

St Monica's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Lent Term
February 2024

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 half term.

As a school we have been lucky enough to welcome 63 children and their families since September. We hope they have all settled in well and we hope they enjoy their time at St Monica's. If you know of anyone who is looking for a school place in September 24, please pass our details on.

Thank you for your support and participation in the lovely events we have held so far this term. Our 'Dress to Express' day has been one of my favourites as it has given us a chance to get to know each other better and for everyone to 'let their light shine.'

Thank you to everyone who has tried to ensure their children are here on time. The number of children with a late mark has reduced this term, meaning that more children are having the best start to the school day.

We look forward to welcoming you to parents evening during the week beginning 4th March. Don't forget to book an appointment.

School closes today for our Lent half term and reopens on Monday 26th February for all pupils.

Wishing you all a lovely half term break from all at St Monica's.

Kind regards,

Natalie Shanahan
Headteacher



Wellbeing Ambassadors

Welcome to St Monica's
Wellbeing Ambassadors!



We would like to welcome our Year 5 Wellbeing Ambassadors to their new roles. The children who applied for the role all gave caring and thoughtful application forms in. It was very hard to choose as all the applicants were amazing.

One role the Wellbeing Ambassadors will be a part of, is to help organise and plan our wellbeing days and themes for each term. They will plan and then help to support activities during these days.

They will be a voice for the children at school and will meet with the staff wellbeing team regularly.

We hope that the Ambassadors will bring new ideas to help support the wellbeing of all of our children in school.

They will be an important part of our school community, showing
Love, Trust and Respect.

This half term we were happy to celebrate Ms Shanahan's Induction Mass. Members of our parish, old and new staff, friends and family of Ms Shanahan and children from the school came together to share Mass. We welcomed Fr. Christopher Perry and Fr. Emmanuel and Olly to celebrate the Mass with us.

We welcome Ms Shanahan as the head teacher of our school and look forward to all of the hard work and excitement she will put into St. Monica's.



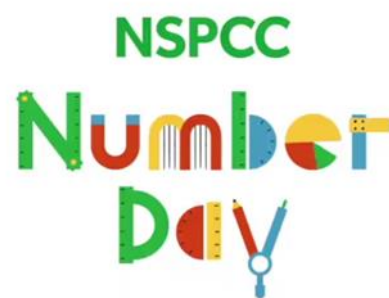
We welcomed Fr. Emmanuel to school on Ash Wednesday to share a service with us. Fr. Emmanuel spoke to us about the meaning of the ashes and why we wear ashes on our head. He spoke to us about Lent and how it is a time to prepare for Easter. This year we will be raising money for a charity called St. Mark's Meals. Watch out for information about all of our amazing fundraising ideas!



NSPCC Number Day

Thank you for supporting NSPCC Number Day. From the donations collected, we raised £185.48 for the NSPCC.

See below some pictures from the day



Half term maths challenge!

Can you solve one of the problems KS2 children had on Number Day?

Can you make two 4-digit numbers that add together to give a total this is as close as possible to 7560?

1

7

3

6

8

5

9

2

0

4

Answers:

It is possible to make 7,560 exactly.
For example, the following combinations of cards could be used:

1. $5,489 + 2,071$

2. $2,489 + 5,071$

3. $5,089 + 2,471$

4. $5,479 + 2,081$

5. $5,481 + 2,079$

6. $2,479 + 5,081$

7. $2,089 + 5,471$

8. $5,079 + 2,481$

News from Year 1

What a brilliant start to 2024 the year one children have had. We had our first day back as a topic day where the children enjoyed dressing up as royalty. The children wore fancy clothes and made crowns in school. We have really got stuck into our topic this half term learning all about previous queens and all the different changes that have happened over time. We have also had many children complete Purple Mash homework on creating their own palaces, which was fantastic.

As part of our PSHE we have been learning about healthy and unhealthy food and drink choices. We have discussed how these can impact our mental and physical health too. We encourage all the children to make healthy food and drink choices now which will lead to good habits in the future.

