

St Monica's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Pentecost Term

May 2023

News from the school

Dear Parents and Families.

Welcome to our Summer 1 Newsletter.

We have had a lovely day in school today, with children dressed in red, yellow and orange in preparation for Pentecost.

Well done to Year 6 on working so hard during SATs week and in preparation. I hope that they will enjoy the rest of the term as they prepare to go onto secondary school, including their residential trip and Leavers' Mass.

Thanks for all your support in attending school events, including our Stay and Pray sessions which have been very well attended, including by Reception parents this morning.

Thanks also for your support in our fundraising events this year, including for Hannan School for which we raised over £900.

Congratulations to Miss Collins, who has been successful in becoming Deputy Headteacher of the school from September to work with Miss Shanahan as Headteacher.

Children's reports from teachers are being written at the moment and will come out to you near the beginning of next half term.

We look forward to the rest of the term, including our school sports days, Catholic Schools sports and the Milton Keynes Athletics competition.

Please remember that school will start for children after half term break on Tuesday, 6th June (not the Monday which is a staff INSET day).

All the best for the half term holiday and we look forward to seeing you again on the 6th June.



Religious Education News

The children worked hard across the school to create opportunities for fundraising. Their aim was to raise money to support Hannan School. They worked hard and thought of some great fundraising ideas. The children raised an incredible £949. We would like to thank all of our families for their continued support.



This half term our Children's' Chaplaincy wrote prayers for the Coronation of King Charles. They visited different classrooms and shared their prayers with the children across the school.

Years 1 and 2 had the opportunity to share a lovely Stay and Pray session with their families. The theme was based on the virtue Perseverance. We would like to thank parents for the continued support with our Stay and Pray sessions and we look forward to seeing you at more of these over the rest of the year.



The children at St. Monica's continue to enjoy attending Mass at St. Augustine's. One class attends each month and the children take on the responsibility of sharing the readings.

There will be a change to the Sunday Mass times at St. Augustine's from Sunday, 11th June 2023. They will be at 8am, 9.30am, 11.30am and evening Mass at 6.30pm.



After half term, most year groups will be looking at shapes and their different properties. During half term have a look to see how many different shapes and patterns you can find in nature.



News from Nursery

In Nursery at the end of last term we learnt about people who help us. We had an excellent visit from a community first responder who showed us his kit and brought his first responder car for us to look at. We all had a go at bandaging each other! As part of the coronation celebrations, we dressed in red, white and blue and enjoyed a special snack outside. This term we have been learning through the topic Marvellous Maths. We have learnt about shape and measuring.



News from Reception



This half term got underway with a brilliant start with Our Bee Aware Day. The children dressed in their bee outfits and really understood why we should be growing more plants and flowers as bees are such an important part of our ecosystem. During the afternoon of our Bee Aware day the children also tried some honey on toast which they all really enjoyed. This half term the children have learned how to be an Eco-warrior and have been encouraged to recycle and look after our earth responsibly as our earth is precious.



In Literacy the children have been developing their writing skills and letter formation and we are seeing the children make progress. They have written facts about animals in the rainforest. In Understanding the World, the children have had the opportunity to try fruits, such as pineapple and mango which are grown in warmer climates. The children described the fruits as 'delicious' and encouraged other children to try them too.



We also have had an amazing week celebrating the Coronation. As part of our Expressive Art and Design we tried creating a collage for the first time which was fun. We also made a crown fit for a king and then discussed our British Value of Respect and in what ways we would respect the king if we saw the king or met him. Overall, the children were very fascinated by something that was happening all around them and through their observations alone they were all able to talk about what big event was happening.

Healthy Fruit Salads

In our recent Year 1 and 2 DT topic we learnt about how to make a healthy fruit salad. We investigated different fruits by tasting them and rated how much we liked them out of 10. Using our ratings, we then designed our own fruit salad picking from: apples, oranges, watermelon, lemon, red and green grapes. We then created our fruit salad using our design to help us. Here are a few pictures of us making our fruit salads and having lots of fun!



News from Year 3

Year 3 children started the term with a DT day where they designed and constructed moving pictures using CAMs mechanisms, learning that rotary movement can be converted into linear movement. They measured and sawed the cam shaft and worked with accuracy on their construction. Their finished products were very impressive.



We have been finishing off our science unit learning about the different bones in our bodies and muscle groups which has linked to our indoor fitness unit in PE, which has left us all feeling slightly more toned!

The children have also enjoyed a stay and pray where we thought about good choices that we have been making, and also enjoyed our trip to St. Augustine's to join our parish family in a morning mass. Well done to Lyanna and Jezhariah for reading beautifully, some very challenging readings.



In History, the children have been learning all about The Romans, finding out lots of new knowledge about Roman roads, gods and goddesses, Hadrian's wall and Boudicca's rebellion. The children also used their new knowledge with writing an explanation text in Literacy on Roman roads.

News from Year 4

Since Easter, 4LD have had Helen Goldbourn, from MK Sports Partnership, in to instruct them in some brilliant lessons. She has commented on how creative the class are...and smart in their PE kits!

