



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 26th September 2025

A message from the Headteacher - Mrs Mulholland

Dear parents / carers,

We begin this term with great excitement as we celebrate our Jubilee Year! St Margaret Clitherow School first opened its doors in 1976, which means we are now entering our **50th year** as a school community. This is a very special milestone, and throughout the year we will be marking the occasion in faith, learning and celebration together.

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school for the start of the new term. They have settled in so well, and new routines are quickly being established across all classes. I am especially proud of our Year 6 pupils, who have stepped up beautifully to support our new Year R children through the buddy system—what a lovely example of care and leadership.

A big thank you to all those who attended our Meet the Teacher evening last Tuesday. It was fantastic to see so many families in school and to share important information about the year ahead. The PowerPoints have been added to the class pages.

A few important reminders for the term ahead:

- **School dinners** must be ordered in advance through ScoPay. The kitchen prepares a very large number of meals each day, and it is not possible to take orders in the morning. Please make this part of your routine.
- **PE kit:** children should wear plain black shorts with no logos. If you prefer cycling shorts, they must go down to the knee—short running briefs are not appropriate.
- **Building Fund: £15 per child per term**, payable on ScoPay this makes a huge difference to the school. Thank you so much for your support with this.

It is lovely to see our sporting events already underway. Year 3 are taking part in cricket skills this week, and Year 6 are enjoying specialist coaching in Tag Rugby every Friday. We look forward to sharing more sporting news as the term goes on.

Finally, I warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for our **Start of Term Mass with Fr Danny in the school hall next Friday at 9am**. It will be a special opportunity to gather in prayer as we begin this new chapter together.

Kind regards, Mrs Mulholland



School Diary

SEPTEMBER

- 29** Flu Immunisations - YR to Y 6
Year 4 Swimming Starts

OCTOBER

- 2** Census Day - please order a school lunch
Year 5 - Celebration of the Word 9am
- 3** **Mass with Fr Danny at 9am - all welcome**
Non-uniform day for £1
- 7** PTA AGM at 7pm - please join us (via Zoom)
- 9** Year 4 - Celebration of the Word 9am
- 10** CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day - please bring a donation for the food bank
- 16** Year 3 - Celebration of the Word 9am
- 17** Harvest Disco:
Years R, 1, 2: 5pm to 6pm
Years 3 - 6: 6:15pm to 7.30pm
Tickets on the door
- 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
- SAVE THE DATES!**
- 7th Nov: Fireworks evening!
 - 11th Nov: Open morning 9:30am (Yr R 2026)
 - 12th Nov: Parents appointments 1:30 - 7pm
 - 19th Nov: Open evening 7pm (Yr R 2026)
 - 8th Dec: Yrs 1, 2 and 3 Nativity 2pm
 - 9th Dec: Yrs 1, 2 and 3 Nativity 9:15am
 - 11th Dec: Year Reception Nativity 9:15am, Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas lunch
 - 16th Dec: Years 4, 5 & 6 Carol Service 5pm
 - 17th Dec: Years 4, 5 & 6 Carol Service 9am



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Year Reception



In RE, we have been learning about the story of Creation. The children went on a walk around the school grounds to spot and appreciate all the wonderful things God has made. They were very thoughtful in their observations and enjoyed sharing what they noticed with one another. It has been a wonderful start to the term, and we are so proud of how well the children are embracing their learning journey.

We are delighted to share how well the children have settled into school life. They are quickly becoming familiar with our daily routines and are showing great enthusiasm for learning new things.

Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring emotions through the story The Colour Monster. The children enjoyed sorting colours and linking them to different feelings, as well as discussing how we can experience a range of emotions at different times. This has been a lovely way to encourage the children to recognise and talk about their own feelings.

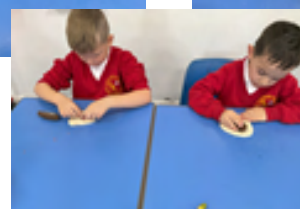


Year 1

We are so pleased to share what a fantastic start to the year it has been! Year One have settled beautifully into their new classroom routines and have been busy learning, creating and exploring.

