



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 23rd January 2026

A message from the Headteacher - Mrs Mulholland

We have had a wonderful start to the term, returning to school on the Feast of the Epiphany, a special reminder of Christ revealed to the world. The children have settled back so quickly, and we are extremely proud of how hard they are working and the positive attitudes they are showing to their learning.

Over the holidays, our fantastic site team worked hard to install new carpeting in both Year 6 classrooms. This has made a significant difference to the acoustics, and the children themselves have already noticed how much easier it is to hear and concentrate. A huge thank you to the PTA, who generously contributed £4,500 towards the cost of these improvements, your continued support makes a real and lasting impact on our learning environments.

It has also been an incredible start to the term for school sport. Our Year 5 and 6 Sportshall Athletics team qualified in second position for the next round of the tournament, an excellent achievement. The New Age Curling team have also been competing again, representing the school with great determination and pride. The children are thoroughly enjoying wearing the new SMC sports kit, supported by the PTA, which makes them feel very smart as they represent the school so positively.

We are very proud of the attendance across the school and are grateful for the noticeable reduction in sick days. It is clear that families are making every effort to encourage children into school when they have only minor coughs or colds, and this is making a huge difference to their learning. Even one missed day can make it harder for children to keep up, so prioritising school attendance really does matter, thank you for your continued support with this.

With the weather being changeable at this time of year, please ensure children come to school with a raincoat every day. A reminder also about PE kits: these should be in school every Monday and will be sent home on Thursday, even if Monday is not a scheduled PE day. Extra PE sessions may be added, lessons may need to swap, or children may simply need a change of clothes after a muddy mishap, having PE kits available in school every day really helps us manage this smoothly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
Mrs Mulholland

School Diary

JANUARY

29 Year 3 Celebration of the Word 9am

FEBRUARY

5 Year 6 Celebration of the Word 9am

6 NSPCC Number Day - see parentmail
PTA Spring Disco

10 - 13 Book Fair after school

11 Year 1 Parents Meetings 1:30pm - 7pm

12 Year 2 Celebration of the Word 9am

13 Year 2 Bake Sale and Pre-loved Uniform Sale
3:15pm. Break up for half term.

23 Back to School - gates open at 8:35am

23 - 25 Year 5 Bikeability

27 PTA Meeting at 7pm

MARCH

4 Parents Meetings 1:30pm - 7pm

19 Years 3 and 4 Trip to Ufton Court

20 Non-uniform Day for £1

26 End of term - School Ends at 1:30pm





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 23rd January 2026

SMC Nursery



We have loved welcoming the children back in Nursery. January has flown by and what a fun-filled month it has been. The children have been exploring all things Winter which has included enjoying sensory play with ice, snow, and water trays to explore cold textures and temperatures. It has been wonderful to see the children asking questions, making observations, and sharing their ideas about the winter world around them.

We have also gone on exciting adventures with The Gruffalo and the children have absolutely loved delving into the story and exploring their imaginations. Their creativity, confidence, and communication skills have really shone as they brought the story and characters to life!

Reception

Over the past few weeks, the children have settled back into school life wonderfully and returned full of enthusiasm, ready to learn. It has been a pleasure to see their excitement, confidence, and growing independence as they re-engage with our routines and activities.

Our focus text has been The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson, which has inspired lots of creative learning across the curriculum. The children have enjoyed acting out the story, taking on the roles of the different characters and retelling the narrative using their own words. We have also explored the various habitats where the animals in the story live, helping the children to develop their understanding of the world around them.

In Drawing Club, the children have used their imaginations to think about different settings the Gruffalo might visit. They then went on to design and describe their very own Gruffalo, carefully thinking about what it might look like and what special features it could have. Their creativity and storytelling skills have really shone through.

In Maths, we have been exploring different ways to make the number 5. The children have been using the number sentence "2 and 3 makes 5" and finding other combinations through practical activities, games, and discussion. They are becoming more confident at recognising numbers and talking about how they can be made.

We have also begun focusing on handwriting, with the children working hard to form their letters correctly. They have shown great perseverance and pride as they start this exciting next step in their writing journey.

Well done to all the children for their fantastic efforts – we are very proud of how hard they are working and look forward to the weeks ahead!