In English we have been learning about question words and questions. When reading with your children you can ask them questions about what they have read or see if they can spot question words or question marks in books that you share together, this will be a great way to support their learning in school.



Science

In science we have been learning about plants. We have been exploring the different parts of a plant and what jobs they do. We investigated what would happen if celery was put in water that had food colouring in it. We had fantastic results, showing that the stem sucks up the water which travelled to the leaves and turned them a pink/blue and purple.



Maths

In our Maths lessons we carried out a data investigation. In small groups the children decided on their survey topic, carried out the survey, completed tally charts, bar charts and wrote statements about the data. The children presented them brilliantly on posters.



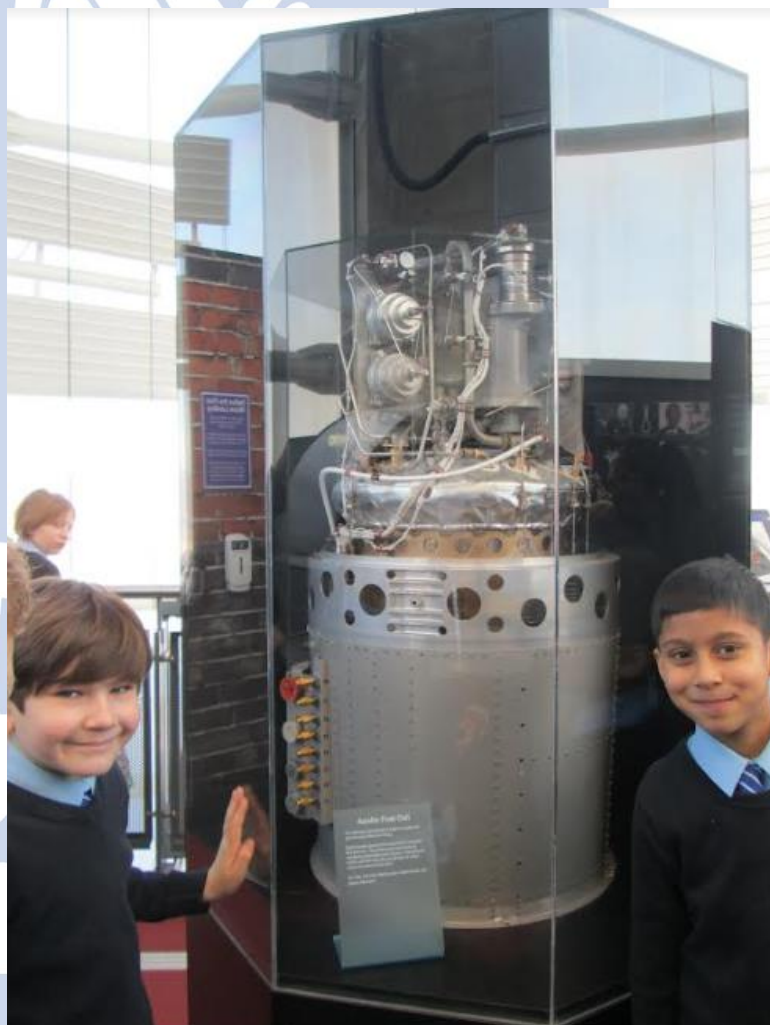
WWII

In Literacy and History we have been learning about World War 2. We have linked our art lessons experimenting with blending and defining keywords such as background, foreground and silhouette.



News from Year 5

Year 5 children had a fantastic trip to The National Space Centre in Leicester. They enjoyed themselves thoroughly and their behaviour was a credit to St. Monicas! Following on with our Space topic we have been carrying out practical lessons, investigating the distance of planets from the sun. We have also been continuing our space topic in Art this week by looking at Peter Thorpe's abstract art where the children have produced beautiful abstract backgrounds with space themed pictures.



Smoothie tasting and review writing

As part of their literacy work this half term, children got to taste 4 different smoothies and for extended writing wrote a review on one. While tasting the smoothies the children had to think and note down key information including: the appearance, taste, texture, flavours and value for money.