This term in Art, we are diving into the exciting world of sculpture. We began by learning about different ways sculptures can be made and have been developing our sculpting skills using playdough. Year One practised creating simple forms such as rods and even sculpted the first initial of their name. This week, we took our learning outdoors and explored the woods to collect natural objects. Using salt dough, the children created beautiful imprints of leaves, pinecones and other treasures they found. It was lovely to see how carefully they handled delicate leaves to make detailed and textured impressions. Year One showed great perseverance and focus. Next week, we will take our sculpting a step further by using clay to create a leaf sculpture. Once dry, the children will paint their leaves and then evaluate their final piece. Year One will be reflecting on what went well and what they might do differently next time.

In English, Year One have been enjoying a range of stories by the beloved author Julia Donaldson. One of our favourites so far has been Tabby McTat! The children have been practising writing full sentences about their favourite parts of the story, labelling different cats and creating a list of items for a cat's birthday party. We were delighted by the creative ideas that came through in their writing. There were many lists including essentials like milk, tuna and squeaky toys. It has been a joy to see their enthusiasm for storytelling and writing flourish. We are looking forward to learning lots of new things over the next couple of weeks!





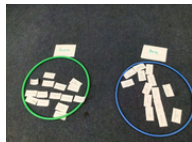
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Year 2



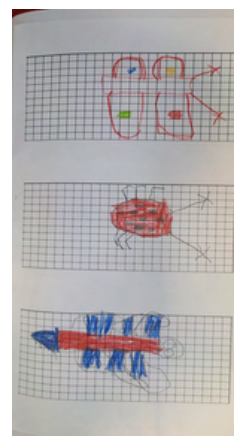
We have had a fantastic start to Year 2- what a wonderful bunch we have! The children have already learned so much. In English, we have been learning about a variety of grammar and punctuation. On Monday, the children enjoyed reading out their sentences and placing them into the correct hula hoop to differentiate between action, 'to be' and 'to have' verbs. Later in the week, we moved on to identifying subject within a sentence where the children worked brilliantly together to match the picture with the correct subject. We have started our RE learning journey with our mission statement and exploring our class saint, Saint Valentine. We have now moved on to our Creation unit, where the children have enjoyed exploring, describing, sequencing, acting and retelling Noah's Ark and the story of Jonah.

In science, Year 2 are enjoying learning about living things and their habitats and have had lots of fun finding microhabitats around the school and researching larger habitats around the world.

We have been learning all about place value in maths and are currently focusing on counting in our 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. We have also danced and sung to help us learn these facts using a range of brain break activities on BBC Supermovers, which the children loved and can be done at home too to reinforce the learning.

In history, we have been focusing on changes in technology, where this week we have been thinking about how technology has changed the way we talk to each other. The children were fascinated to learn about the old dial style landline telephones and telephone boxes.

Finally, in DT we have begun designing our bug bookmarks and learning how to create something that looks both attractive and has a purpose. We have learned how to thread a needle and are all geared up to learn how to use running and cross stitch, before completing our designs. They look amazing!

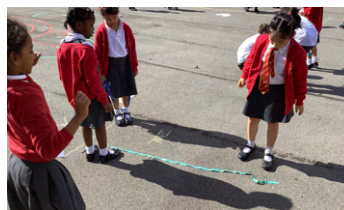


Year 3



In RE, we investigated our class saint, St Abigail, learning about her life and the symbolism of bees. Inspired by her story, the class created a beautiful bee-themed display. Beyond the classroom, Year 3 have been enjoying lively singing sessions with Mr Cannon and have been excited to begin learning French, practising greetings and new vocabulary with lots of enthusiasm. It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we are so proud of the way Year 3 are embracing every new challenge with curiosity and excitement!

