



Tuesday 8th September 2026

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin a new school year, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we create a strong and caring school community where our children can flourish both academically and spiritually.

At St Margaret Clitherow Academy, we place Jesus Christ at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to providing a nurturing environment where every child feels valued, respected and supported to achieve their full potential.

Our Mission and Values

Guided by the words of Jesus, "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34), our core values shape all aspects of school life:

- **Love** – caring for and supporting one another
- **Faith** – growing in our relationship with God and confidence in ourselves
- **Service** – helping others and making a positive difference
- **Tolerance** – respecting different views and beliefs
- **Integrity** – doing the right thing, even when it is difficult
- **Courage** – showing resilience and standing up for what is right
- **Honesty** – being truthful and trustworthy
- **Compassion** – showing kindness, understanding and forgiveness

The St Margaret Clitherow Way

Our behaviour policy and behaviour curriculum help pupils understand how to live out these values every day. Rooted in Gospel teachings, they encourage children to make positive choices, show respect for others and contribute to a happy, safe school environment.

We want every child to become a successful learner and a caring, compassionate individual. Through our Catholic faith and the example of St Margaret Clitherow, we encourage pupils to grow in confidence, faith and service to others.

Throughout the year, we will continue to promote our values in all that we do. We encourage you to discuss these values at home and support your children in living them out each day.

Thank you for being part of our St Margaret Clitherow family. We look forward to working together to make this a happy, successful and faith-filled year for all.

*With every blessing,
Sarah Sweeney-McGinty
Headteacher*



Meet the Teacher

We will be hosting our annual Meet the Teacher event on Wednesday 23rd September 2026.

Teachers will share important information and expectations for the year ahead, as well as answer any questions or queries you may have.

 First session: 3.30pm

 Second session: 4.00pm

The 4.00pm session will repeat the information shared at 3.30pm. This is particularly helpful for parents who have siblings in school and need to attend two separate meetings.

We look forward to welcoming you into school and working together to make it a successful year for your children.

National Statutory Assessment Dates 2027

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to make you aware of the National Statutory Assessments taking place during 2027.

Please make a note of the following dates and avoid booking holidays or making other arrangements that would mean your child is absent from school during these assessment periods.

Key Stage 2 – Year 6 SATs

The statutory Year 6 National Curriculum Tests will take place:

- Monday 10 May 2027 – English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling
- Tuesday 11 May 2027 – English Reading
- Wednesday 12 May 2027 – Mathematics
- Thursday 13 May 2027 – Mathematics

Other Statutory Assessments

Year 4 – Multiplication Tables Check

 Monday 7 June – Friday 18 June 2027

Year 1 – Phonics Screening Check

 Monday 14 June – Friday 18 June 2027



EYFS Open Events

Do you know a family whose child will be starting Reception in September 2027, or a child who will be turning 3 and looking for a Nursery place?

Please invite them to come and visit St Margaret Clitherow Academy at one of our upcoming EYFS Open Events.

-  Tuesday 3rd November – 9.30am–10.30am
-  Wednesday 4th November – 1.30pm–2.30pm
-  Wednesday 4th November – 4.00pm
-  Tuesday 1st December – 9.30am–10.30am
-  Wednesday 2nd December 2026 – 1.30pm–2.30pm

These are a wonderful opportunity to look around our EYFS provision, meet our staff and find out more about life at St Margaret Clitherow Academy.

Can't make one of the Open Events?

Families are very welcome to come and have a look around at any time – simply contact the school office to arrange a visit.

Nursery places: Children can join our Nursery from the day after they turn 3 years old.

Please spread the word and share this with any families who may be interested.



First Holy Communion 2027

Saturday 19th June 2027 - 10.30am
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church

The 2027 First Holy Communion Programme will start in January 2027. All Catholic children in Years 3 and above are welcome to join the programme.

The registration forms will be available from the back of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church after half term and will need to be handed into the office at church. We will provide more details after half term.

School Uniform

It has been lovely to see the children coming into school so smartly dressed today. We have chosen some of the many great examples of children who wear their uniform with pride to show new parents the SMC school uniform.



Our policy is that children wear full school uniform everyday apart from P.E days and Key Stage 2 Fitness Days.

