



St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School

We act with love, build our faith and grow as people
"Let all that you do be done in love" - 1 Corinthians 16:14

Newsletter 17th October 2025

A message from the Headteacher - Mrs Mulholland

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic few weeks it has been at St Margaret Clitherow! We were so delighted to celebrate our Harvest Assembly last week, which was a truly joyful occasion. Thank you all for your incredible kindness and generosity in donating so much for our Harvest collection – your support makes such a difference.

A huge thank you also for supporting our Amazon Wishlist <https://amzn.eu/1hzlgx8>. We are so grateful to our amazing community for your thoughtful purchases. In times that are challenging for schools, your generosity continues to make a real impact.

We are also thrilled to share some truly wonderful news:

Our Nursery is now officially registered with Ofsted and open!

We had a very positive registration visit on Tuesday, and our nursery children have settled in beautifully — already becoming such an important part of our school community. Our fantastic nursery team has worked so hard to make this happen, and we couldn't be prouder.

Looking ahead to next week, the weather is expected to be very changeable, so please ensure your child brings a coat every day. Finally, a quick reminder that after half-term, children will no longer be allowed to walk home alone from after-school clubs as it will be getting dark earlier. Please make sure you are able to collect them promptly at the end of their club sessions.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support, kindness, and positivity — it is truly appreciated.

With warmest wishes,
Anne Mulholland



School Diary

OCTOBER

- 21** School Photographer Individual and Siblings
- 23** Year 6 Cake Sale - 3:15pm
- 24** INSET Day - School Closed
- Half term holidays 27th - 31st October**
- Back to School - Monday 3rd November**

NOVEMBER

- 4** Year 6 Height and Weight Measurement
- 7** Fireworks! Gates open at 6:30pm
- 10** Odd Socks Day for Anti-bullying week
- 11** Open morning for 2026 intake 9:30am
- 12** Parents appointments 1:30pm - 7pm
- 18** Open evening for 2026 intake 7pm
- 21** PTA Pyjama Day for £1
Year 5 Cake Sale at 3:15pm

DECEMBER

- 5** PTA Christmas Activity Evening
- 8** Yrs 1, 2 and 3 Nativity 2pm
- 9** Yrs 1, 2 and 3 Nativity 9:15am
- 11** Year Reception and Nursery Nativity 9:15am
Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
- 12** Year 4 Cake Sale 3:15pm
- 16** Years 4, 5 and 6 Carol Service 5pm
- 17** Years 4, 5 and 6 Carol Service 9am





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SMC Nursery



We are absolutely thrilled to be able to share our news with everyone, following the opening of our brand-new SMC Nursery! This is such a special moment in the life of our school, and it fills us with joy to see our new nursery children settling in with smiles, laughter, curiosity, and plenty of energy! From the moment the children walked through the door, they have begun to bring warmth and wonder to our school community, and we are excited to see what memories they will make as they grow over the coming weeks. Here's to a fantastic year ahead, full of firsts, fun, and lots of learning.



Year Reception

Over the past few weeks, we've been enjoying a wonderful journey of learning and discovery! The children have been exploring the magic of autumn, noticing how the leaves change colour and fall, and talking about all the changes we can see in nature. We've loved reading the beautiful book *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert, which inspired us to design and create our own leaf men using real autumn leaves — the children's creativity really shone through! In phonics, they've made fantastic progress — listening carefully to sounds, beginning to form letters, and even starting to read and tell their own stories. We've also introduced our exciting new Drawing Club, where we use our imaginations to change parts of a story, add our own ideas, and use a secret code to help with mark making and early writing. It's been a joy to see the children so engaged, creative, and proud of their learning!





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Year 1



Year One have had a wonderfully creative and curious week in class! They have been diving into the world of animals this term and we are so impressed by the number of animal experts in our class! We have been learning how to classify animals into groups such as mammals, amphibians, birds, fish, and reptiles. We also explored what different animals eat and sorted them into herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores—a task the children particularly enjoyed. In addition, we have been learning all about humans and their bodies and the children labelled the different body parts. This week, we talked about the importance of different body parts including our amazing skeleton! Year One especially enjoyed learning about the five senses and how they help us experience the world.