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the year and have settled brilliantly into their new routines. The children have shown great enthusiasm for their learning and are already demonstrating increasing independence and responsibility in the classroom. In English, we have started our grammar and punctuation unit, focusing on identifying clauses and sentences with subjects and verbs. In Maths, we are exploring place value, deepening our understanding of numbers and practising important skills that will help us with calculations throughout the year. Our Science lessons have been particularly engaging as we develop our scientific enquiry skills while learning all about the human skeleton. The children have enjoyed investigating how bones help us move and protect our bodies, and they are asking thoughtful questions to guide their discoveries.





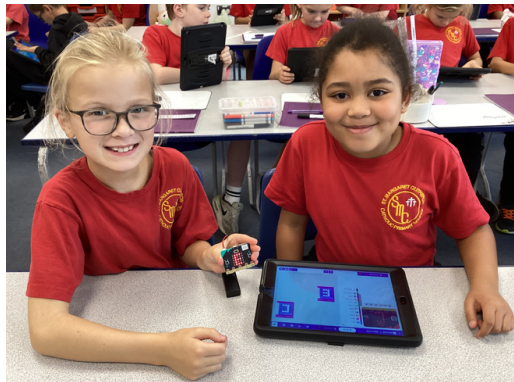
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Year 4



The children have settled beautifully into Year 4, showing enthusiasm and kindness in all they do. In RE, they have been reflecting deeply on how to act with love, strengthen their faith, and grow as individuals. They have also been exploring ways to care for God's Creation and appreciating what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God.

In Maths, children have been developing their understanding of number and place value, thinking more deeply about how numbers can be partitioned in different ways. They have also been focusing on improving their times tables fluency, learning lots of fun times tables songs and using TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars), especially in "Garage" mode, to practise and consolidate their skills. The children have really risen to the challenge of their weekly times tables quiz, showing great determination and progress.

In Science, Year 4 delved into the fascinating topic of Living Things and Their Habitats. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a local living-things hunt, using their observation skills to discover a variety of plants and animals in our school grounds. They have also been developing their grouping and classifying skills, challenging themselves to think more deeply about how living things can be organised, dependant on their features of characteristics.

As part of our Coding topic in Computing, children were eager to write, run and debug their codes on a Micro:bit. Their resilience has been outstanding in ensuring their code worked just how they planned it. Additionally, we have discussed online safety and remembered the importance of being safe online.



As part of our Sculpture topic in Art, children have enjoyed learning new vocabulary and new skills. They were successful in creating a clay pinch pot, then making it into a coil pot using the 'score and slip' technique to join clay together. They also used this skill to create their lid to their Canopic jars, where they imprinted some beautiful designs. They will be mixing colours and painting these soon!



I know that Year 4 are looking forward to their Swimming lessons which start next week. Well done to all Year 4 for settling in so well, and working hard daily. Keep up the good work!!!





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Year 5

We have had such a busy and productive start to the term, and it has been wonderful getting to know the children as they have settled in so well!

In English, our SPaG focus has been on collective and partitive nouns, and the children have enjoyed spotting these in texts and creating their own examples. We are now moving on to verbs, with a particular focus on phrasal verbs as well as regular and irregular forms. Alongside this, the children have been developing their writing skills by applying these grammar points in short descriptive passages.

In Maths, we have been working on place value, and the children are becoming experts at rounding numbers from 10 all the way up to 1,000,000! They have been practising reading, writing, ordering, and comparing large numbers, which has helped them gain a strong sense of number. This solid foundation will support them as we move on to problem-solving and reasoning tasks where they can apply these skills in real-life contexts.

Our Science lessons have taken us into space! We have been learning about the planets in our solar system and comparing their size, distance, and unique features. The children carried out investigations with shadows to prove that the Earth is spherical. Using Eratosthenes' technique, we discovered how shadows grow longer and shorter depending on the time of day and how this provides evidence of a round Earth. We also discussed how scientists use observations and measurements to make sense of our world, and the children were fascinated to see how an experiment from over 2,000 years ago is still relevant today.



We have started our Creation unit in RE with a fun and thoughtful hot-seating activity. The children had the chance to take on the roles of Adam and Eve, answering questions about what life was like on Earth, the challenges of temptation, and the meaning of scripture. We reflected on how God gave humanity responsibility for creation and what this means for us today.

