

# St Monica's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Advent Term  
December 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 the performances led by the children at the end of the year.

Thanks for your considerable support of the school when there is so much going on around all of us at the moment. This includes getting the children into school in the recent icy weather.

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 Christmas break today Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December. School will re-open to children on **Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January**. *On Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, school is not open to children as it is a staff training day where staff will be doing phonics teaching training.*

All the best for Christmas and we will see you again on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Kind regards,

Mr O'Malley  
Headteacher





## CAFOD Day

This year we had a visit from Cathy at CAFOD to tell us all about the important work CAFOD does and how we support them. The children in Years 5 and 6 did a great job creating their own stalls to raise money. The children across the rest of the school had a fantastic time visiting the stalls. A wonderful £312.14 was raised in total.



## Remembrance Service

On Armistice Day the school gathered together for a special assembly. The children's chaplaincy lead the assembly sharing prayers, readings, hymns and thoughts with one another. The school choir also shared a beautiful song called Siyahamba. The children were all very respectful and took part well.





## Visit from Sister Monica

Year 6 enjoyed a visit from Sister Monica as part of their learning in RE. She spoke about her vocation and what it means to be a nun. The children were very interested in what she has to say and they asked her some very good questions. Thank you for Sister Monica for coming in to speak to us.



## Purple Hearts

During the month of November, the children took the time to think about their loved ones and the people we would like to remember in our thoughts and prayers. These were shared during our collective worship and displayed on our prayer tables and in the school hall.





## PSHE: Anti-Bullying Week

In November our school took part in Anti-bullying week. The children learned/embedded their prior knowledge on what bullying is. The theme this year was 'reach out' and the children learned what they should do if they see, hear or experience bullying. All the children know that they should reach out to an adult (sooner rather than later) if they experience bullying, see bullying or hear about it. Our children understand that bullying is wrong and not acceptable.

Throughout the week the children across the school had different activities to support their learning. All the children and staff came together on odd socks day to celebrate the fact that we are all special and unique. It was fantastic to see all the children and staff taking part in a key activity.





## Reading News

The past term has seen the children really engage with their reading. In October, we had a well attended Breakfast with Books, where parents and children got to enjoy reading together. They also enjoyed their end of term prizes, including Movie Afternoons, Pyjama Parties and an Afternoon Tea. This half term has seen the children try hard in their reading and many of them have met their target already. Well done to Ruru (St.Peter), Ysane (St. Joseph) and Jason (St. Augustine) who have already read over 600,000 words this year and are well on their way to becoming Word Millionaires. To close the term off, we had our first book swap in December, which was really well attended and the children were able to get new books to read over Christmas.





## Maths News

On the 10th November we had a 'Maths is everywhere' Day. For children's maths lesson that day, they looked at maths that they might use everyday day, not just in their maths lessons.

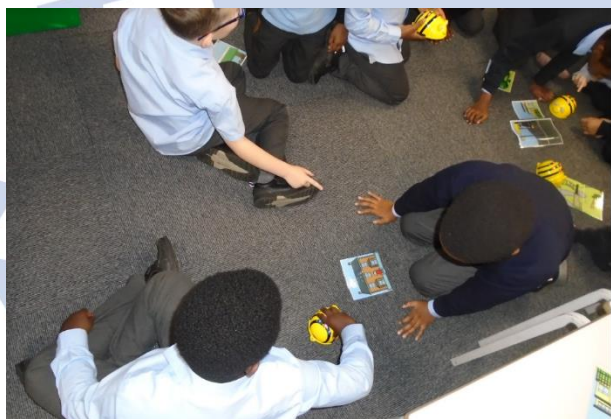
We had children looking at shopping catalogues and budgets; looking at symmetry in nature; looking at which shapes create strong and stable structures; the maths in the nursey rhyme 'Hickory dickory dock' and even looking at the maths involved in football and match reports. Maths really is everywhere!