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 23rd January 2026

Year 1



Year One have had a very exciting and busy start to our learning and the children have really enjoyed exploring a wide range of new topics across the curriculum. In History, the children have been learning about kings, queens and castles, sparking lots of curiosity and discussion. In Science, we have begun our topic on materials. We have been investigating their properties and how they are used. In Computing, Year One have enjoyed starting coding and developing early skills in giving instructions and problem-solving. In English, our learning has been centred around dragons. We have been reading Dragon Post and learning about the key features of a letter, including the address, date, salutations and sign-off. By the end of the unit, the children will be writing their own letters inspired by the story. Year One have especially loved imagining what their own dragon would be like which links to our previous work on the story Tell Me a Dragon. In PE, the children have been taking part in gymnastics. They have used a range of equipment, including wall bars, and have been taught how to use all equipment safely. Year One have shown great enthusiasm and confidence during these sessions.

In Design and Technology, we are learning about moving toys. The children have planned their own toy and will soon be creating a moving toy with wheels. They have been practising key skills such as cutting straight and curved lines and joining materials using glue, tape and string. Year One also tested different materials to explore strength and flexibility and experimented with various wheel materials, such as bottle lids, to see how well they roll. It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic in their learning. Well done, Year One!

Year 2

This term so far, our young mathematicians have been tackling the topic of money! Since we use physical cash less often these days, it can be a tricky topic to master. We've had a great time identifying coins and notes and practicing our addition and subtraction using pounds and pence. We have specifically focused on the "shopkeeper's skill" of finding change after a purchase. You can help support this learning at home by letting your child count out coins at the shops or helping them calculate the total of a few items in your basket! In English, we have been diving into the world of traditional tales through the classic story of The Three Little Pigs. The children have mastered the story's repetitive patterns and are now busy preparing to write their own "tales with a twist." We had a fantastic time acting out the story—there were plenty of giggles as the wolf tried to blow the houses down, only to end up with a burnt bottom after climbing down the chimney! We also shared a hilarious alternative version where a "cunning" wolf claimed he was just looking for a cup of sugar and that a giant sneeze caused all the damage.

Our budding geographers have been busy travelling the globe! Over the last few weeks, we have learned about the continents, the poles, and the equator. Using atlases, the children have been locating the countries, capitals, and seas of the UK, while discovering why certain parts of the world have hot or cold climates. We are now narrowing our focus to the human and physical features of our own local area. This will prepare us for an exciting comparison with Tromsø, Norway, where we will explore how people live in different climates and how their surroundings shape their daily lives. In Science, we have been busy learning all about Plants! We have enjoyed looking at a variety of food to identify that fruit, vegetables and herbs are a type of plant that we can eat. We have discussed what plants need to grow and stay healthy, and the children have written some fantastic instructions to follow this. We have been focusing on the journeys of the Christmas story in RE, thinking about what they tell us about Jesus and using them to help us understand how we should care for others. This week, we moved on to Revelation and have been discussing miracles and what they reveal to us.





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 23rd January 2026

Year 3



Year 3 have had another busy and exciting few weeks, with lots of engaging learning taking place across the curriculum. In English, we have been developing our descriptive writing by creating vivid setting descriptions of an Ancient Egyptian tomb filled with gold. The children have worked hard to use ambitious vocabulary, powerful adjectives, and sensory details to bring their settings to life—producing some truly atmospheric writing.

In Maths, we have continued to build confidence with multiplication and division, practising key skills and using a range of strategies to solve problems accurately and efficiently. The children are becoming increasingly secure and resilient when tackling more challenging calculations.

In Science, we have begun an exciting new topic on forces and magnets, investigating how magnets work and exploring push and pull forces. This learning will lead into our Design Technology project, Magnetic Mysteries, where the children will design and build structures using their scientific knowledge—something they are already very excited about.

In Geography, we have been learning about the development of land use and transportation, discussing how areas change over time and how transport links can influence where and how people live and work. The children have shared thoughtful ideas and made great connections to their own local area.

In Music, Year 3 have been working with Mr Cannon, learning songs in Latin in preparation for the Bishop's visit. The children have shown fantastic focus and enthusiasm, and their singing is becoming increasingly confident and expressive.

In French, we have been learning the names of animals, practising pronunciation and using our new vocabulary with growing confidence.

It has been another fantastic period of learning, and we are very proud of Year 3's hard work, curiosity, and positive attitude in everything they do.





