a swimming gala taking place on 20 May at Tonbridge school. Letters have been given to those children in Year 5/6 who have been selected to take part.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Overall attendance to date: 94.95%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

You can also find more events on our school calendar:

[Calendar | St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School \(stmargaretclitherowschool.org.uk\)](https://stmargaretclitherowschool.org.uk)

12 May - Yr6 SATs (Standard Assessment Tests)

12 & 19 May - Catch up swimming (Yr5 and Yr6)

19 May - Year 4 trip

20 May - Swimming Gala

21 May - Police talk (Rec and Yr5/6)

22 May - Vision tests (Rec) - NHS

22 May - Yr5/6 Mixed Tag rugby

23 May - Yr 1-6 Colour run

Fiona Oubridge
Headteacher

A Prayer for our new Pope

Almighty God,
we give thanks for the gift of Pope Leo.
May he witness faithfully to the Gospel,
leading with humility and compassion
and inspiring all people to be pilgrims of hope.

Amen.