Year One have been very excited to see their clay leaf sculptures come out of the kiln! Now that they are dry, we have been turning our attention to painting them. This week, we explored a variety of real leaves by collecting some from outside to create our very own leaf men. Year One created their leaf men by using PVA glue to stick different shaped leaves to create bodies, heads, arms and legs. Some children used the different parts of the leaves like the stalks to create their arms and legs. Using the colours and textures of the leaves we found, the children mixed different paints to create unique shades. Year One used thin paintbrushes to carefully paint their clay sculptures. They focused on adding detail and bringing their sculptures to life. Next week, we will be taking time to evaluate our artwork and reflect on what we have learned. We are looking forward to another exciting week of learning and creativity!



Year 2

During Maths, the children have been learning all about addition and subtraction. We have been using partitioning, number bonds, fact families, base 10 and number lines to help us. Over the last few weeks, it has been fantastic seeing how excited and engaged the children have been in our weekly Numbots awards ceremony. This app helps them to secure all the foundational knowledge of maths based around numbers, their place value and number bonds. Building automaticity around been these skills means that children can more easily and confidently understand maths and solve problems, so being able to do this in a game that is fun and engaging is really great. Children also receive 2 Marvellous Me points for achieving their weekly target of 30 mins practice, or 1 if they have completed at least half of that.

We have finished our unit on 'The Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar' in English and have now moved on to non-chronological reports with minibeasts as our focus. We are loving the link to our science unit of 'Living Things and their Habitats' and will be using our learned knowledge here to inform our writing.

In RE, we have moved on to our new unit of Catholic Social Teaching, where the children have thought about 'light' and 'dark', using their thoughts and feelings to discuss what it means that Jesus is the light of the world. They enjoyed acting 'The Feeding of the 5000' and reflecting on how this parable shows Jesus as the light of the world.

In DT, the children have been developing their sewing skills practising how to use running stitch and cross stitch and will be beginning to use these skills to stitch their own bug design bookmark which is very exciting.

In history, we have continued learning about technology over the last 60 years. The class were fascinated by some of the old technology, including the dial telephone and couldn't quite believe that there were only 3 TV channels when Mrs de Grande was their age! This week, we have learned about a famous inventor, Tim Berners Lee who brought us the world wide web and has had such a tremendous impact on the technology we use and how we use it.

The children have continued learning all about 'Living Things and their Habitats' in science. Last week, the children had a fantastic time using their observation and data recording skills to identify what conditions woodlice prefer for their microhabitats.





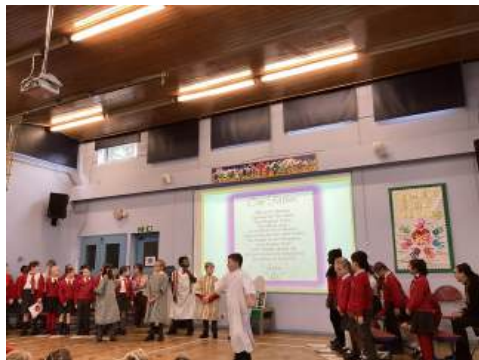
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Year 3



Year 3 have had another busy and exciting few weeks, showing great curiosity and enthusiasm across all areas of their learning.

In Maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction, developing different strategies to solve problems and improving our mental maths skills. The children have been working hard to explain their reasoning and show their understanding in different ways.

In History, we have travelled back in time to the Stone Age, exploring what life was like during the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods. The children have been fascinated to learn about how people's lives changed over time, moving from hunting and gathering to farming and settling in communities. We also began looking at the Bronze Age and the Beaker people, creating our own tiny clay pots inspired by their designs — a wonderful hands-on way to bring history to life!



