



Newsletter

Monday 13th April 2026

Eastertide: 50 Days of Joy!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and blessed Easter with your families. We begin this term in the season of Eastertide—a time of hope, joy, and new beginnings leading up to Pentecost.

In school, Eastertide is a season of thanksgiving. We will focus on gratitude, encouraging the children to reflect, give thanks, and show kindness to others.

We also have a busy term ahead with many exciting events planned. Please check the key dates document below for anything relevant to your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

*With every blessing,
Sarah Sweeney-McGinty
Headteacher*



Lent

As we reflect on our Lenten journey, we would like to thank all parents and families for your support throughout this special time.

We shared many meaningful moments together, including visits to church, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and celebrating Mass in both Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and The Good Shepherd Parishes.

Year 4 and 5 used their gifts and talents to perform Resurrection Rocks!—what a talented bunch you are!

We are so proud of the courage and confidence you showed.

A big thank you for the 18 donations we received for the Big Lent Walk, raising a total of £354 for CAFOD.

We are truly proud of our school community and thank you for helping bring our faith to life.



CODA

PHOTOGRAPHY

THURSDAY 16TH APRIL 2026

It is time to update our promotional photos. Every two years, CODA Photography visits school to capture professional images of children in Nursery to Year 3, showing SMC in action.

These high-quality photos are used to promote the school on our website, social media, banners, leaflets and other publicity materials. Below are a few examples of our current images.

Please log in to Arbor to update your photo consent before Tuesday 14th April 2026. The CODA photographer will be in school on Thursday 16th April 2026 from 9am-11am.

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 should come to school in full school uniform.

Year 2 should come into school in SMC PE Kits.



National Assessments 2026

As we fast approach the national assessment window, we kindly remind parents that good attendance during this period is absolutely vital.

- **The Statutory Key Stage 2 SATs (Year 6): Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2026.**
- **The Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check must be completed within the two-week window starting Monday 1st June 2026.**
- **The Year 1 (and applicable Year 2) Phonics Screening Check will run during the week beginning Monday 8th June 2026.**

Please remember that any holiday taken during these assessment periods must be recorded as an 'A' for absence, resulting in a score of 0. Our teachers and children are working incredibly hard to prepare, so if your child is well enough, please ensure they are in school every day during these crucial weeks.

How to help your child at home

You can support your child's learning in simple but effective ways. In Key Stage 1, practising number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 (e.g. $9 + 1 = 10$, $8 + 2 = 10$) helps build strong foundations in maths.

Quick recall of multiplication and division facts is essential as children move through the school. This supports their understanding of multiplication and division methods and helps with problem solving in class. The expectations for each year group are:

- **Year 2: 2, 5 and 10 times tables**
- **Year 3: 3, 4 and 8 times tables**
- **Year 4: All times tables up to 12×12**
- **Year 5 & 6: Secure and fluent recall of all times tables and related division facts**

Children should be able to recall both multiplication facts and their inverse division facts quickly and accurately. There are many free online programmes to support this— we use [timestables.me.uk](https://www.timestables.me.uk) in school for regular practise.

Reading at home is also extremely important. It helps to build fluency and develop vocabulary, particularly in the Early Years and Key Stage 1, where children are learning and applying their phonics skills.

Learning Overviews

As usual, your child's teacher will send home this term's learning overview this week. Please take the time to read the information carefully so you are aware of what your child will be learning and how you can best support them at home. If in doubt, children should read as much as possible, continue practising quick recall of number facts and times tables, and ensure that weekly homework is completed. Your support makes a real difference to their progress.



First Holy Communion 2026

Saturday 13th June 2026 - 10.30am
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church

We are excited that the First Holy Communion Programme is progressing well. These sessions continue to be an important part of the children's faith journey as they prepare for the sacraments.

Alongside the weekly lessons, there are several important dates for parents to note:

- **Thursday 30th April 2026, 3:30pm – Second Parents' Meeting at school (all parents are expected to attend)**
- **Tuesday 9th June 2026 – Children's First Reconciliation (during school time; please practise at home so children feel confident)**
- **Thursday 11th June 2026, 5:00pm – First Holy Communion Rehearsal at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church (all children and parents to attend)**
- **Saturday 13th June 2026, 10:30am – First Holy Communion at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church**
- **Wednesday 17th June 2026 – First Holy Communion Photographs and Celebration (children should bring their First Holy Communion clothes to school)**

Please continue to support your child by helping them practise at home and ensuring they attend all sessions. For weekly lesson dates, please refer to the key dates document.

