# St Margaret Clitherow Academy

# Newsletter

*Tuesday 10th November 2026*

As we enter Advent, we look forward to one of the most joyful and special times of the year in our school community. We have a busy and exciting few weeks ahead, so please check the key dates in this newsletter and add them to your diary.

We also have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. This is a wonderful opportunity to support and shape the future of our school. Ms Cruz will be emailing all parents this week with further information and details on how to nominate yourself.

We wish all our families a blessed and peaceful Advent season.

*With every blessing,*
*Sarah Sweeney-McGinty*
*Headteacher*

## RECEPTION ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2027

Do you have a child who is due to start Reception in September 2027? Children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 are eligible to start Reception in September 2027.

Important admission dates:

- Applications open: 4 November 2026.
- Application deadline: 15 January 2027.
- National Offer Day: 16 April 2027.



Applying for a place
Applications should be made online through your local authority: Nottingham City School Admissions or Nottinghamshire County Council, depending on where you live.
If you are applying under our Catholic or Christian faith criteria, please remember to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF), available from the school office, and return it before the application deadline. You must also provide a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate as evidence of Catholic or Christian faith, where applicable. Without the required documentation, we will be unable to rank your application under the relevant faith criteria.
Please help us spread the word by sharing this information with family and friends who may be looking for a Reception place for September 2027.
We look forward to welcoming our new families to St Margaret Clitherow!

# 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.











# Harvest Thank You!

Thank you so much for your generous donations to our Harvest Festival.

All of your donations were taken to **Arnold Foodbank** to help people in need in our local community





# Children in Need this Friday!

Come wearing non-uniform or your best Pudsey outfits!

Please bring £1 for Children in Need

# First Holy Communion

## 2027

**Saturday 19th June 2027**

All Catholic children in Years 3 and above are welcome to join the programme.

The registration forms are available from the back of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church and need to be handed into the office at church.

**Children will be officially enrolled onto the programme in January 2027.**

# Congratulations to our Virtue Voucher Winners!

We are very proud of you living out our SMC values!










# OPAL NEWS



## Bring your wellies!



OPAL is still going strong!
Please remember to send your child into school with wellies, so they can enjoy all of our outdoor areas, including the field on Yellow Days.
As part of our OPAL project, we are always grateful for donations of loose parts and play resources that help enrich children's play experiences. At the moment, we are especially looking for:
Scraps of carpet, rugs or offcuts for children to sit on while playing with small world toys and Lego.
Small world resources such as Lego, building blocks, dinosaurs, dolls and figures.
Dressing-up clothes, bags and suitcases.
Pots, pans and kitchen utensils for our mud kitchen.
If you are having an autumn clear out, please think of us. Every donation helps to create exciting, imaginative play opportunities for our children.
Thank you for your continued support.














# 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/SMCPrimaryNottingham**
**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.

# Advent Events

## Key Dates – 2026

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|---|---|---|
| Tuesday 24th November |  | **Year 4 Celebration of the Word**<br>9.30am – All welcome. |
| Thursday 26th November |  | **Whole School Non Uniform Day** |
| Thursday 26th November |  | **PFA Christmas Fayre**<br>3.30pm – 5.30pm |
| Tuesday 1st December |  | **Year 3 Celebration of the Word**<br>9.30am – All welcome. |
| Tuesday 8th December |  | **Whole School Advent Mass**<br>9.30am in school – All welcome. |
| Wednesday 9th December |  | **EYFS Nursery and Reception Singing Christmas Songs**<br>2.00pm – Parents welcome. |
| Wednesday 9th December |  | **Key Stage 1 Christingle with Beth** |
| Wednesday 9th December |  | **Christmas Dinner Day** |
| Thursday 10th December |  | **Christmas Jumper Day**<br>£1 for Save the Children. |
| Thursday 10th December |  | **KS1 Nativity**<br>2.00pm – Everyone welcome. |
| Sunday 13th December |  | **Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Christmas Carol Concert**<br>2.00pm – Children will sing in the choir and read Scripture to tell the Nativity to our parish community. |
| Thursday 17th December |  | **Whole School Non Uniform Day** |
| Thursday 17th December |  | **PFA Christmas Discos** |

# SMC Notices

We are reading at
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church on
Saturday 21st November 2026 at 5pm.

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**: Dodgeball with Luke | 3.15pm–4.30pm (£3.50) | Years 1–6

**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