

St Monica's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Advent Term
December 2023

News from the school

Hello and welcome to our newsletter

I hope you will enjoy reading about what the children have been up to this term, including with regard to RE and the Catholic life of our school.

Thank you for your attendance at so many school events this term, including the Christmas performances led by the children. They have all helped bring Christmas cheer to St Monica's.

School will end for Christmas break today Thursday, 21st December. School will re-open to children on **Monday 8th January 2024**.

As we go into the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the school start times. Registration for children in Reception to Year 6 is 8:50am which means that children need to be in class ready for the register. The school gates close at 8:50am and anyone arriving after that time will need to sign in at the office.

I would like to end with a big 'Thank you.' Both Mrs Nicholls and I have had a wonderful first term in our new positions. The support from parents, staff and children has been incredible and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas from all at St Monica's.

Kind regards,

Natalie Shanahan



Religious Education News

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 and displayed on our prayer tables and in the school hall. We also took time to remember our fallen soldiers during our whole school assembly.



The children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 have all worked hard this half term to produce wonderful Christmas productions. Their acting and singing has been beautiful and we have really enjoyed watching them all!

We have continued our Stay and Pray sessions this term. Years 1, 2 and 3 shared some beautiful prayers and songs with their families. We would like to thank our families for their continued presence and support.

CAFOD Day

We had a wonderful CAFOD Day this year. The children in Years 5 & 6 worked very hard on creating some fun and exciting stalls and we managed to raise a total of £280.64!

Pre-loved Uniform Sale

Thank you for the parents of the donation of uniforms. Our recent sale made £62.69.

We accept donations of uniform at the school office. The next sale will be announced in January.

Thank you, Mrs Plant

♥
PRE-LOVED
UNIFORMS

Choir

On Monday 18th December, the choir/Gospel Mashup went to sing Christmas carols to the residents of Neath House.

They sang beautifully and made the residents very happy. Afterwards, the children were rewarded with some sweets.



PSHE

During the month of November we supported Anti-Bullying week. We started the week with an odd socks day to celebrate that we are all unique and different, we remembered that this makes us special. During the week the children also learned about who to approach if they felt they were being bullied or if a friend was being bullied. All the children understand that being bullied is not ok and we must "make a noise" about it by telling an adult who can help. We remind the children on a daily basis that if something is happening to them at school they should tell an adult straight away (even if it is not bullying) so we can support the situation.

News from Nursery

We were very happy to have so many visitors for our Christmas Stay and Play. The children really enjoyed showing their parents how well they say their morning prayers and then they made some beautiful Christmas decorations.

We were also incredibly proud of how well the children performed in their 'Wriggly Nativity'. We hope you enjoyed watching the children perform.

In Nursery we have been learning the story of the very first Christmas. Children loved to hear about Mary being told the news from Angel Gabriel and how shocked she might have been. We have really enjoyed listening to the story from the Bible and we have been talking a lot about waiting, just as Mary had to do all those years ago.



News from Year 1

In year one we learned about one of our British Values which is to have respect and tolerance to those of another faith or culture. We listened to the story of Diwali and understood how Hindu's celebrate Diwali. We made our own Diyas (lamps lit on Diwali) using card and a folding technique.

As part of our Design and Technology work, we have been learning about finger puppets. We learned about what they are through playing with them, we also designed and made prototypes before making our final version. We had to use a variety of materials and tools when making our finger puppets. We had lots of fun during our learning. Once we had made our puppets, we evaluated them and even had our own puppet show with a group of friends in class.

During our Advent term the children have also worked extremely hard when learning songs and lines for our performance of the Nativity. We are extremely proud of all the children's efforts.

Some highlights of the term also include meeting Santa and enjoying the school disco.

Thank you all for your continued support at home with your child's homework and phonics learning, it makes a massive difference to their learning. We hope you all have a well deserved break with your children and we look forward to seeing you all again in January.



Year 2 & 3's Stay and Pray was all about Prayer – the children shared their ideas about prayer as well as sharing some of their own prayers. They did some fantastic singing and it was enjoyed by all.



As part of our science topic on forces, we investigated which was easier to pick up with chopsticks; Ice Cubes or Sugar Cubes? We learnt that Sugar Cubes were easier as we all managed to pick up more in one minute than ice-cubes. Friction helped us grip the sugar cube with the chopsticks.



In Design and Technology we made marble runs. Year 2 considered features such as different levels and cup catchers and year 3 progressed onto thinking about the speed the marble would travel, using their scientific knowledge about high and low friction.

