



St Margaret Clitherow Christmas Newsletter

Merry Christmas!

Many thanks for the lovely cards and gifts myself and the SMC team have received from you all. Your generosity and kindness really is appreciated.

It's hard to believe that we're already at the end of our first term.

*We've had a wonderful time in school, our local area and parishes celebrating Advent and preparing for Christmas. I want to extend my **thanks to the teachers and staff who have worked extremely hard to organise and support numerous Catholic Life events this season to ensure our children have every opportunity to Encounter Christ.***

I wanted to share with you some snippets from the Catholic life events in our school, parishes and local community this Advent and Christmas. Read on for a glimpse of what we've been up to.

*This next term brings with it one of the most reflective times in the school calendar, with lots of events to look forward to as we look towards Easter. There is a **new key dates for your diary document for the Lent Term at the end of this newsletter**. Please read it and make a note of any important dates that are relevant to your child.*

*Finally, I wanted to say huge thank you to all of you. All of our children are so special. **They have all worked so hard and I am extremely proud of each and every one of them**. We couldn't do our job without your support. We have all had a fantastic run up to Christmas and **the children have taught us the real meaning of Christmas through their special relationships with us and with each other**.*

I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful Christmas and the best of luck for the New Year.

Yours in partnership,

Mrs. Sweeney-McGinty

Minnie Vinnies Visit to Acorn House



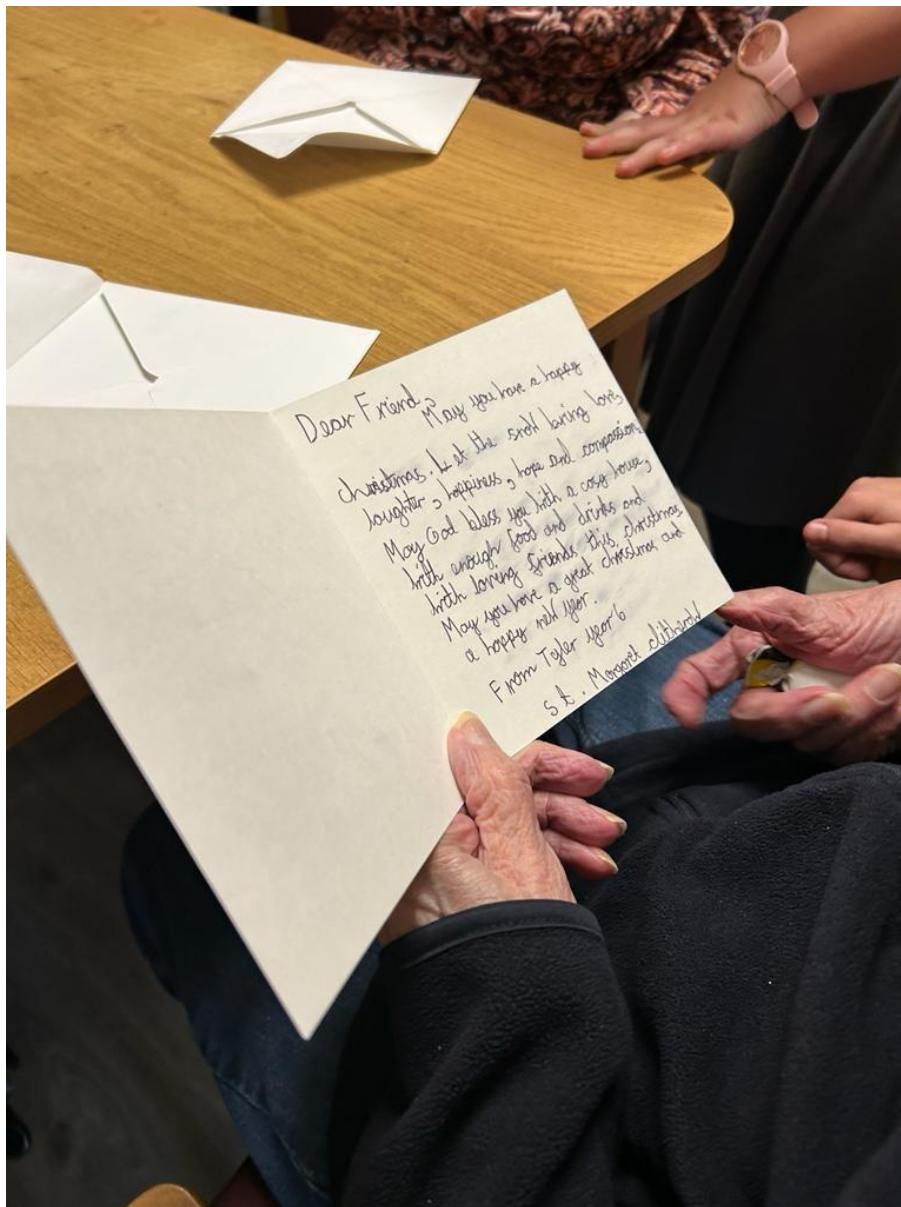
*Our **Minnie Vinnies** visited **Acorn House** to help the residents make Christingles. They also delivered hand made Christmas cards and stayed to sing Christmas Carols. **Thank you to Miss. Cartledge and***