In English, we have been linking our writing to our Science topic by producing non-chronological reports, using our growing knowledge of the human body to organise information and write clearly and confidently.

In RE, we have been learning about Creation and Baptism, reflecting on the beauty of the world around us and understanding the importance of belonging to God's family. The children have shared thoughtful ideas and shown a lovely sense of wonder and respect which they brought to our celebration of the word this week.

In French, we are building on our vocabulary, practising colours, numbers, and simple greetings, and the children are enjoying using their new phrases with confidence.

It has been a wonderful term of learning so far, and Year 3 continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork!





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Year 4

It's been another few busy, productive, and fun learning weeks in Year 4.

In Science, we have been investigating viscosity — testing how runny or thick different liquids are! The children enjoyed comparing how quickly various substances flowed, including two types of ketchup, washing-up liquid, and golden syrup. There was lots of excitement (and a bit of mess!) as they predicted and tested which liquid would move the fastest. Children thoroughly enjoyed melting a piece of chocolate through different ways, changing its state from solid to liquid and back to a solid again! Additionally, they loved playing the solid, liquid and gas game which helps them remember the features of the particles.

In Maths, we have been working on adding and subtracting four-digit numbers using different methods. The children are becoming more confident in explaining their reasoning and checking their answers carefully. We are also continuing to practise our times tables every week to build fluency and speedy recall of our multiplication facts.



As part of our learning for Black History Month, we have been reading and learning about inspirational people who used their voices to make a positive change. The children have enjoyed exploring a variety of stories and discussing how they, too, can use their voices to stand up for what is right.

In R.E. the children have explored different scriptures as part of our Creation topic. They've really made good links with how we are made in the image and likeness of God. They've enjoyed acting out some scriptures and thinking deeper about how they can be good stewards in the world.

I am so proud of all their efforts and how well they led us in our class Celebration of the word, thank you to all parents who could attend.

Finally, it's has been amazing to see how well they are working hard with their Swimming lessons and developing key skills. Well done Year 4, keep up the amazing work!



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Year 5



In RE, we have been exploring 'The People of God'. The children have reflected deeply on what it means to live as one of God's people and how qualities such as faith, kindness, and forgiveness help us to live out God's mission in our everyday lives. Thoughtful class discussions have helped the children connect these values to their own experiences at school and at home.

In Geography, our Rivers topic has continued to flow beautifully! The children have been carrying out fieldwork investigations, collecting and comparing data from our local river and the River Trent. Next week, we are looking forward to a hands-on activity in the playground, where we will be replicating a river system to demonstrate our understanding of features such as the source, meanders, and the mouth, bringing our learning to life in an exciting way!

In Music, we have been learning about blues rhythms and melodies. Using the glockenspiels, the children recreated a blues song by playing chords and experimenting with tempo and harmony. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and musicality grow.

Finally, Year 5 have been getting into the festive spirit early by designing their own Christmas cards! Their creativity and attention to detail have been fantastic, and we can't wait to see the finished printed versions ready to be shared and delivered in time for Christmas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, especially for your generous donations to our Harvest appeal, which will make such a difference to those in need.

Have a wonderful and restful half term break.

What a wonderful half term it has been in Year 5! We began with our Celebration of the Word, where it was lovely to see so many parents joining us. The children were eager to share their learning about our class saint, St. Raphael, and reflect on the importance of healing and guidance in our lives and within our community. It was a beautiful opportunity to come together in prayer and gratitude.

In English, we have started our new non-chronological report unit, and the children are thoroughly enjoying creating and writing about their own fictional planets. They have shown great imagination and are confidently using expanded noun phrases and adverbials to make their writing detailed and engaging. We have also been focusing on planning, note-taking, and organising information into clear sections, all essential skills for successful writing.

In Maths, our focus has been on multiples and factors. The children have been exploring patterns, identifying relationships between numbers, and challenging themselves to find multiple strategies to solve problems. Their mathematical reasoning is developing beautifully, and they are showing real perseverance when tackling more complex challenges.

