

St Monica's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Advent Term

October 2022

News from the school

Hello and welcome to our newsletter.

I hope you will be interested in seeing what the children have been up to, including with regard to RE and the Catholic life of our school.

Thanks very much for your attendance at so many school events this term, including our Parents' Information evenings, Stay and Prays, Stay and Plays, Phonics workshop, sports events and Open Mornings for school places. We have had the highest ever attendances for Information evenings and it is very much appreciated.

Thanks also for your contributions to our Harvest Day food collections for the MK Food Bank – again, we received more food than we have had previously.

Thanks for your considerable support of the school when there is so much going on around all of us at the moment.

We have a number of school places available in a number of year groups so, if your family or friends' families are looking for school places, please contact the school office.

School will end for half term break today Friday, 21st October. School will re-open to children on Monday 31st October.

All the best for half term and we will see you again on Monday, 31st.

Kind regards,
Mr O'Malley
Headteacher



Religious Education News

The children have had an exciting first half term and have taken part in lots of religious activities. The children in Year 4 walked to St. Augustine's church for Mass.



When the children returned to school, they discussed their experience and how it made them feel.

"It made me feel closer to God." – Runo, Year 4.

Year 6 had an opportunity to share their learning with their families this half term during their Stay and Pray session. Their theme was 'The Prodigal Son'.



Year 3 were offered the opportunity to apply for a position on the Chaplaincy team this year. They met with the existing members of the chaplaincy team and listened to the different roles and responsibilities they would have.

We had lots of interest and some fantastic responses!

We have now welcomed Afena, Maliyah, Theo and Jannah to our chaplaincy team and look forward to seeing all the fantastic ways they support the children in the school with their religious education.



Mrs Wheatley and Mrs Hayes took some of our children to Mass in Dunstable this half term. They shared the experience with lots of children from other schools within the diocese. Bishop David said Mass and presented the children with a special letter.



Our school's Prayer Spaces

Our chaplaincy team have been working hard on our prayer spaces. They take time to ensure these spaces are kept tidy and accessible to all classes.

Our prayer room and prayer garden are used by all classes in the school during RE lessons and Collective Worship.



Mrs Cockerill and Miss Hannigan bought a lovely water feature for our prayer garden as a leaving gift. We will be using this to create a special area of remembrance.



Food Bank Fashion Friday!

We would like to thank all of our families for the fantastic support shown with our MK Food Bank collection. We had lots of donations which they were very grateful for. They told us that all of the support our families have shown will support many others.



Accelerated Reader House competition

This is a termly competition to see which house passes the most quizzes on Accelerated Reader. Each Friday, results will be read out in assembly and displayed in the hall. At the end of the term, the final results will be announced for the House winners to get together for a special treat.



Cross Country at The Bowl

Some of our children entered the Cross-Country event at The Bowl on Saturday 8th October.

Junior Girls and Boys had to run 1500m and Senior Girls and Boys ran 2000m.

They all did our school very proud, managing to complete a difficult course!



KS2 Parent information evening

Thank you very much to all parents that attended our KS2 parent's information evening on the 27th September. If you were unable to attend on the day, you should now have received a ParentMail with the information the teachers went through on the evening. If you have any further questions, please see your child's class teacher.

Head Boy and Head Girl

Congratulations to Regi and Zara who won their peer and staff vote to be elected as our new Head Boy and Girl. Well done to all the children who put themselves forward.

They have already started their role by speaking to parents at the recent KS2 Parent Information evening.

House Captains and Vice Captains

Congratulations to our new House Captains and Vice captains.

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|----------------------|
| Red House | Captain: Leonora | Vice captain: Amelia |
|-----------|------------------|----------------------|

| | | |
|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Blue House | Captain: Maja | Vice captain: Amber |
|------------|---------------|---------------------|

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Yellow House | Captain: Kairi | Vice captain: Elle |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|

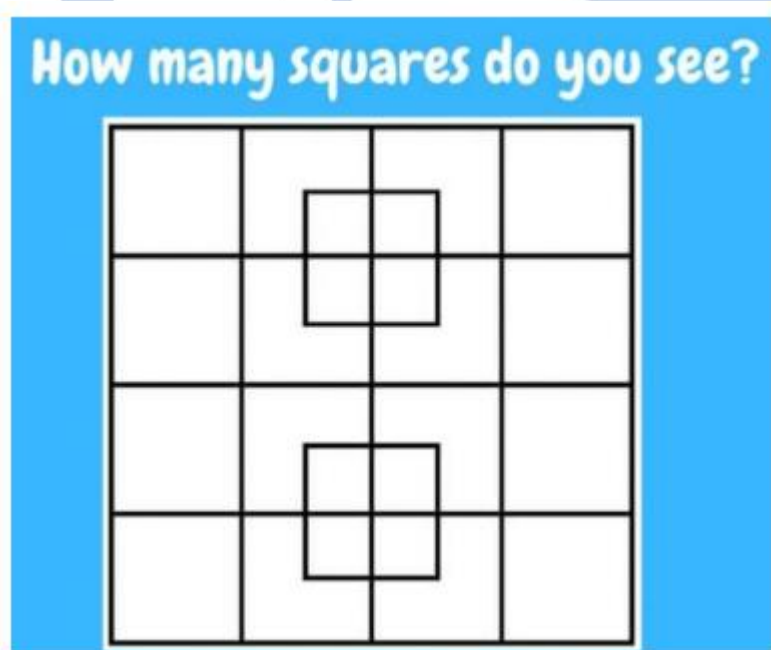
| | | |
|-------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Green House | Captain: Natasza | Vice captain: Michaela |
|-------------|------------------|------------------------|