Miss. Butt for all of your hard work to organise this visit. Both the children and residents loved spending time together and reading their Christmas cards before singing a few Carols.

I would like to also thank our Year 6 children who took the time to create special handmade Christmas cards with heartfelt messages for the residents.

Miss. Cartledge has helped us to build a strong relationship with the St Vincent De Paul Society over the past year. The "Minnie Vinnies" are the youngest members of the St Vincent de Paul society and they work hard each term to live out their mission of "see, think, do" supporting our school community and beyond.

As part of their charity work this Advent, our Minnie Vinnies have organised our Shoe Box Appeal for the Hope Homeless Charity.











Parish Ambassadors



Our Parish Ambassadors have continued to serve our Catholic Churches throughout the Advent Season.

Many thanks to the parents who continue to bring their children to come and read at Mass for us. We will continue to read at both Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church and The Good Shepherd Church in 2024.

If your child would like to read in Mass, please contact me.





Early Years Nativity



Our youngest members of SMC started off our Advent and Christmas Celebrations by performing their Nativity.

They performed with such confidence and remembered all of their lines. I am extremely proud of all of them.

Thank you to Mrs. Ogunlade, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Hunka and all of the EYFS Team who worked so hard on the singing, acting and costumes!





Key Stage 1 Nativity



The children in Years 1 and 2 told us the special story of how Mary said "Yes!" to God. What a Nativity! It was fabulous to see how the children have grown in confidence this year and they were so proud of themselves and so was I!

Thank you to Miss. Butt, Miss. Cartledge and all of the Key Stage 1 Team who worked so hard to support the children to put on an amazing performance.







Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carol Concert at The Good Shepherd Church.



*The children in Years Three and Four took part in **Nottingham Cathedral's Singing Programme** and sang, alongside other schools, in the Christmas Carol service at The Good Shepherd Church. They were fabulous and got everybody in the mood for Christmas. The children were **commended for their singing, their reading and their behaviour!***





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Year 6 Advent Mass



Year 6 worked hard with Charles, our Lay Chaplain, and Mr. Walters, our musician, to plan our Advent Mass.

*It was a wonderful **Advent Mass** which reflected where we were on our Advent journey to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.*

*A special thank you to **Miss. Cattigan** who worked tirelessly with the children to ensure every individual was confident in their role of the Mass. Year 6 are amazing role models and have shown the younger children how to plan a special Mass. They will take their turn next year.*







Year 6 "Light of the World" Video



Year 6 created a music video for our Advent hymn "Light of the World". It was lovely to see so many children volunteering to take on a solo part. It is such a special video and one we will continue to watch at SMC in years to come.

Here is the link in case you haven't watched the video yet.

<https://youtu.be/CKi0n-jivro?si=NpmieWwe225CL8wh>

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Christmas Carol Concert



Thank you so much to those children who came to support our church at the Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Christmas Carol Concert. We had 59 children altogether. They sang beautifully and it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Christmas with our parish.