In Art, we have been exploring chromatic techniques and studying the work of various artists to inspire our own portraits. The children have been learning how to mix primary colours to create a wide range of shades, including realistic skin tones.

Finally, Year 5 have voted for their new School Council representatives. We were treated to some inspiring speeches from children who shared their ideas on how to make positive changes in our school, including a focus on sustainability and inclusion!

It has truly been a wonderful start to the year, and we are excited to see all the fantastic learning and growth still to come.





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Year 6



Last week, the children got the opportunity to meet their new Year R buddies. They went down into reception for a short meet your buddy session, spent time talking to the children and introduced themselves. They were able to read their buddies a book or have some discovery time with them.

All of the children had a good time and are now looking forward to the next time they can go and play.

On Thursday we took part in an art workshop with an artist in residence from South Hill Arts Centre. We were given the task of creating a self-portrait which shows who we are and what we like. We were given a blank canvas and a wide array of different materials to choose from. The aim of the project is to record our likes/dislikes etc at the start of Year 6 and then create another portrait in the summer term to see how much we have changed.

Finally, we are in the process of electing our House Captains, all will be revealed in the next newsletter.

Year 6 have started off the year positively. They have adapted well to being at the top of the school, in a new building and with a variety of different adults in the class.

We have already completed Place Value in Maths and have started to work on addition and subtraction. In English we are working on punctuation and grammar and the steps to ensuring that our sentences contain a subject and verb and therefore make sense.



CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day - 10th October

We are celebrating the CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day on Friday 10th October by collecting items to support the food bank. We would be very grateful for your donations from 6th October. Please use the "Bank the Food" app to see what the current list of urgent items is. This week they are requesting tinned tuna, jam, shampoo, small washing up liquid and packs of four toilet rolls.





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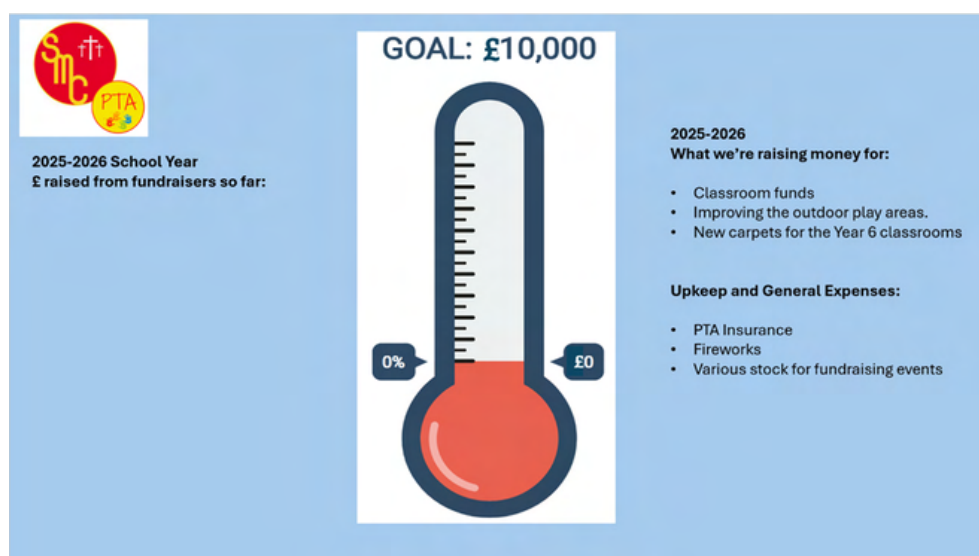
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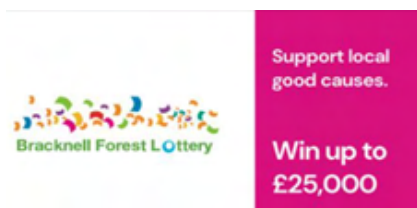
Next PTA meeting: Tuesday 7th October @7pm –PTA AGM all welcome: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86033339450...>

