

St. Monica's Catholic Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr R O'Malley

6th September 2019

Dear Parents

RE: Welcome back

Welcome back to school to you and your children for the new academic year. We look forward to lots of learning and the children enjoying all the opportunities school can offer.

We welcome to our school Mr Stothers who is teaching Year 5 and Mrs Smith who will be teaching Year 2 while Mrs Foster is away on maternity leave. Good luck to Mrs Foster and her family at this really exciting time for them.

We welcome in particular those families new to the school - in Nursery, Reception and a number of children in other year groups. We hope that you will be glad you have chosen our school. Please feel free to approach us for anything you need at this time.

Building Works

Over the summer holidays, we have extended both Year 1 classes and one of the Year 3 classes. The internal works have been finished on time and the external works will be finished next Monday.

This means the back gate is currently planned to be closed and will **re-open on Tuesday, 10th September**. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused you – please feel free to visit the extended classrooms and we trust you will feel it has been worth it. We hope the children in those classes will really benefit from their increased size.

Rainbow Club and After School Sports Clubs

Our Rainbow Club has started well and we are up to 20 children in the afternoons already which is great. Our Sports Clubs still have a number of places. You can book your children into those clubs on our online system at <https://stmonicascatholicprimaryschool.schoolpal.co.uk/>

If you need any help at all with registering/making bookings, please phone us or come in and we will work through it with you.

RE Interim Monitoring Visit Inspection, June 2019.

Please see our inspection letter from our RE inspection visit in June 2019. I am really grateful for so many families returning our Catholic Life/RE Survey – we had over 60 families reply. It was very clear from your responses how important the religious education in the school is to you and I hope you will be pleased by the quality assurance offered by our inspection report.

All the best for the new school year.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Robert O'Malley

Catholic Diocese of Northampton
Interim Monitoring Visit
21st June 2019

St Monica's Catholic Primary School, Milton Keynes (URN: 110482)

Since the last Section 48 inspection in July 2016, St Monica's continues to embrace and live by the values of its mission statement, 'Let Love, Trust and Respect live here', in evidence throughout the school and clearly understood by the children. The headteacher, who had only recently taken up this post at the time of the last Section 48, has now built a strong team and given clear direction to the staff in ensuring the Catholic identity underpins all school activities. There have been many staff changes during the last three years, including some of the senior leadership team, and several members of staff are in the early stages of their teaching career. They continue to address the areas for development previously identified around teacher and pupil assessment and staff have raised expectations of achievement. The school has the capacity to maintain and improve on its current grade of 'Good'.

The school's self-evaluation gives an accurate picture of the good work across all areas. They recognise the potential to further develop pupil spirituality, and are already giving the junior chaplaincy team more opportunities to take leading roles and improving areas for quiet reflection both indoors and out. The children enjoyed working on the mission statement at the beginning of the year and they are very able to articulate how it is put into practice. The mission statement and behaviour policy are based on restorative principles around forgiveness. The active welfare provision, including Treasure Box, Nurture groups and Breakfast Club, ensures that children receive support and know how to respect and care about each other. They also plan and organise events raising money for a wide range of charities, including collecting almost £2300 for *Missio* this Lent.

The learning walk showed the children to be interested, enthusiastic and well-behaved in RE lessons. The quality of RE teaching is good and is evidenced by the high standard and quantity of the work and presentation in their very attractive RE books. Work is normally well-marked including next steps, which the older children respond to. Data shows attainment to be good. The new RE/Catholic Life governor is very supportive and keen to become more actively involved with the children. Formal prayers are taught but children are also encouraged to verbalise and write their own prayers. Children are taught about the liturgical calendar and the structure of the Mass and are given opportunities to think ethically and spiritually.

Children are respectful and active participants in collective worship both in the classroom and in assemblies, with leaders from other faith groups and members of other denominations. They enjoy a range of worship styles, including gospel singing. The older children lead their weekly class collective worship, while younger children know the routine of bringing and lighting their candle at the start. The children's chaplaincy team plan and lead liturgies around special events in the liturgical calendar. Pupils have expressed their enjoyment of meditation.

Areas for further improvement should include:

- Opportunities for children to take responsibility for planning events to develop Catholic life and worship
- Refresher staff training on assessment to aid transition to whole school assessment system following diocesan guidelines

The diocesan reviewer would like to thank the headteacher, staff and children for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded throughout the visit.

Pauline Cotton on behalf of Northampton Diocese