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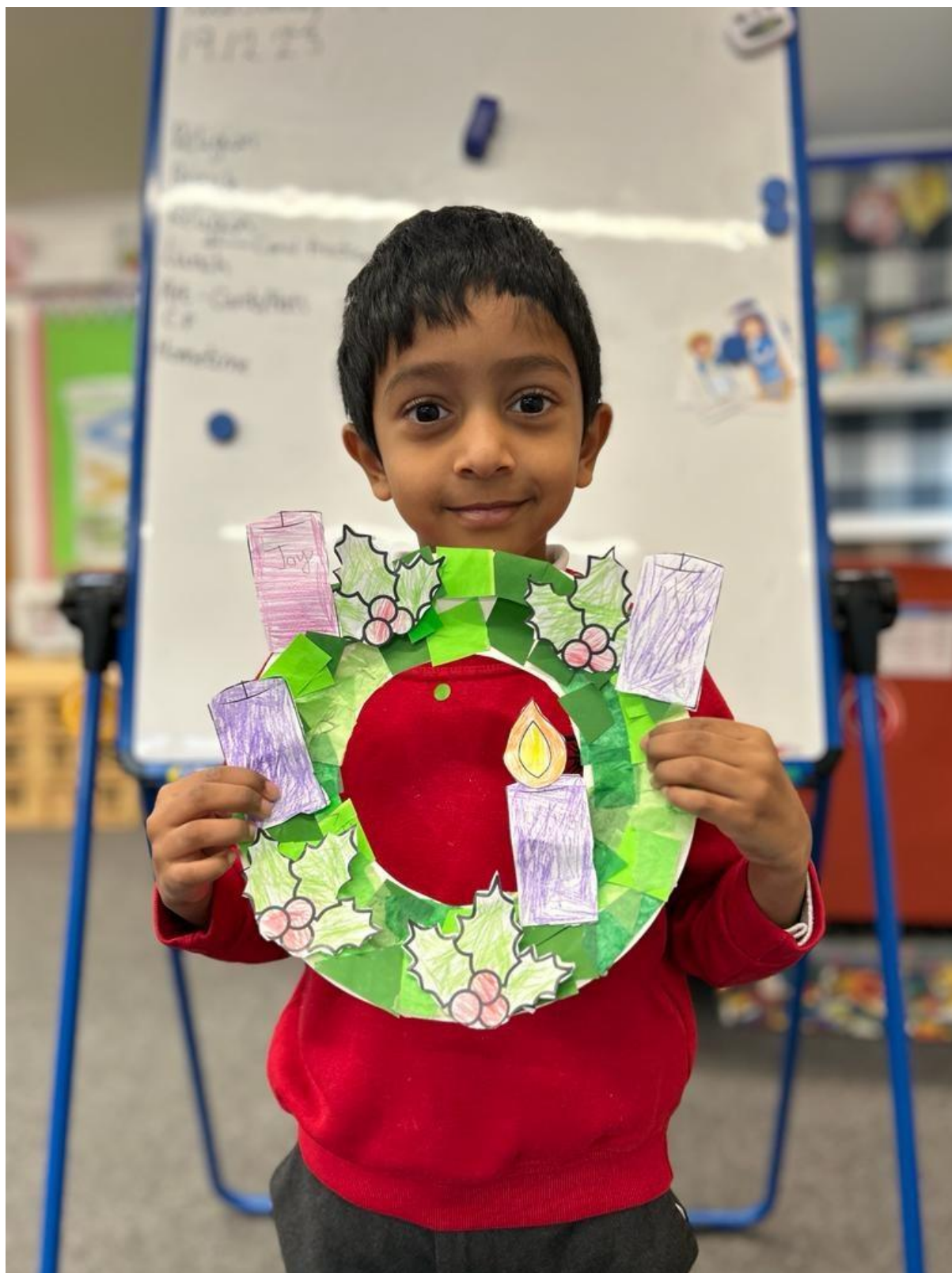


