



Autumn Term Newsletter

Number 467 – 17th October 2025



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of our first half-term. The time has flown by. We hope that the children have a restful half-term and come back in two weeks' time ready and eager for the next half-term.

Tie-ing in assembly [St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School - Gallery](#)

Yesterday morning, we formally welcomed our Reception children to St Margaret Clitherow School. Fr Albert led a beautiful celebration and we were delighted that so many parents and family members were able to join us. The children were wonderful, as always, and we are delighted that they are beginning their journey with us at St Margaret Clitherow School.

ISP Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who came along to the ISP meetings that were held in the last couple of weeks. We hope that you found the discussions helpful. We really appreciate your support with your child's learning. It is through this successful partnership that we can achieve the best for your children.

Reception Workshop and Stay and Play Sessions

As mentioned in the last newsletter, there will be a Phonics workshop for Reception parents in the hall on Wednesday 5th November. There will also be tips on how you can support your child in developing their phonics and reading knowledge. We will also have some stay and play sessions on Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th and Tuesday 18th November. These sessions will not last longer than 30 minutes. This is an opportunity for parents to stay with their child for the beginning of the day and experience a phonics session. We will have a sign-up sheet for these sessions as space is limited in the classroom. The sign-up sheet will be available at the workshop on Wednesday 5th November.

Black History Month

The children have continued to learn about Black History Month and have been doing lots of different activities in the classrooms. We asked previously about parents coming in to school to share something from their culture with the children. Unfortunately, to date, we have only had one parent offer to do so. If you can come in, please, let us know and we can arrange a time after half term.

Tower of London Trip [St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School - Gallery](#)

Year 6 went on a trip to the Tower of London on Friday 10th October. They learnt all about the history of this important building. Thank you to the parents and helpers who accompanied the children on this trip.

Should you have any queries please contact us on: admin@clitherow.brent.sch.uk
iheath@clitherow.brent.sch.uk or bnolan@clitherow.brent.sch.uk



News Items



School Photos

Our class and individual photos had to be rescheduled due to illness and were taken on Thursday and Friday of this week.

ARP Update [St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School - Gallery](#)

On Thursday 16th October, the members of the School Council, accompanied by Mrs, Baalla, Miss Nolan and Miss Kelly, were given the opportunity to visit the ARP and see what the building looks like from the inside. Nick, the project manager, gave the children a tour of the building and answered the many questions put to him by the children. The children really enjoyed their tour and some have written about this. Thank you to Morgan Sindall for giving the children this opportunity.

'On Thursday, the school council went to the new building getting built. We all asked questions about the building'. Maya Year 5

'The new school looks cool'. David Year 5

'Here are some examples of what we asked. What are the rooms for? Why are there pipes in the wall?' Blanca Year 6

'We put on safety helmets and hi-viz jackets and began to walk. As we went inside, we found ourselves surrounded by rooms. We were amazed at the progress they were making.'

Kaleb Year 6

'The building manager Nick led us through the site and explained what all the rooms were for. Some of the places we saw were: a classroom, a therapy room, a playroom, a sensory room and a cleaning cabinet.' Maya Y6

'I am really excited to see what it looks like when it is finished.' Isaac Year 6

Applying for a secondary school place

Year 6 Secondary School Year 6 applications for admission to secondary school need to be submitted by October 31st 2025. I include the link below to further information on the Brent website. Remember to submit an application to the individual school and also to complete your online eAdmissions application. [Apply for a secondary school place | Brent Council](#)

Remember that if you are applying for a place in a Catholic School, you also need to complete the school's SIF (supplementary information form) available from the secondary schools. If unsure, please ask us.

If you need any support with the application, please let us know. We are always happy to help.

Safeguarding

The designated safeguarding leaders at school are: Mrs Ilira Heath and Miss Blaithin Nolan. Any child protection issues can be reported to any one of us. Children know this and you must as well. Our e-safety

page on our website is vital for you to look at, especially the age guides for using different forms of social media. Please also check on the school Jotter as we post regular updates on e- safety matters. Look out for our Wake-Up Wednesday guides and our monthly Safeguarding newsletter. Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you and your family a restful half-term and we look forward to welcoming you back on **Monday 3rd November.**

Best wishes and God Bless

Mrs Heath

Headteacher



News Items



FORTHCOMING DATES

Mon 20 th Oct	Half-Term
Mon 27 th Oct	Half-Term
Mon 3 rd Nov	Year 6 -Saint Day
Tue 4 th Nov	Reading Cafe Year 1
Wed 5 th Nov	Phonic workshop for Reception parents
Mon 10 th Nov	Year 6 to Gordon Brown
Mon 10 th Nov	Reception Phonics in classroom for parents
Tue 11 th Nov	Reception Phonics in classroom for parents
Tue 11 th Nov	Reading Café - Reception
Tue 18 th Nov	Reception Phonics in classroom for parents

Please check out the calendar on the jotter for dates and times of events.

After School Clubs

Please find below a list of after school clubs and how you can sign your child up. Please be advised that there is a limited number of spaces in each club and we will operate on a first come, first served basis. Please ensure that all payment is made in advance. Thank you.

Mondays

Dance – 3.20-4.20pm Years 1-6

Tuesdays

Gymnastics Yrs 1 & 2 3.20pm-4.20pm –

Please book through Non-Stop Action:

<https://www.nonstopaction.co.uk/>

CLUB FULL

Wednesdays

Football Yrs 3, 4 & 5

3.20pm-4.20pm – Please book through Non- Stop Action: **CLUB FULL**

<https://www.nonstopaction.co.uk/>

Kung Fu – Yrs 1-6 – 3.20pm-4.20pm - Please contact the office to book.

SPACES AVAILABLE

Thursdays

Drama Club – 3.20pm -4.20pm Years 3-5 Please book through the following website:

SPACES AVAILABLE

Certificates Winners

Year 1:

Nikodem, Hana

Year 2:

Stefania, Matilda

Year 3:

Amelia, Adheed

Year 4:

Dennis, Alicja

Year 5:

Lucas, Hazel, Ryan

Year 6:

Next newsletter

ATTENDANCE WEEK COMMENCING 6th October to 10th October 2025

Year 1 – 96%

Year 2 – 91%

Year 3 – 95%

Year 4 – 92%

Year 5 – 96%

Year 6 – 97%

Whole school overall – 95%

Congratulations to Year 6 - Best attendance for the week!

ATTENDANCE WEEK COMMENCING 13th October to 17th October 2025

Year 1 – 93%

Year 2 – 93%

Year 3 – 95%

Year 4 – 89%

Year 5 – 91%

Year 6 – 98%

Whole school overall – 93%

Congratulations to Year 6 - Best attendance for the week

EXPECTED ATTENDANCE MINIMUM OF 96%

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

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