In Computing, Year 5 have been working on an exciting 3D modelling unit. They have enjoyed using digital tools to design and create their own 3D houses, experimenting with shapes, patterns, and coordinates to produce accurate and creative models.





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Year 6



In Maths we have continued to work on multiplication and division; recently looking at short division. The children have worked hard to understand how you can tell if a number can be divided by another number by looking at the ones digits. They are beginning to apply this knowledge to solving word problems.

In English, we have finished our unit of Punctuation and Grammar and the children have applied this knowledge to a 'free write' activity where they were able to write in a style of their choice after watching some videos as inspiration for their writing.

Science has been extremely engaging for the children. Our unit on Living Things has taught us all about classifying different living things such as animals and plants. Today we carried out an investigation to find out if microorganisms are living creatures. In our investigation we tested yeast to see if it displayed any of the seven life processes all living things must do. It was great to listen to the children's prior knowledge of MRS GREN!

In PE, we have continued to participate in Tag Rugby with our peripatetic rugby coach. We are definitely looking forward to playing some games against other schools.

It's been a fascinating few weeks in History! Our children have been digging into the topic of Crime and Punishment across different eras, travelling all the way from the Tudor period through the Stuart and Georgian times. They've learned about how justice and laws have changed, and have been particularly excited to learn about famous highwaymen. What's even more thrilling is discovering the surprising local link these daring figures had to our own town of Bracknell! Ask your child what they've learned—they might surprise you with some tales of old!

In music, we've been busy exploring the exciting world of dynamics (how loud or quiet the music is) and pitch (how high or low the notes are). Our journey took us to the amazing Fingal's Cave, where we listened to how music can sound like crashing waves or whispering breezes. Now, we're diving into a brand-new unit all about Theme and Variation! We'll be using Pop Art—think bright colours and cool visual ideas—as our inspiration to create new and interesting versions of a simple melody. We can't wait to see how our music is inspired by art!



Marvellous Me Points Update

As a school, we are so proud of our Marvellous Me points and of the children who earn them! The Marvellous Me app has recently been bought by Juniper Education and is unfortunately no longer working as we need it to.

We want to reassure you that we are still collecting points every day in school, and the children continue to be rewarded individually, as a class, and in their houses for their achievements.

We are currently exploring new ways to share these points with parents and expect this will be through Arbor. Once we have more details, we will let you know.

In the meantime, please ask your child each day how many points they earned and what they were awarded them for — we are so proud of their hard work and love celebrating their successes!





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Next PTA meeting: Friday 21st November @7pm –PTA AGM all welcome: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86033339450...>

Keep up to date with the PTA: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Smcpta>

PROFIT RAISED YEAR-TO-DATE:



How to help us raise funds:



If you are into trying your luck and hoping to win a lottery, please support our school by buying your tickets through this link:

<https://www.bracknellforestlottery.co.uk/support/st-margaret-clitherow-catholic-primary-school-pta>



easyfundraising partners with over 7,500 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmcpta>



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Announcing:



If you would like to help us with:

- Keeping financial records
- Organising floats for events
- Helping to apply for event licenses

Please get in touch.

PTA events coming up:

Friday 17th October

Christmas artwork goes home

Thursday 23rd October

DEADLINE for orders



Thursday 23rd October: Year 6 Bake Sale





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Friday 7th November: PTA Fireworks



Support our Fireworks event:

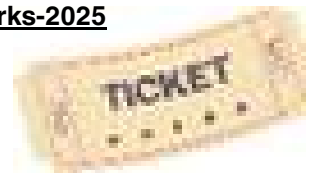
Volunteer to help on the day:
<https://volunteersignup.org/R7EE9>

Sell your wares:
<https://volunteersignup.org/TA3JL>



Buy Tickets:

<https://st-margaret-clitherow-pta.sumupstore.com/product/smc-pta-fireworks-2025>



