



ST MARGARET CLITHEROW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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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 17 - 16 January 2026

Reflection



This week we looked at Jesus' Baptism. It was a beautiful event that made a bold statement - He is God's Son! In prayer and liturgy this week, we reflected on the fact that we are invited to follow Jesus' example of baptism and make a bold statement for God in how we live our lives. In Baptism we are invited to be with God the father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

THIS WEEK

It has been a very busy start to the new term with lots of activities taking place, accompanied by very wet weather! However, the children have showed their resilience and fortitude by working hard during lessons and adapting to the ever changing weather at play/lunch times. It is important that children spend time outside to run around, play and have some breaks from their learning, so we do try to get the children out as often as possible. There are times however they do need to stay indoors. With this in mind, we do as that you please ensure your child/ren have appropriate outdoor coats/hats/gloves with them each day. A spare pair of socks in their school bag would be a good idea as the playground does hold water following rainfall.

This week's activities

A group of Year 5 girls were invited to a Science morning at the Weald of Kent on Monday. They took part in experiments, led by Year 12 students, had a tour of the school and finished with home made cookies and drinks in the canteen before returning to school. Thank you Mrs Greenhalgh for supporting the girls.





Early Years had their winter seasonal walk on Tuesday. It was raining and muddy but this did not dampen their spirits! Thank you to the many parents that were able to join us on this trip and endure the wet weather, we are very appreciative of your time!

They also had a visit from Mrs Folkes who brought baby Jasmine into meet the children. This ties into their learning about 'new life'. Thank you Mrs Folkes for taking the time to come in and talk to us. The children were very engaged.



This year is National Year of Reading so it was a great link for our Year 2 classes who walked down to the local library, where they were treated to a story and the opportunity to borrow some books to take home. The children were very good ambassadors for our school, (we even had a member of the public phone up to compliment them) by listening and following instructions beautifully. We would like to thank the parents helpers who joined us on the trips, we appreciate your support.





Father, may Your goodness crown this month. May January be filled with unexpected blessings, long awaited answers, and peace that surpasses understanding. May Your favour rest on each day, and may the end of this year reflect greater glory than its beginning. Amen.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Staffing

I am pleased to inform you that Miss Johnston is expecting a baby in May and will be going on maternity leave in April. We will let you know details of her classroom cover in due course. We are very excited for her and her Fiancé and wish them both lots of joy during their baby journey!

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Mrs Lucas is leaving St Margaret's next Friday to further her skills and career. Whilst with us, she has set up and developed our wonderful outdoor area, often working weekends to enhance the amazing space for all the children to enjoy. Her dedication and devotion to the children has been evident in all that she has done. We will also miss her unwavering commitment to our football teams, particularly the girl's team that have grown in numbers and ability! She will be sorely missed but we hope you join us in wishing her the very best in her new role and I'm sure we will see her again at football events! Thank you Mrs Lucas!

This week my **Headteacher Awards** go to: Charlotte H & Oliver H (Rec), Nia C & Phineas D (Yr1), Isla F & Ella W (Yr2), Ava R & Ellis W (Yr3), Zahara P & Alice N (Yr4), Thomas McF & Henry H (Yr5) and Lyra T & Gracie R (Yr6). These children have made a great start to the new term by being positive learners and great friends. Well done!



As previously mentioned, the weather is wetter and colder, please ensure children are wearing appropriate school uniform/PE kit and outdoor attire, which is named! We have a large amount of lost property waiting to be collected from the storage box outside the school office. Any unclaimed items will be recycled.

Reception Class Parent/Teacher Consultations

There is still time for you to book your parent/teacher consultation with your child's class teacher if you have not yet done so. Please contact the school office if you need any help. The bookings close end of day on Tuesday.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Big Bird Watch

The Big Garden Birdwatch is taking place between 23-25 January 2026.

Across the UK, over 590,000 people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2025, counting a whopping 9.1 million birds! The Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

How to take part?

Spend an hour watching the birds in an area. It can be from your window, balcony, garden or local park area, anytime between 23 and 25 January, and record the birds that land in one hour.

Tell the RSPB what you saw (even if that's nothing at all)! You can submit your results online, www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or by post Freepost RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch by 17 February 2026. For more information please visit the RSPB's website. Have fun and enjoy a moment in nature!

Consultations Appointments

This term the following consultation meetings will be taking place:

- Wednesday 21 January - Parent/Teacher consultations for Reception Classes
- Wednesday 25 February - Personalised Plan/Consultation meetings - Any child with a Personalised plan (please note you will only need to attend this meeting and not the following Parent/Teacher consultations)
- Tuesday 3rd to Friday 6th March - Parent/Teacher consultations (Yr1-Yr6)

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Overall attendance to date: 95.13%

Dates for your diary

You can also find more details on our school calendar:

<https://www.stmargaretclitherschool.org.uk/Parents/Calendar/>

Wed 21 Jan - Reception Class Parent/Teacher Consultations

Wed 21 Jan - Football match away to Cage Green

Thur 22 Jan - Girls football tournament (4pm-6pm)

Fri 23 Jan - Boys football tournament (9-12pm)

Mon 26 Jan - Netball match away to Plaxtol (3.30pm)

Wed 28 Jan - Rec and KS1 Perform Workshop

Wed 28 Jan - KS1 Physical Literacy event

Fiona Oubridge
Headteacher

As you pray together do think of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.