Making blood- we have been looking at the circulatory system in science this half term and children were able to 'make' some blood. The mini marshmallows are the white blood cells; the cereals are the red blood cells; water is the plasma; and the pom poms are the platelets. This was a great way for children to 'see' the different parts of blood.



On Friday 26th January, Olly, a seminarian priest from St Augustine's came to speak to the year 6 children about his calling to his vocation- one of our previous RE topics. He asked the children to think about what their vocation might be.

The Treehouse

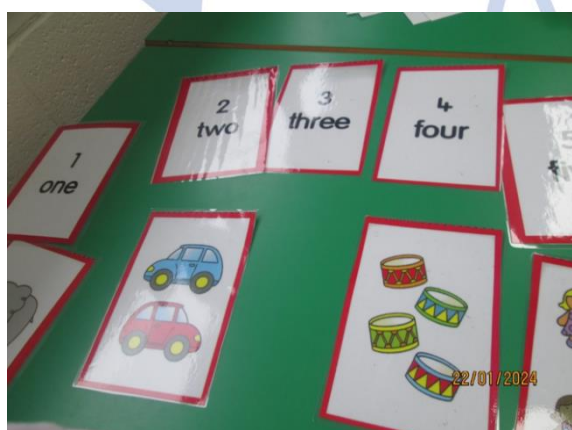


The children in the Treehouse have settled in well to their new classroom and outdoor garden space, they particularly enjoy throwing the balls onto the target and using the slide.

This half term, in our Literacy learning, we have looked at a variety of texts both in written format and more multi-sensory. A particular favourite with the children has been the story of Cinderella. They liked role playing with the Cinderella story props in the tuff tray, especially pressing the button on the musical castle and putting Cinderella in her carriage.



In Maths we continue to listen to a variety of counting songs to support all children's understanding of number. We have been recognising numerals and trying to count in sequence, some children have also been looking at number bonds to 5 and 10. Children have also been learning about shapes. Using a variety of 2D shapes to hold and manipulate, they have been supported to recognise and name circle, triangle, square and rectangle. They have also used 2D shapes to make space rockets.



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 Anthony –
NGW**



St Joseph – 6FC



St Mark – 5CC



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

Class	% Attendance
St. Anthony	98.6
St. Joseph	96.7
St. Mark	96.4
St. Luke	96.2
St. Peter	96.2
St. Joan	96
St. Thomas	94.9
St. Lucy	94.7
St. Francis	94.6
St. Clare	94.1
St. Therese	93.8
St. James	93.6
St. Catherine	93.5
St. Augustine	90.9
St. Matthew	89.2
Average	94.6

Diary Dates

The dates below are subject to change

Date	Event	Time
March 2024		
Friday 1 st	Y6 Secondary School offer day	
Monday 4 th	Parents Evening	3.30 - 5.00pm
Tuesday 5 th	MK Instrumental Celebration at Christ the Cornerstone	9.15 – 12.30pm
Tuesday 5 th	Parents Evening	3.30 - 5.00pm
Wednesday 6 th	Parents Evening	3.30 - 7.00pm
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
Wednesday 27 th	MK Festival at Christ the Cornerstone	
April 2024		
Tuesday 16 th	Nursery – Primary Offer Day	
Monday 22 nd	NHS medical screening	
Tuesday 23 rd	NHS medical screening	
Friday 26 th	Year 6 Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
May 2024		
Friday 3 rd	Year 1 Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
Monday 13 th	Y6 SATS week	
Monday 20 th	Y2 Assessment week	
Friday 24 th	Reception Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
June 2024		
Thursday 6 th	Year 3 - Verulamium Museum	8.45 - 3.15pm
Friday 7 th	Class Photos	
Tuesday 11 th	Catholic Sports Day	
Wednesday 12 th	Books with Breakfast	8.30 - 9.00am
Wednesday 12 th	Y4 taster day at St Paul's	
Thursday 13 th	Y5 taster day at St Paul's	
Friday 14 th	Year 2&3 Stay & Pray	9.00 - 9.30am
Friday 21 st	Cultural Day	
Monday 24 th	Spelling Bee Week	
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	YR Woburn Trip	
Thursday 11 th	Year 6 Play	6.00 - 7.00pm