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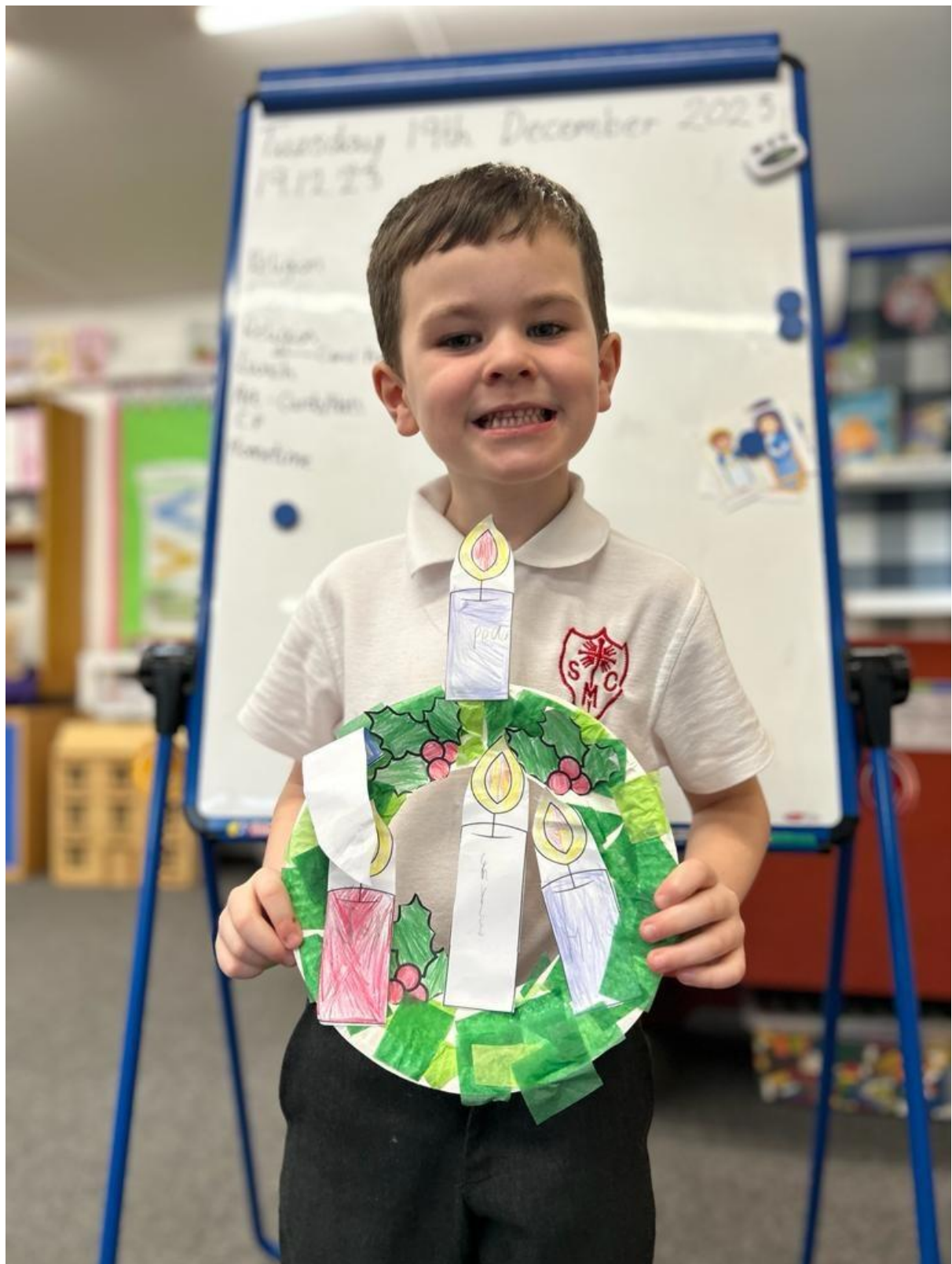
Advent Wreaths and Santa Visit













The Miracle of Christmas Carol Concert



On the last Thursday of the Advent Term, we came together to celebrate the miracle of Christmas. Members of staff led us in prayer and read scriptures to help us to understand the story of the Nativity and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Thank you to all of the staff who made this celebration so beautiful and a wonderful end to our Christmas events.



