

St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School
Trench Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9NG

To Parents of Pupils in Years 5 and 6

October 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another busy and exciting school year. Many children in Year 6 have already enjoyed the residential trip together. The Year 5 children have enjoyed having Tora from the Sports Partnership in teaching netball skills. We are all pleased to see how well the children have settled into their classes and are rising to the challenges of being role models for the rest of the school. We are looking forward to working together with you to help your children achieve their potential and have a wonderful year 5 and 6.

Communication

We are always pleased to hear from you. Please write any notes in the children's contact book and ask your child to share them with their teacher in the morning. If there are any urgent messages during the school day, they will need to go to the school office via email or telephone. We are also available when collecting your child so do catch your child's class teacher if there is anything that you need to tell them or would like to talk to them about.

Homework

The children in Years 5 and 6 will have homework every night which will usually be due in the next day. Homework is not usually set over the weekend. The children are encouraged to write what their homework is in their contact books. We do not expect children to spend more than 30 minutes on a piece of homework. If your child finds any of the homework difficult then do feel free to support them but please encourage your child to let their class teacher know the next day so that we can ensure any misconceptions can be addressed if needed.

Uniform

School uniform is navy trousers, shorts or skirt with a white polo top with the school logo on or a white shirt. Socks should be navy. A red school cardigan or jumper may also be worn. School shoes should be worn and not trainers except on PE days. If there is a reason for proper uniform not being worn, please can you discuss this with the class teacher.

PE

This year the children will come to school in their PE kits on the days they have PE. On all other days they should be in school uniform, including **school shoes**. PE kits consist of a navy school polo shirt, plain navy shorts, navy or white socks, plimsolls or trainers. Children may wear tracksuit bottoms over their shorts during the winter months. Long hair should always be tied back in school and earrings and watches should be removed for PE lessons and school sport. Each year group has PE on the following days:

Year 5: Every Tuesday **and** Wednesday

Year 6: Every Tuesday **and** Thursday

Reading Books and Water Bottles

All the children should have a reading book in school either provided by school or from home. These books will go between home and school so that you can hear your child read and discuss the text together. These books should be returned to school once finished. It is so beneficial for children when you read to them **and** hear them read aloud. Reading is such an essential skill that permeates all areas of the curriculum and importantly allows children's

imaginations to flourish, develops curiosity and enhances their understanding of the world we live in, so let's get reading!

Please ensure your child has a **named** water bottle in school every day.

End of Day Arrangements

Please collect your child from their classroom outside door at the end of the day. If your child is getting the bus, please ensure they have their bus fare. We know that some children in year 6 may be walking home. If this is the arrangement, please can we have permission in writing. Unless children are walking all the way to their home, they should be collected from the classroom, not met at the top of the drive. Can you please ensure your child knows their home arrangements, especially if they are different from the usual routine, and also inform the school of any changes.

Phones and social media

If children need to bring a phone to school because they are walking home by themselves or getting the bus home, they will need to be handed into the class phone tray at the start of the day which will then be stored at the office and the tray returned to class at the end of the day. We recognise that during year 5/6 children are developing their independence and we are all helping children to become secondary school ready. This occurs in many ways but we are aware that this may include children being given a phone. Please could we ask parents to monitor their child's interactions on their phone as we are increasingly dealing with disagreements and upsets amongst the children in school that have begun on a chat group or when playing online with their friends at home. It can be a difficult medium for children to manage so your support is greatly appreciated and taking time to monitor their devices regularly is essential.

Attendance

It is vital children are in school on time every day. Arriving just 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days of missed learning each year. Arriving 15 minutes late daily means missing two full weeks of school per year. Even missing just a few days a term creates gaps in children's learning that can affect children's assessments and overall reading and maths proficiency. Walking into a classroom that has already settled can make children feel anxious and disrupt their routine. Arriving on time gives the chance to organise themselves, settle and socialise before lessons start.

As always, your support of the children in so many ways is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at some of the school events during the year.

All the Year 5/6 Team