

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

To Parents of Pupils in Year 3

September 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Autumn terms! It's wonderful to see the children enthusiastically getting back into school routines, in their new classes. We are looking forward to working with you this year. Please find our Curriculum Map sent with this letter to see an overview of the topics we will learning over this term.

If your child has allergies that your class teacher needs to be aware of please speak to your class teacher to ensure that our records are up to date. If there is any medication that you would like administered at school, please speak to your class teacher to ensure that permission forms are up to date and that any medication that we hold at school is still in date.

We will be enabling your child to develop independence and confidence in year 3. To help build this independence, they will need a [water bottle](#) and their [contact book](#) in school every day. Their group [guided reading book](#) needs to go home on a Friday and then be returned to the class teacher the following Thursday. A new group guided reading book will not be sent home until we have received the previous week's book back in class.

We provide all the stationery that your child needs at school, but if your child would like to bring in a small pencil case from home, please ensure that it is not too big to fit in their tray. The children need a small bag to bring to school in which to carry their reading books and contact book so they don't get wet on rainy days.

As it is important for us to keep in contact, please ensure that your child's contact book is sent into school every day. We ask the children to show us their contact books if there are any messages for us from home. Thank you for completing the End of Day Arrangements form at the front of the contact so that we know who will be collecting your child. Please do let us know via the School Office or a note in the contact book if there are any changes to the end of day arrangements, for instance if your child is going home with another child for a playdate.

Please can your child wear a full PE kit on their PE days. PE kits consist of the blue polo-shirt with a school badge, blue sports shorts (not cycling shorts), white socks, plimsolls or trainers. Children may wear plain, dark blue tracksuit bottoms in addition to their shorts during the winter months. Your child's class teacher will let you know when your child has PE.

Year 3 will be going swimming after Christmas during the Spring term. Your class teacher will provide further details to their class.

We intend to use our outdoors, regardless of the weather, so a waterproof coat (which they may use in PE) is needed in school at all times. Long hair should always be tied back in school. Earrings and watches must be removed for all PE lessons including swimming. The children need to be able to remove their own earrings and would find it helpful to have a small box in their tray in which to keep earrings; if they are unable to do this, please remove them before school. In the unfortunate event of your child being unable to participate in the active part of lessons (for example, an injury) they will still join the lesson through written activities, or activities such as scoring, timing and evaluating.

Reading in Year 3

Each child will be assigned to a guided reading group who will work together with an adult to read and understand their guided reading book. This guided reading group will meet three times a week. The guided reading book that has been worked on in school will be sent home on a Friday so that you can share the book with your child at home. Please ensure that this guided reading book is returned to school on the following Thursday so that a new guided reading book can be sent home.

The children will also have the opportunity to select a book from the class or school library which they can keep in their tray during the school day but also take home to read, bringing into school daily.

Spellings in Year 3

We are sending a list of the Key Stage 1 spellings that the children need to be able to spell via Tapestry. We will be revisiting these spellings at school but any extra practice that the children can do at home would be beneficial. We are also sending a list of the Year 3 and 4 spellings that we will be working on this year. Year 3 will be working on a subset of these spellings. Spellings are given out and stuck in contact books on Mondays, to be tested the following Monday.

Times tables in Year 3

For times tables, the end of year expectation for Year 3 is to know x2, x3, x4, x5, x8, x10, x11. Later in the term we will be sending home login details for a times table practice website that supports the children in the fluency and accuracy

of their times tables recall. We will be testing times tables regularly in school, sticking results into the contact book so that you can see how your child is getting on.

Homework

There will be spelling, number and reading homework each week sent out every Friday via Tapestry.

Spellings are sent home in the contact book on Mondays and will be checked in class on the following Monday. The spelling check results will be recorded in the contact book.

We will be exploring a range of methods to help the children to find their preferred way of learning spellings. 5 minutes a day practising spellings would be ideal, perhaps starting with two spellings on day 1 and then adding two additional spellings each day until all ten of the spellings have been practised. Please take the opportunity to discuss the meaning of the words in the spelling list.

Later in the term we will ask the children to write sentences using their spelling words.

We ask that Year 3 practise their spellings on one page of their pink homework book that is then brought in to school to show to your teacher each Thursday. This is when we will be able to reward a housepoint for their hard work.

Number homework will be a mix of number bonds and times tables. Number bonds and **times tables** practice (which includes division facts) is most helpful when carried out daily, to aid fluency and speed. It would be ideal if your child could spend 5 minutes each day practising their number bonds or times tables.

We recommend that **reading** homework should be carried out for 5 minutes every day with an adult, with your child answering questions about the characters, events, setting and word choices. Please share any reading comments with us via the contact book when you do your daily read. Your child will have their their guided reading book from which to read.

If you would like to discuss anything more fully with your child's teacher, please arrange an appointment through the contact book, or by speaking to the class teacher at the beginning or end of the day, or via the school office.

As ever, your support of the children's learning in so many ways is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

The Year 3/4 Team.