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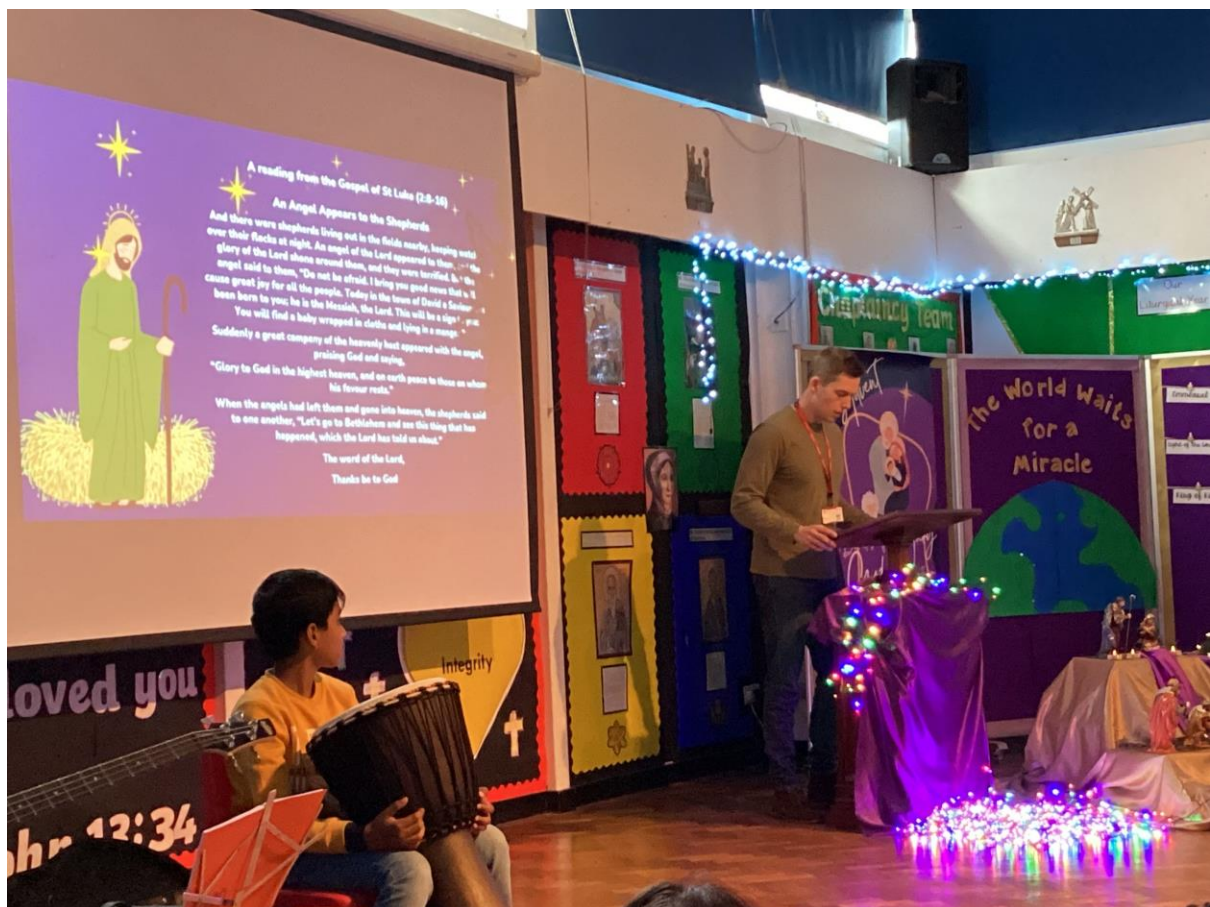