Friday 21st November: PTA Pyjama Day



Year 5 Bake sale





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Other Information

FOOTBALL & SPORTS HOLIDAY CAMPS

AGES 4-12 YEARS OLD

5-12 YEAR OLDS
9AM - 3PM
4 YEAR OLDS
9AM - 1PM
YOUR CHOICE OF TIME

FROM £18.50 PER DAY

OUR VENUES

FOOTBALL

WOODLEY | WOODFORD PARK
BRACKNELL | GARTH HILL COLLEGE
CAVERSHAM | THAMESIDE PRIMARY
SLOUGH | CLAYCOTS SCHOOL
WOKINGHAM | FLOREAT MONTAGUE

MULTI-SPORTS

CAVERSHAM | THAMESIDE PRIMARY
WINDSOR | HILLTOP FIRST SCHOOL
WOODLEY | SOUTH LAKE PRIMARY
ABBORFIELD | FARLEY HILL PRIMARY
BRACKNELL | ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY
MAIDENHEAD | ST LUKE'S PRIMARY
SLOUGH | CLAYCOTS SCHOOL
WHITLEY | GEOFFREY FIELDS JUNIORS

WWW.U-SPORTS.CO.UK/HOLIDAY-CAMPS

Here is Easthampstead Park's Christmas Brochure....

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/easthampstead-park-christmas-brochure>

Supporting Your Children Workshops 2025 - 2026		
To book a space click on the Enrolment Link or email Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk		
Each course is a standalone 2-hour session , is universal (not specific for SEND) and for adults supporting not the children themselves so please arrange childcare if needed		
Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed		
Please only book if you are going to be able to attend to avoid other parents missing out.		
All sessions unless stated otherwise take place at The Bracknell Open Learning Centre		
Supporting Children to Overcome their Anxious Thoughts and Worries Exploring how anxiety affects children and learn simple, effective techniques to support children to overcome their Anxious Thoughts and Worries.		
Saturday 15 th November 2025	Enrolment link	10am – midday
Wednesday 14 th January 2026	Enrolment Form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 13 th April 2026	Enrolment Link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 8 th June 2026	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way A session exploring positive behaviour strategies enabling parents to gain practical tools for handling challenging behaviours with confidence and care.		
Monday 10 th November 2025	Enrolment Link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 12 th January 2026	Enrolment link	9.30 – 11.30 am
Thursday 05 th March 2026	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Thursday 23 rd April 2026	Enrolment link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Monday 22 nd June 2026	Enrolment Form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Parenting pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13) An insight into parenting, looking at positive behaviour strategies, different ways to strengthen communication / connection with your pre-teen child.		
Thursday 9 th October 2025	Enrolment Link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Parenting pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 13 – 16) A session focused on using positive approaches to guide teenage behaviour, building stronger communication and connection during the teen years.		
Monday 20 th October 2025	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back Gain practical tips, leaving you inspired and equipped to help children bounce back stronger; no matter what life throws their way		
Monday 13 th October 2025	Enrolment Link	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Transition to secondary school Gain practical tips, share experiences, and learn how to support your child through the exciting, sometimes challenging transition to secondary school.		
Monday 29 th June 2026	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Transition: Reception to Year 1 and beyond The move from Yr R to 1 is a big step in your child's learning journey. Session helps parents understand what the transition involves and how to support.		
Thursday 25 th June 2026	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
A healthy night's sleep Sleep is essential for children's wellbeing, learning, and behaviour. Get practical tips to help children build healthy, lasting sleep habits		
Thursday 6 th November 2025	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Reducing Sibling Rivalry A supportive session, to give parents and caregivers tools to strengthen sibling bonds, whilst creating a calm and connected family environment.		
Wednesday 22 nd October 2025	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Family Dynamics Family life comes in many forms, and every child deserves to feel secure / supported. Session offers practical guidance navigating varying dynamics.		
Wednesday 19 th November 2025	Enrolment form	6.30 – 8.30 pm