Year 4



Year 5



Year 3



Year 1/2



Nursery

## AIM High Maths

On the 23rd November 3 children in year 6 were invited to take part in the AIM High Maths day at Long Meadow School. Children took parts in different maths activities. "We all enjoyed the shapes where we had pieces and had to create a certain shape. We also enjoyed the problem solving pyramid where we had place numbers to create the biggest possible answer."





## Maths Challenge



Answer below:

Which crackers do you need to pull to score: a) 8 points b) 7 points c) 5 points.  
a)  $6 + 2, 3 + 5$  b)  $6 + 1, 5 + 2, 4 + 3$  c)  $4 + 1, 2 + 3$

## St Andrew

On the 30th November was St Andrew's Day. Children in blue house came into school dressed in blue to mark this day. House captains Maja and Amber collected some information about St Andrew to share with the rest of the school.

### Who is St Andrew?

Some people may know him as Jesus first disciple.

We celebrate St Andrew's day on the 30th of November because in 1320 St Andrew officially became the patron saint of Scotland.



This is our Cross Country team that ran at St Paul's. We came third overall.

Luca came 2nd in the Year 4 boys race.



Picture of the Year 4 boys. Luca, Jacob and Michael (from left to right)



## Our school's Prayer Spaces

We have been enjoying RE club at school this half term. The children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to attend this club during one lunch time a week. We have enjoyed speaking about the liturgical calendar, learning about St. Andrew and doing arts and crafts that remind us of the Christmas story.

## News from Nursery

We have been enjoying getting ready for Christmas in Nursery. We enjoyed a Stay and Play with parents making decorations to decorate Nursery. We have also performed our Nativity to parents and had a special visitor last week.





## News from Reception

In reception, we enjoyed having our mum's and dad's in for a Christmas Reading Cafe! We read the story of 'Dear Santa' and then we spent the morning completing lots of lovely activities using our reading skills.





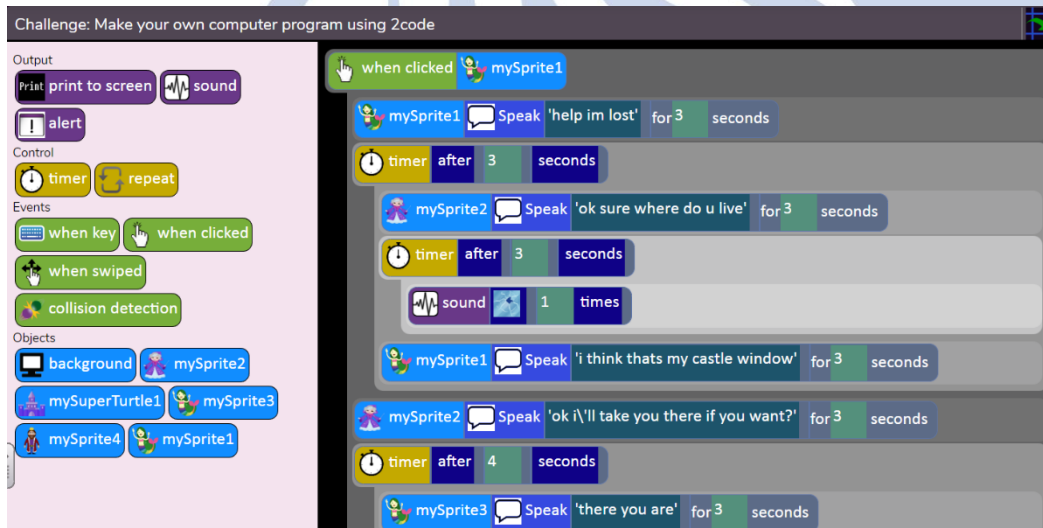
## News from Year 3

In year 3 we have been learning about forces. We investigated how the surface of a ramp would affect the distance a toy car travelled. We did lots of measuring and our results showed that the bumpier the surface, the more friction it had, the shorter the distance the toy car would travel.