SMC uniform includes:

- A red jumper or cardigan containing the school logo. A Year 6 leavers hoodie.
- A white polo shirt with the school logo or a plain white shirt with a red school tie.
- Dark grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore. Nursery: Grey or black jogging bottoms.
- Red gingham summer dress.
- Plain red, black, white or grey tights
- White or grey socks.
- Sensible black shoes. No trainers please.
- If your child has pierced ears, earrings must be studs only.
- Earrings must be removed for PE days. No other jewellery is permitted.
- Nail varnish, false or acrylic nails are strictly not allowed.
- Long nails are dangerous – especially during PE and playtimes.
- **Children will be asked to have false nails removed immediately.**
- Hair decorations should be minimal.

On P.E Days or Key Stage 2 Fitness Days, children should come to school in full SMC P.E Kits.

SMC P.E Kits include:

- Red P.E top with school logo
- Black shorts or jogging bottoms
- Black hooded top
- Plain black trainers



Nursery and Reception's P.E Day is Tuesday.

Year 1 PE Days are Tuesday and Thursday. Year 2 PE Days are Monday and Thursday.

Key Stage 2 PE Day is Thursday. Please come to school in SMC P.E kit.

Key Stage 2 Fitness Day is Friday. It is important children come to school in their SMC P.E kit on a Friday – not a gym kit. Please ensure that your child's name is in all items of clothing.

OPAL NEWS



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

If you are currently having a Autumn clear out – 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.



ALLERGY AWARENESS

In line with our updated Allergy Safety Policy (September 2026), which reflects the latest government guidance, and our commitment to safeguarding everyone in our school community, we ask parents and carers to take extra care when preparing packed lunches and snacks by avoiding foods that contain nuts.

We have pupils and staff with severe allergies, and even accidental contact with allergens can result in serious reactions. While we cannot guarantee a completely nut-free environment, we can all play an important role in reducing risk by checking food labels carefully and avoiding products containing nuts wherever possible.

We also ask families to be aware that some everyday personal care products, including moisturisers, lip balms and shampoos, may contain nut-based ingredients.

If parents wish to provide a treat for their child's birthday or another special occasion, we ask that these are brought into school in a small, sealed individual bag of sweets with the full list of ingredients and allergen information clearly available. Please ensure that these treats do not contain nuts.

By working together, staying vigilant and following our allergy-aware procedures, we can help maintain a safer environment for all children, staff and visitors. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Attendance and Punctuality

As we begin the new school year, I would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of good attendance and punctuality.

Our school gates open at 8.40am, and children should be in school and ready to learn for the 8.45am start time. Arriving on time helps children settle into the day positively and ensures they do not miss important learning.

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please let us know by email or telephone by 9.00am at the latest.

Please also remember that holidays during term time are not authorised, and requests for leave of absence will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Follow us on Social Media!



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: [@stmargaretclicherowcva](https://www.instagram.com/stmargaretclicherowcva)

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

*We are reading at
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
Church on
Sunday 11th October 2026 at 11am.
Please let us know if your child
wants to read.*

After School Clubs and Wraparound Care

We are pleased to offer a range of clubs and activities for our children:

Monday: Choir with Miss Mark | 3.15pm–4.30pm (£3.50) | Reception–Year 6

Tuesday: Drama with professional actor Anna Malik | 3.15pm–4.45pm (£4.50) | Years 2–6

Thursday: Multi Skills with Luke | 3.15pm–4.30pm (£3.50) | Years 1–6

Drama Club – Important: We are currently at risk of losing our Drama Club due to falling numbers. If your child is interested in Drama, please sign them up using the link below:

<https://form.typeform.com/to/BComNhJM>

Breakfast Club

Monday–Friday | 7.30am–8.45am

Please make sure that children are signed up for Breakfast Club through Arbor and that any outstanding debts are paid.

After-School Club

Monday–Thursday | 3.15pm–5.45pm

Our After-School Club is led by TB Sports, an external provider.

<https://tbsport.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>

2026–2027 INSET Days

- Tuesday 2nd September 2026
- Wednesday 3rd September 2026
- Friday 12th February 2027
- Monday 26th July 2027
- Tuesday 27th July 2027
- Wednesday 28th July 2027