Maths

All year groups have been learning about number, place value and addition and subtraction in their maths lessons at school this half term. If you would like to see a copy of our calculation policy, it can be found on our website under the 'curriculum by subject area' tab.

Please do help your children with learning their timetables. Children in years 3– 6 have a login and password to TTRockstars which they can access at home.

Maths challenge – answer at the end of the newsletter. Can you find all the squares?



News from Reception

This week Reception have been reading the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt.' We made maps of the story to help us remember the sequence and then we used our maps to go outside on our own bear hunt!



News from Year 3

We've had a fun start to the academic year in year 3. We have been investigating, with torches and Play doh, 'what is a shadow?' We have been amazed to see how the shadow can change size and direction depending on where the light source is positioned. We have also been tracking the sun as it appears to move across the sky and realising how and why this happens.

We have just started some fantastic singing lessons with a visiting tutor Mrs Compana, we have sung a collection of songs including hymns and fun songs about pirate ships, and we are already sounding more musical!

We celebrated our first RE Collective Worship to mark the end of our Domestic Church unit and the children offered up their own promises about how they would make their homes happy homes.



The children have applied and been chosen for School Council and School Chaplaincy positions; congratulations to Lyanna and Jezrahiah; who were elected by their classmates to be our School Council representatives and congratulations also to Afena, Jannah, Maliyah and Theo who are the Year 3 Chaplaincy team.

News from Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt this half term. Here are some pictures of a fun afternoon re-enacting the art of mummification - mimed, of course!



Two A level maths students and their teacher came in to do a practical maths lesson with St Mark's, Year 4 class, on Friday 14th October. The children and teachers loved it!



News from Year 6

This half term, Year 6 had their Victorian Day. The children were able to experience what school was like for Victorian Children and took part in activities such as Drill, Handwriting Practice where they had to neatly copy the Lord's Prayer and some craft sessions. The teachers roleplayed as Victorian teachers and even the Dunce cap made an appearance!

"I learnt that Victorian teachers were really strict and the education they had was surprisingly poor. I would have hated going to a Victorian School!" – Alex W in St. Peter



AIM High Writing Day

This month, four year 6 children got to take part in a writing workshop run by the author Ann Stairmand. On the day, the children got to participate in some roleplaying and learnt how to use different writing techniques to make their story writing as engaging as possible. A great day was had by all the children who attended.

"It was a really fun day. Ann was very inspirational and has really helped me with my writing." - Natasza in St Peter



The Rainbow Club

Come and join our lively and thriving Breakfast and After School Club!

We have a wide range of activities to meet the needs of every child in a fully inclusive environment.



We are open from 7.30am until 6.00pm and offer great value for money with every session providing a nutritious snack.

Please check us out and sign up on our school website.

Alternatively email Liz.murphy@st-monicas.co.uk for further information. Our fully trained staff offer a friendly service and give you reassurance that your children will be well cared for.

Lost Property

Please can you make sure your child's full name is on each item of school uniform which they bring to school as we have had a lot of lost property already this year. If your child's property is named clearly it is likely to get back to them very quickly - unnamed uniform is much more likely to remain unrecovered.

Looking for Name Labels?

Name labels are the latest initiative from (our PTA) FOSM.

St Monica's is registered with Stikins, a family owned business, which promotes a school fundraising scheme through which the school can receive 30% commission on every order placed quoting the school reference number (21229).

Why choose Stikins Name Labels?

1. Easy to use!

Stikins® name labels are made of an advanced material; all you have to do is stick them onto the wash-care label of clothes. They are a one-size, multipurpose label, which can also be used on school items such as shoes, plastic boxes, water bottles, pencil cases etc.

2. Help your school!

For each order placed ordering St Monica's unique code (21229), we earn 30% commission for the school. You can order online (<http://www.stikins.co.uk/>), over the phone (01270 668076) or by using the order form on the leaflet we've given you. If you use the link on the uniform page of our school's website, the school's code is automatically filled in for you.