As a year group, we had our first walk to St Augustine's church to celebrate mass with the parish and Fr Emmanuel, the whole year did very well in walking quickly to get to mass on time and Ronel did us all proud reading the first reading so beautifully.

We really enjoyed our 'Maths is Everywhere' day in year 3. We looked at directions and moved around different activities; giving directions to a partner to move around the outside area, moving a programmable 'bee-bot' floor robot and using Purple Mash to direct around mazes using the words forwards, backwards, left, right, turn, diagonally.

In computing the children have put together their own sequence of code to run a short animated programme. The children are gaining confidence in using control and event blocks.





## News from Year 4

Y4 enjoyed working collaboratively to investigate how sound travels. They made walkie – talkies and then tested them out. The children discovered that their voices travelled better if the string was pulled taut. They learned that taut means stretched or pulled tight. What a great Science afternoon!



Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful day at Great Linford Manor Park, stepping back in time, investigating and learning about the past.

They completed many interactive activities from writing with ink and a feather quill to playing Victorian style outdoor games and tasting fruit tea. A fantastic day was had by all!



## News from Year 6

Back in October, Year 6 had a Victorian Day as part of their history topic on the Victorians.

Children went back in time and dressed as Victorians, got new Victorian names and all lessons were Victorian themed- drills, handwriting and looking at inventions during the Victorian era.



Just before we broke up for half term, Year 6 went on a trip to Whipsnade Zoo as part of their science and literacy learning. Children had a great time walking round and looking at the animals. We then had a session in the discovery centre which linked to our science learning of 'Adaption and inheritance'.

When we came back to school, children used their experience of being at Whipsnade to help them write a balanced argument on the title: 'Should animals be kept in captivity?'





## 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 [stmonicas@st-monicas.co.uk](mailto:stmonicas@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

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

Prices include  
VAT & UK delivery

Order online at [www.stikins.co.uk](http://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.





## Attendance figures



**St Joan – 5LB**



**St Peter – 6MS**



**St Augustine –  
5KB**

| Class         | % Attend |
|---------------|----------|
| St. Joan      | 96       |
| St. Peter     | 95.5     |
| St. Augustine | 95.4     |
| St. Mark      | 95.1     |
| St. Lucy      | 95       |
| St. James     | 94.8     |
| St. Joseph    | 94.8     |
| St. Clare     | 93.3     |
| St. Catherine | 93       |
| St. Thomas    | 92.3     |
| St. Therese   | 91.2     |
| Average       | 94.1     |



**Attendance  
Matters**

Every student. Every day.



# Diary Dates

| Week no. | Week Commencing | Monday                                       | Tuesday                          | Wednesday   | Thursday                | Friday   |
|----------|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| 16       | 19-Dec-2022     |  |                                  |   |                         |  |
| 17       | 26-Dec-2022     |  |                                  |   |                         |  |
| 18       | 2-Jan-2023      |  | Staff Training day               | Children return today<br>-----<br>Nursery Home visits all day |                         |  |
| 19       | 9-Jan-2023      | Music Perf in School Hall - St Paul's 9:10am | Mass at St Augustine's Class TBC |   |                         | Stay & Pray 5MS - 9.00am<br>-----<br>Maths G&T comp at St Paul's |
| 20       | 16-Jan-2023     |  |                                  |   |                         |  |
| 21       | 23-Jan-2023     |  |                                  |   |                         |  |
| 22       | 30-Jan-2023     |  | Mass at St Augustine's Class TBC |   |                         | Stay & Pray 5FC  |
| 23       | 6-Feb-2023      | Parent's Evening                             | Parent's Evening                 | Parent's Evening  | Y5 Trip to Space Centre | Hug & Hearts' Well being day                                     |
| 24       | 13-Feb-2023     |  |                                  |   |                         |  |