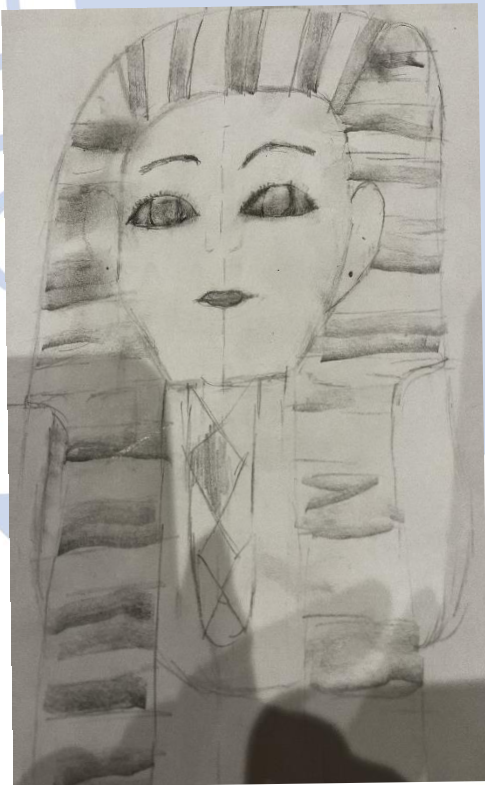


News from Year 4

The children in Year 4 have been carrying out investigations to discover which liquids are harmful to eggshells. They then thought about how some of the liquids are also harmful to their teeth. By observing the eggshells, they came to the conclusion that the best liquid to be drinking all day is plain water and definitely not squash or coke. They also discovered that it was better to drink plain water before going to bed rather than milk.

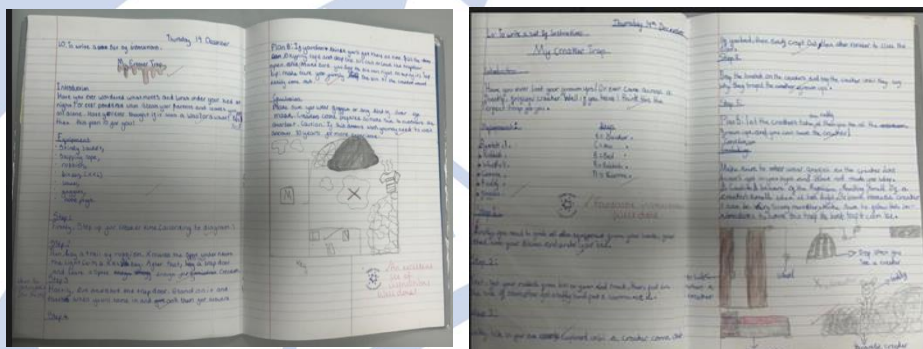


Here is some Egyptian artwork drawn by our Year 4 students.



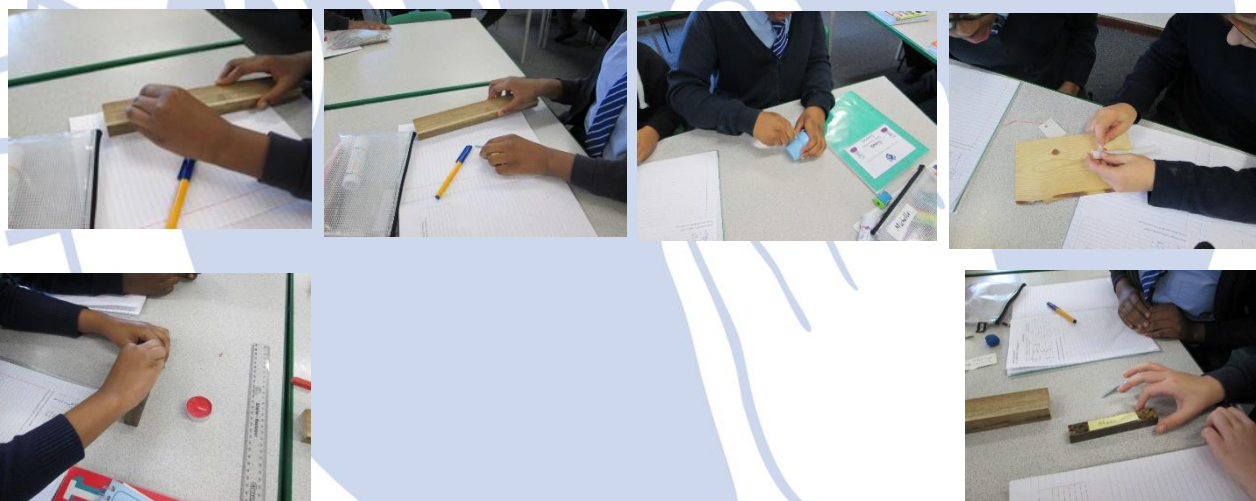
News from Year 5

This half term Year 5 have really enjoyed learning about the Creakers and producing some amazing work. Here are some instructions they wrote to trap a Creaker.