<https://st-monicas.co.uk/information/uniform-and-dress-code/>



We print labels every working day
up to 3pm & send them out same day
by first class post.

Packs

| |
|---------------------------------|
| 120 STIKINS® Name Labels - N120 |
| 90 STIKINS® Name Labels - N90 |
| 60 STIKINS® Name Labels - N60 |
| 30 STIKINS® Name Labels - N30 |

2021 Prices

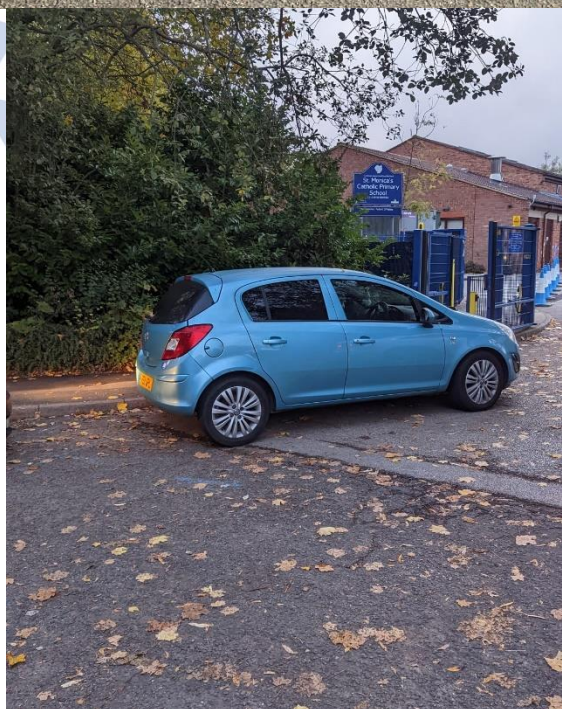
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|--------|
| £14.20 |
| £12.00 |
| £9.50 |
| £6.80 |

Prices include
VAT & UK delivery

Order online at www.stikins.co.uk – Pay by Credit/Debit Card, PayPal, or Apple Pay
Order by phone on **01270 668076** – Pay by Credit/Debit Card

Parking

We constantly have complaints from neighbours about disruption from parking, particularly at the end of the school day. Please can you park observing the rules of the road, including with regard to stopping in the middle of the road and parking on yellow lines? Please do not block parking spaces, junctions, driveways or park on corners of the paths.





St Lucy – 3AC



St Peter – 6MS



**St James –
3ER/SB**

| Class | % Attend |
|---------------|----------|
| St. Lucy | 98.2 |
| St. Peter | 98.1 |
| St. James | 98 |
| St. Augustine | 97.6 |
| St. Catherine | 97 |
| St. Mark | 97 |
| St. Joseph | 97 |
| St. Joan | 96.7 |
| St. Clare | 94.8 |
| St. Thomas | 94.3 |
| St. Matthew | 94.1 |
| St. Luke | 92.9 |
| St. Therese | 92.5 |
| Average | 95.6 |



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

Diary Dates

| Week no. | Week Commencing | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------|-----------------|---|---|---|---------------------------|--|
| 8 | 24-Oct-2022 | -----Half Term----- | | | | |
| 9 | 31-Oct-2022 | Back to School | | Y4 Stay and Pray - 9am | Cross Country- St Paul's | |
| 10 | 7-Nov-2022 | | Mass at St Augustine's Year 5 ----- Flu Immunisations in school | Year 3 Stay and Pray - 9am ----- FOSM- Film Night 3:30-5pm | Mathematics Day | Remembrance Day Assembly |
| 11 | 14-Nov-2022 | Change of Date 6:30pm- KS2 Parents information Evening | | Year 1/2 Stay and Pray - 9am | RE Cross Phase Day | Odd Sock Day |
| 12 | 21-Nov-2022 | Year 2 Phonics Screening ----- School Nurses- Screening- Y1 | School Nurses- ScreeningY1 | 6pm- Y6 SATS Parents Evening | Mexican Day- Y5 | Y5/Y6 Girl's football |
| 13 | 28-Nov-2022 | | Nursery visit- new intake | Nursery- stay and play | | |
| 14 | 5-Dec-2022 | Nursery dress Rehearsal to Reception and siblings 10am ----- <i>1pm- YR Dress Rehearsal</i> | 13.45-14.45 - Reception performance to parents ----- Mass at St. Augustine - Year 3 | 10.00-11.00 - Nursery Christmas Performance to Parents ----- 18.00-19.00 - Reception Performance to parents | | Christmas Jumper Day / FOSM Children's Christmas Party 3:45-5:15pm |
| 15 | 12-Dec-2022 | Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance 14.00-15.00 | KS1 Eve performance to parents 6pm | | KS2 Carol Service- 6:30pm | Last day of term |