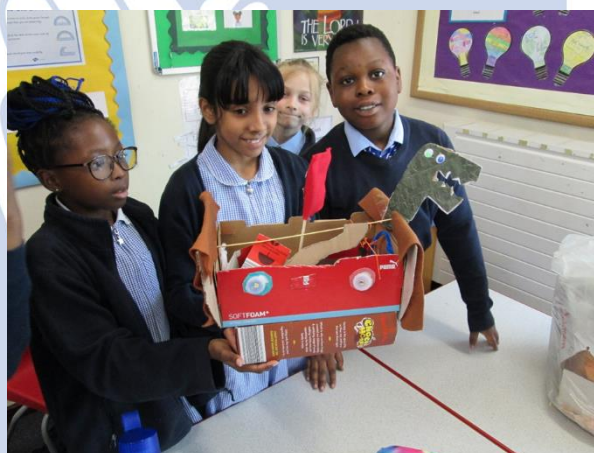


Year four enjoyed a fun day of Coronation activities, including making group collages and having their photo taken in the 'Photo Booth'!



Year 5 have been learning about the Vikings this half term. Linking with our work in History, we have also been designing our own Viking Long Boats in Art and Design lessons. On Thursday 18th May the children had the chance to complete their own Viking Long Boat when we had a DT day in Year 5. The children worked in mixed ability groups across the two classes, which allowed them to work with different friends, and they had lots of materials to use. Thanks to those who sent in lots of recycling. The children could use their designs from our Art lessons and had a brief of what the Long Ship should look like and how it could be designed to float. During the afternoon the children had the chance to test out their Long Boats to see if they floated or sank. They then had to evaluate what it was like as a design and if it met their brief at the beginning of the unit.

Here are some photos of the day:



Knife crime intervention session

On the 28th March we had a session from the Safety Centre on knife crime intervention. This session focused on peer pressure and how this can affect decision making along with how children can avoid getting involved in knife crime and where they can find help and support.

SATs

Well done to our year 6 pupils on their hard work during SATs week. We are all very proud of their effort and determination. Children enjoyed a breakfast of toast, fruit and juice each morning and we will be celebrating the end of SATs on Friday 26th by going to the cinema to see Roald Dahl's Matilda.



Science- Walk to the woods

As part of our science unit 'Living things and their habitats' we went on a walk to Linford Wood to see if we could identify different habitats.



Auditions

Well done to all the children who auditioned for a role in our end of year play- Aladdin Trouble.

Aladdin
TROUBLE

Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who came to the St Monica's Sleep advice Coffee Morning.

It was lovely to see you all.

The coffee morning was focused on SLEEP as this was our topic for the half term.

It was a great opportunity for parents to ask for advice or to share any sleep related problems they had.

The children enjoyed sleep related activities including a Lounging Day where they wore their comfy, snuggly clothes to school for the day.

It was a great success and we hope to have many more in the future.

Thank you

St Monica's Wellbeing team



Quit drinking
after dinner



Get moving



Dim the lights
at night



Reduce long
daytime naps



Skip the
caffeine

Tips for Improving Sleep



Keep cool



Understand chronic
health issues

Pre-loved Uniform Shop

Thank you for all the support for our recent pre-loved sale. Our recent sale raised £51.

Our next date is to be announced shortly.

We are still accepting donations of uniform in our office.

Any remaining property after Friday 26th May will be donated to the pre-loved uniform shop. Please check outside the school office if your child has lost an item.

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 and/or meal.

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

Alternatively email Rainbowclub@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 – 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 – 5DB



St Peter – 6MS



**St Augustine –
5KB**

Class	% Attend
St. Joan	96.6
St. Peter	96.1
St. Augustine	95.8
St. Joseph	95.6
St. Mark	95.2
St. Lucy	95
St. Clare	94.8
St. James	94.6
St. Catherine	93.9
St. Thomas	93.3
St. Therese	92.9
St. Matthew	92.2
St. Luke	91.5
Average	94.4



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

St Monica's Calendar 2022-2023

Week no.	Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
39	29-May-2023					
40	5-Jun-2023	Staff Training day- Children not in school		St Paul's Y5 taster day - Humanities and ICT	St Paul's Y4 Taster Day	
41	12-Jun-2023		St Paul's Catholic Schools Sports Day	Nursery New Intake meeting	St Paul's Y5 taster day - Technology	Governor visit- PP ----- Stay & Pray YR/1 - 9.00am ----- St Paul's Y5 Taster Day
42	19-Jun-2023	Instrument celebration at the Ridgeway Centre		Class Photos and Leavers' photos - DSP	New Reception Parents Information Evening 6-7pm	St Paul's visit to Y5 Q&A
43	26-Jun-2023	Catholic Sports Day @ St Paul's	EYFS/KS1 Sports Day 9.00 - 11.00 ----- Y4 St Paul's Taster Day	Year R MK Safari Trip ----- Nursery Sports Day TIME TBC	EYFS/KS1 Reserve Sports Day 9.00 - 11.00 Spelling Bee	Manor Adventure Y6 Residential Fri- Sun
44	3-Jul-2023		KS2 Sports Day 9:30-11:30am ----- St Paul's Y4 Taster Day ----- Nursery Farm Visit	Transition day ----- FOSM - Disco Night YR-Y6 3:15-5:45	Year 2 Mead Open Farm Trip ----- KS2 Sports Day 9:30-11:30am (Reserve)	Year 1 Mead Open Farm Trip ----- Ark Farm visit Nursery + EYFS ----- Y3 Primary Engineers Winners visit St Paul's
45	10-Jul-2023	Reception Stay and Play for new parents for September 2023 ----- School Council day at St Paul's				Mission Day ----- FOSM Y6 Disco
46	17-Jul-2023	Y5 Gullivers trip		School Closes for Summer		