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 23rd January 2026

Year 4

Year 4 have been working extremely hard across the curriculum this term. In Mathematics, the children have been applying all four operations to calculate the perimeter of rectilinear shapes. They continue to show commitment to improving their multiplication recall through regular practice on Times Tables Rock Stars, and we are pleased to see steady progress from all pupils.

In English, the children have been learning about the organisational and language features of non-chronological reports, linked to our topic on Ancient Greek mythological monsters. They have also been making a concerted effort to improve their handwriting, with a strong focus on neatness and accurate letter formation. They enjoyed a practical lesson on using co-ordinating conjunctions.

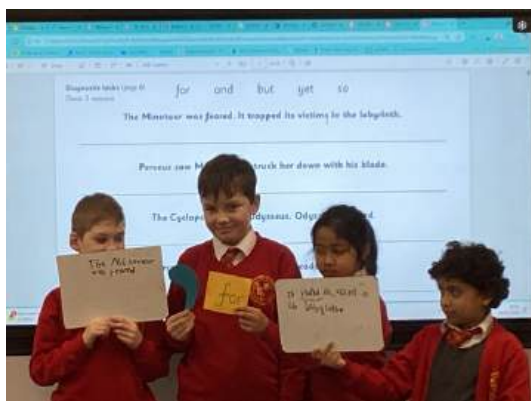


In History, Year 4 have been deepening their understanding of Ancient Greece by exploring historical evidence and considering cause and effect. The children compared the lifestyles of the Athenian and Spartan civilisations and shared thoughtful discussions about their similarities and differences.

In Religious Education, the children reflected on the role of angels in the Christmas story and considered how they can share God's word in their own lives. This learning culminated beautifully in our whole school Celebration of the Word, where the children confidently led prayers and shared scripture. Our key message was, "How can we listen to Jesus?"

In Computing, the children have been learning about hardware and produced informative and well-presented leaflets on this topic. In Science, we have begun exploring the digestive system, identifying its key parts and functions, as well as learning about the different types of teeth and their roles.

Well done to all of Year 4 for their continued hard work and positive attitude to learning.





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 23rd January 2026

Year 5



It has been a very busy and exciting start to the Spring term in Year 5. Thank you to all the parents who attended and participated with our Celebration of the Word. The children loved sharing the Gospel story of John the Baptist baptising Jesus and reflecting on how Jesus is the shining light in our lives. It was a special and meaningful time for our class and school community.

In Maths, we have been focusing on multiplication and division, using variation to explore different methods of solving equations. This has allowed the children to discover strategies that work best for them, building both independence and confidence in their problem-solving skills.

In Science, we began by dissecting a flower to identify and understand its different parts, which the children found fascinating. We have now moved on to our new topic of Forces, where we have been carrying out practical experiments to explore gravity, push and pull, and friction. The children thoroughly enjoyed investigating falling objects and, of course, became very competitive during a game of tug of war!

In RE, we brought learning to life through a hot seating activity, where the characters of Mary, Joseph and King Herod were explored in depth. The children did a wonderful job of putting themselves in their shoes, showing empathy and understanding of different perspectives.

Finally, in Art, we are working with clay, inspired by Vanessa Hogge, who is renowned for her detailed floral sculptures. Her work has been a wonderful influence, inspiring the children to create their own impressive clay pieces. Their sculptures are truly wonderful and reflect their growing confidence in working with new materials. As always, the children continue to make us incredibly proud with their hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment to their learning.





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 23rd January 2026

Year 6

For the last 2 weeks, Year 6 have worked on ratio in maths. We have looked at scale drawings and how to enlarge or reduce them. The children now understand that all sides need to correspond and that the shapes remain similar. Within this unit, we have paid particular attention to the use of vocabulary. This enables the children to fully explain the reasoning behind their answers and reason as to why an answer may be wrong. This is a vital skill in maths reasoning so please let the children explore maths vocabulary online on sites such as www.mathsisfun.com or www.bbcbitesize.co.uk

In English, we completed our recount letters based on the story Malamander by Thomas Taylor and have now moved on to writing setting descriptions based on the same book. The children are exploring how to use figurative language to help the reader visualise the setting in their mind's eye therefore bringing the setting to life.

In DT/Science, we have finished painting our Gothic Structures and added some LED light circuits.