We look forward to continuing to support the children on this very special journey.



First Holy Communion Choir

As is tradition, we would like as many children as possible to come and support our First Holy Communion children by singing in the choir on **Saturday 13th June 2026**.

Children will need to arrive at church (Our Lady of Perpetual Succour) for 10:15am, and the Mass is expected to finish by 11:30am.

We will also be holding a lovely celebration in school on Wednesday 17th June 2026, where the First Holy Communion children and the choir will have time to share their memories of this special day.

A big thank you to the PFA for volunteering to help with this event. **If your child would like to sing in the choir to support the First Holy Communion children, please sign them up on Arbor.**

OPAL NEWS



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

If you are currently having a spring clean - please think of us! To keep our OPAL project thriving, we rely on constant donations, and any items you can spare would be greatly appreciated.

We are especially looking for:

- **Large pieces of carpet or rugs for children to sit on during small-world play;**
- **Any small-world toys such as Lego, building blocks, dinosaurs, dolls and action figures;**
- **Dressing-up clothes, masks and handbags; suitcases of any size;**
- **Large pieces of material or netting for den building; pots, pans and kitchen utensils for our mud kitchen and mud café;**
- **Planks of wood, pallets, tyres and plastic crates for construction play;**
- **A hammock;**
- **Plastic guttering and ramps for racing cars; pushchairs, prams or anything on wheels;**
- **Items for creating a music wall such as metal tubes, beaters, pots and pans.**

Thank you so much for your support—every donation helps enrich the children's play experiences.





The Nest



We are delighted to share the exciting progress in The Nest, our enhanced provision for SEND pupils.

Over the Easter holidays, the wall has been removed, creating a much larger, more open space. This will allow our children greater freedom to learn, explore, and thrive. This transformation marks an important step in ensuring the environment meets their needs.

Final checks will take place by the builders today (Monday 13th April) and staff will set up The Nest on Tuesday, ready for the children to return on Wednesday.

Looking ahead, Mr Steeples will install a fence, which will provide a safe and secure outdoor area where pupils can enjoy fresh air and outdoor activities as part of their learning experience.

Follow us on Social Media!



ST MARGARET CLITHEROW CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Follow Us
ON SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://www.facebook.com/SMCPPrimaryNottingham>

@stmargaretclitherowcva

Thank you

Please follow us on social media! We now have both Facebook and Instagram accounts where you can keep up to date with all of the latest SMC news.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SMCPPrimaryNottingham

Instagram: @stmargaretclitherowcva

In response to your feedback about the number of reminder emails you receive regarding school events, we will now be sharing updates through our social media channels rather than Class Dojo or email.

Please ensure your child's consents are up to date on Arbor if you would or would not like their image to be used on social media.

SMC Notices

Transition

Mr Farrell from Christ the King will be visiting on Wednesday 20th May to speak with our Year 6 pupils who will be moving there in September 2026.

This is a great opportunity for children to begin their transition, find out more about the school, and ask any questions they may have.

Please make sure your child is in school on this day so they don't miss out.

LOST PROPERTY

There are a number of unnamed items left in lost property from last term.

The lost property trolley will be placed outside the school office for the rest of this week. Any unclaimed items will then be donated.

Please remember to clearly label all of your child's clothing – including coats, hoodies, wellies and other items – to help us return lost belongings quickly

*We are reading at
The Good Shepherd
Church on
Saturday 9th May 2026
at 6pm*

*Please let us know if your
child wants to read.*

A Big Thanks to...

- Parents who bring the Parish Ambassadors to read in Mass.
- Parents in Year 4 who volunteered for swimming.
- Parents who brought their children to The Stations of the Cross.
- Parents who have donated to OPAL this term.
- Parents who came to this term's Reading Retreats.
- Parents who have volunteered for the PFA this term.
- Parents who have come to see our children in Easter performances, Masses and Celebrations of the Word this term.

*Thank
You!*