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 3rd October:

Non Uniform Day



Friday 17th October:

Harvest Disco



Volunteer to help:

KS1 Disco: <https://volunteersignup.org/DA9TT>

KS2 Disco: <https://volunteersignup.org/3KR8K>



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Thursday 23rd October: Year 6 Bake Sale



Friday 17th October Christmas artwork goes home Thursday 23rd October DEADLINE for orders



Friday 7th November: PTA Fireworks

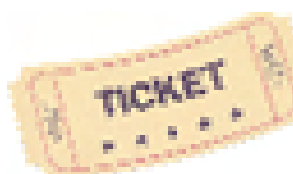


Display an advertisement board outside your property:
<https://volunteersignup.org/3TXFT>



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>



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Other Information



Mini Maestros

Come and try a fun, live music class for ages 0-7 at your local music centre in Bracknell!

BRACKNELL MUSIC CENTRE
Ranelagh School
Ranelagh Drive
Bracknell
RG2 9DA

SATURDAY
Preschool & Reception - 8.55am - 9.25am
Year 1 - 10.05am - 10.45am
Year 2 - 10.50am - 11.30am



To find out more visit our website www.berksmusictrust.org.uk or email admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk for a FREE taster session!



Looking After Little Teeth

Now accepting new NHS patients - no cost to families

Children should visit the dentist as soon as their first baby tooth appears. Early check-ups help spot problems before they start and build confidence in the dental chair. Regular visits make dental care feel familiar, reduce anxiety, and set the foundation for a lifetime of healthy teeth.

Let's make brushing, smiling, and visiting the dentist a normal part of growing up!

Call 01344 484466 to book onto Chloe's Children's Clinic

NHS Perfect Smile Bracknell (Crossways) 01344 484466 **PERFECT SMILE**



Virtual Coffee Morning

Eating and food Autism and ADHD

Friday 17th Oct - 10:00 - 11:15am

25 spaces available!

Join our online informal discussion to cover the following areas:

- What works for your family at meal times?
- What are problematic areas around eating?
- How do you support your child with eating?

Please note this is not a workshop but support group for parent/carers and any medical advice should be sought from your medical practitioner.

Sign Up Today!

Available for families who reside in or have a registered GP in East Berkshire with a child who is Autistic/ADHD (suspected/pathway/diagnosed)

To book your place contact GEMS:
Gems.4Health@nhs.net 0800 999 1342



Help us understand your childcare needs!

Please share with us your childcare needs for any children aged from birth to 11 years old.

Complete the survey now, have your say, we value your input!

Scan the QR code or visit www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/consultations/early-years-and-childcare-needs-survey to participate and help shape our childcare offering within Bracknell Forest.



Alldance

Ballet • Tap • Jazz/Disco • Street Dance • Musical Theatre
Acrobatic Arts • Pre-School Classes • Adult Ballet, Tap & Jazz

LAMDA • PBT • Private Lessons • Holiday Workshops • Parties

To find out more contact Amy on 07899796212
W: www.alldance.co.uk
E: alldance@virginianet.co.uk
We're on Facebook

Your paragraph text

SONNING family GLOW RUN

Run the sights of Sonning under torch light and enjoy a BBQ and Silent Disco afterwards

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER
BERKSHIRE COUNTY SPORTS CLUB

KIDS FUN RUN (1.5K MIN AGE 4): £5
ADULT GLOW RUN (5K MIN AGE 11): £24
FAMILY TICKET (2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN): £50

ALL ENTRANTS WILL RECEIVE A MEDAL AND GLOW STICKS

SIGN UP HERE
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/SONNINGGLOWRUN25](https://bit.ly/sonningglowrun25)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



One of our lovely school families has recently faced the huge challenge of having two children diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. To raise awareness and funds for research, the parents are taking on a walking challenge.

Please take a moment to read their full story and, if you are able, support them here:

<https://step.diabetes.org.uk/fundraising/for-sofia-and-blake?edit=page>