Year 6 have been amazing historians this term! I am so impressed by their curiosity as we dive into our World War II unit. We've covered a lot of ground—from the political climate of modern Germany to the rise of the Nazi party following the unrest of WWI.

Last week, we focused on the 'Home Front' and how Britain responded when it stood alone against the rest of fallen Europe. The children particularly enjoyed learning about the iconic 'Keep Calm and Carry On' posters and the heroic efforts of the Women's Land Army. Their enthusiasm for these topics is truly fantastic to see!

It has been a busy time for our linguists and musicians! In French, we've headed into town with our 'En Ville' topic, where children are learning how to navigate a bustling city and identify local landmarks.

Our Music lessons have been just as active; we've been studying Benjamin Britten's 'Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra.' By using body percussion, the students have been bringing the rhythms and themes of this classic masterpiece to life in a fun, hands-on way!

Finally, we have had a great day looking at all the ways in which we are different today - the children thoroughly embraced the concept and enjoyed dressing up!





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 23rd January 2026



Next PTA meeting: Friday 27th February @7pm 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>



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 23rd January 2026

PTA events coming up:



Friday 6th February:
Pta Spring Disco.

Friday 13th February:
Year 2 Bake Sale



Pre-loved uniform sale





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 23rd January 2026

Other Information



Thank You!

St Margaret Clitherow Catholic
Primary School

You have raised an incredible

£1,380.14

for

The Teenage & Young Adult Cancer Unit at The Royal
Surrey Hospital in Guildford





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 23rd January 2026

Recent Sporting Events



Other Information



Take part in a consultation on how your fire service is funded. The consultation closes at 9am on 2 February 2026. Please contact us for more information:



rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay



precepting@rbfrs.co.uk



0118 945 2888



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 23rd January 2026

Other Information

St. Joseph's are running an Alpha course for our pastoral area. It is aimed at people for whom free time is a luxury. If you have a child who has recently been Baptised or received their First Holy Communion, or intends to at a later date, then it is an important part of preparing for these sacraments as a parent. It will be online (no need to leave your home), for 1 hour a week, from 8-9pm on Thursdays. In case you are wondering, Alpha helps people unpack the Christian faith in an open, no pressure environment. It will run from 22nd Jan for 11 weeks. Use the QR code to sign up. We look forward to you joining us.



Catholic South Berkshire Pastoral Area

Explore the Christian Faith together.

Alpha

Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together. Alpha is for anyone who's curious. No judgement, no pressure. Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith, and purpose, and is designed to spark conversation. Come along, see what you think.

11 weeks online
Thursday 8pm til 9pm
Starting 22nd Jan
Scan QR code to learn more
#TryAlpha

GEMS
GEMS works with parents and carers, sharing understanding of autism & ADHD and collaborating on strategies that respect each child or young person's ways of being in the home environment.
GEMS supports families living or has a registered GP in Slough, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest.

01753 373 244 / 0800 999 1342
weekdays 9am to 5pm
<https://www.gems4health.com>
gems4health@nhs.net

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

AuDHD - 7pm to 9pm
Tuesday 3rd February 2026

Autistic Burnout - 7:30 to 9:30pm
Wednesday 4th February 2026

Sleep - Autism and ADHD, 7-9pm
Wednesday 4th February 2026

Sensory Processing - 7 to 9pm
Tuesday 24th February 2026

Interception - 7 to 9pm
Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Barriers to School, Can't Go, Not Won't Go - 10am to 12noon
Wednesday 25th March 2026

Visit our website to book your space - www.Gems4Health.com

More than Maths and English tuition

Explore LEARNING

Taya & Lara's story

Ends 31st January
£75 off

To find out more contact
07899770212
www.explorelearning.co.uk
E: allan@explorelearning.co.uk
We're on Facebook & Instagram

She stopped believing in herself. With Explore Learning's help she's found her spark again.

- Lara

explorelearning.co.uk Ages 4-16 | Centre & Online

Explore LEARNING

Are you worried about upcoming exams?

Is homework a daily struggle?

Has your child's confidence taken a hit?

Explore Learning will help your child master what once felt impossible and show how much further they can go.

Now is the time to make a change

Book a free trial and change your story today.

Book a free trial

Ends 31st January
£75 off

*Terms and conditions apply. Not redeemable with any other offer.