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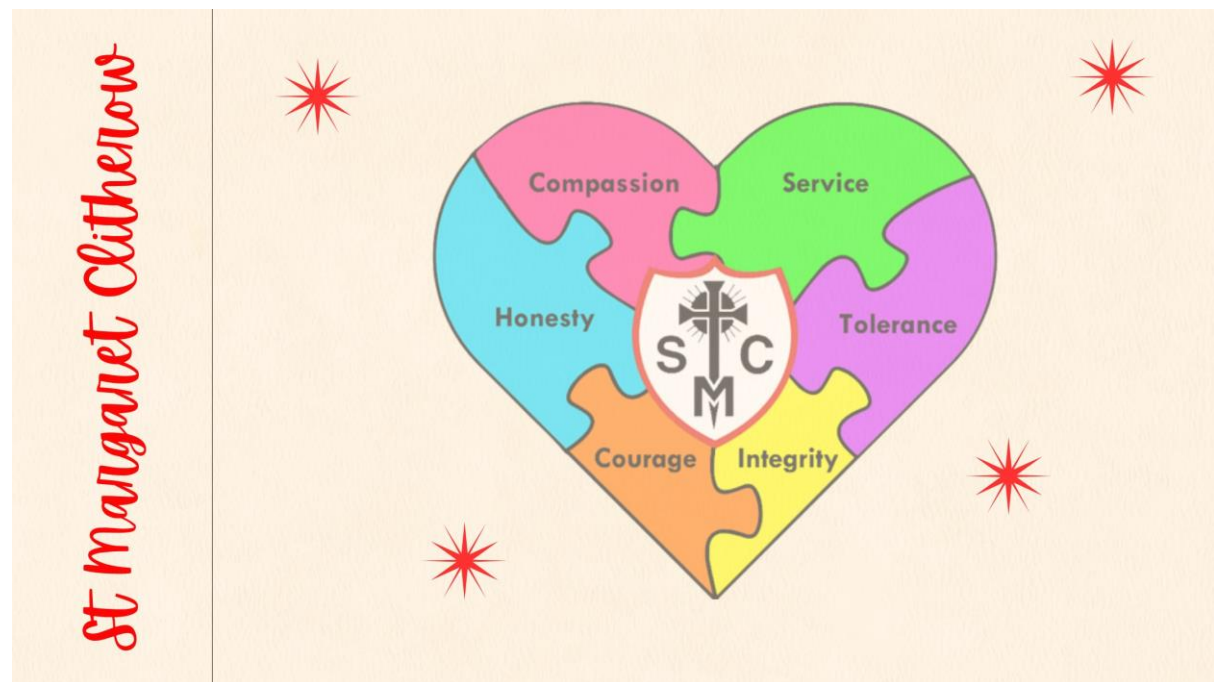
Catholic School Inspectorate Parent Voice Questionnaire



I would be very grateful if you could take a few moments out of your busy Christmas plans to complete the parent voice questionnaire below. This questionnaire helps us to gather your views and strengthens our partnership to continue to drive St Margaret Clitherow forward.

[Catholic School Inspectorate Parent Voice Questionnaire](#)

Lent Term 2024 Key Dates for your diary





St Margaret Clitherow

Primary & Nursery Catholic Voluntary Academy
Mildenhall Crescent, Bestwood Park,
Nottingham NG5 5RS



Lent Term Key dates

4th January 2024 – 28th March 2024

Date	Year Group	Event
4 th January	Whole school	School reopens - All children back to school
8 th January	Whole school	Feast of the Epiphany
11 th January	First Holy Communion	Parents meeting for First Holy Communion Parents 6pm at St Margaret Clitherow Academy
17 th January	Whole school	Catholic Social Teaching Day
20 th January	First Holy Communion	Enrolment Mass 5pm at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church
25 th January	Year 6	Class trip to the Holocaust Centre
6 th February	Year 5 and 6	Nott Alone Workshops at Notts County Football Club
8 th February	Whole school	Last day of term for children
9 th February	Whole school	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHILDREN
14 th February		Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
19 th February	Whole School	First Day of Term - all children to return to school
Wk beg 11 th March	Whole School	Parents Consultation week Letters will be sent by class teachers
28 th March	Whole School	Last day of term for children
15 th April	Whole School	First Day of Term - all children to return to school

CONTACT US



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