Year 5 also took a trip to St Augustines Church for our Mass with Father Emmanuel.

In science we have been exploring the properties of different materials and carried out a number of fun and exciting experiments.



In November, parents joined us for our 'Stay and Pray' where we decided to focus it all around our talents. We wrote our own prayer and sang 'If I were a butterfly'. We really enjoyed this.



The children have worked extremely hard this half term and deserve a well earned rest for the Christmas break. ☺

News from Year 6

In November we had Fr Emmanuel and Fr Lawrence come to visit the children to speak on our RE topic of 'Vocation'. We found out what called them to their vocation of priesthood and about the Sacrament of Ordination.



As part of our DT unit this term, children have been researching, planning and building edible houses out of biscuits. Children have been having great fun testing out their build materials to see which would create the best house.



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 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

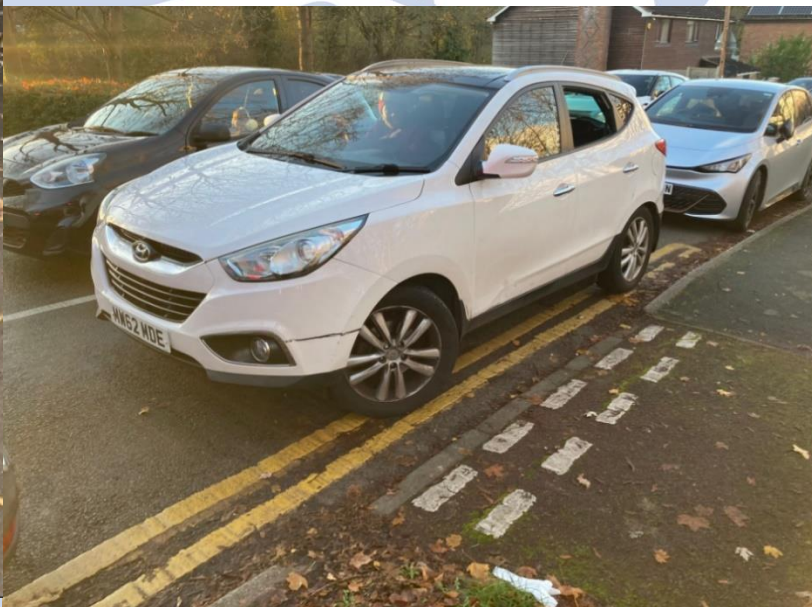
£14.20
£12.00
£9.50
£6.80

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 Joseph – 6FC



St Peter – 6KB



St Mark – 5CC

Class	% Attendance
St. Joseph	96.9
St. Peter	96.7
St. Mark	96.4
St. James	95.7
St. Clare	95.6
St. Joan	95
St. Thomas	94.7
St. Therese	94.3
St. Lucy	93.8
St. Catherine	93.6
St. Augustine	93.6
St. Luke	83.5
St. Matthew	79.3
Average	93



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Diary Dates

The dates below are subject to change

Date	Event	Time
January 2024		
Monday 8 th	Children return to school	8.45am
Monday 15 th	Year 5 Space Centre Trip	8.30 - 4.00pm
February 2024		
Friday 9 th	Reception Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
Monday 12 th	Parents Evening	3.30 - 5.30pm
Tuesday 13 th	Parents Evening	3.30 - 5.30pm
Wednesday 14 th	Parents Evening	3.30 - 8.00pm
March 2024		
Wednesday 6 th	Books with Breakfast	8.30-9.00am
Thursday 7 th	World Book Day	
Friday 15 th	Year 5 Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
Tuesday 26 th	Year 4 Easter Play	1.45 - 3.00pm
Wednesday 27 th	Year 4 Easter Play	6.00 - 7.00pm
April 2024		
Friday 26 th	Year 6 Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
May 2024		
Friday 3 rd	Year 1 Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
Friday 24 th	Reception Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
June 2024		
Thursday 6 th	Year 3 - Verulamium Museum	8.45 - 3.15pm
Wednesday 12 th	Books with Breakfast	8.30 - 9.00am
Friday 14 th	Year 2&3 Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
Tuesday 25 th	EYFS/ KS1 Sports Day	9.30 - 11.00am
Wednesday 26 th	Nursery Sports Day	10.15 - 11.15am
Friday 28 th	Year 4 Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
Friday 28 th – Sunday 30 th	Year 6 Manor Adventure	8.45 – 7pm
July 2024		
Wednesday 3 rd	KS2 Sports Day	9.30 - 12.00pm
Thursday 4 th	Year 2 - College Lake	8.45 – 3.15pm
Tuesday 9 th	Year 6 Play	1.30 - 3.00pm
Wednesday 10 th	Transition Day	
Thursday 11 th	Year 6 Play	6.00 - 7.00pm