

St Monica's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Advent Term

October 2023

News from the school

Hello and welcome to our newsletter

Thank you for a great start to the school year.

I hope you will be interested in seeing what our children have been up to, including with regard to RE and the Catholic Life of our school.

Thank you for your support at the many events that have taken place this half term, including parent information evenings, stay and play sessions, stay and pray sessions and the FRIENDS AGM. Our first half term of inviting parents to our Celebration Assembly has been very successful and we have had lovely feedback from the parents so far. We would love to hear any ideas you have for increasing community events so please do get in touch.

We still have some spaces to fill throughout the school so would be grateful if you could share the dates of our Open Days with family and friends. We will be handing flyers out after half term so please do take some for any Church or Community groups you attend. The dates are as follows:

Thursday, 9th November at 6:00pm
Monday, 13th November at 6:00pm
Wednesday, 15th November at 10:00am
Friday, 17th November at 1:30pm

School ends today (Friday 20th October) for the half term and reopens for children on Monday 30th October.

We hope you have a happy and safe half term break and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 30th.

Kind regards,

Natalie Shanahan
Headteacher



The children have had an exciting first half term and have taken part in lots of religious activities.

Year 6 walked to St. Augustine's church for Mass. The children in Year 6 also had an opportunity to share their learning with their families this half term during their Stay and Pray session. Their theme was 'St. Therese'. They shared prayers, readings, offerings and some beautiful singing.



Our Children's Chaplaincy Team were fabulous this year. We would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment.

They had the opportunity to speak in assembly and tell everyone about what they had been up to last year in the hope that they would encourage new children to apply. We had a fantastic response and we are looking forward to working with our new Children's Chaplaincy Team!

Mrs Wheatley and Mrs Hayes took some of our children to Mass in Dunstable this half term. They shared the experience with lots of children from other schools. When the children were asked about their experience, they said they really enjoyed it.



Pre-loved Uniform Sale

Our latest uniform sale this week made just over £105. Thank you to all the parents who came to buy.

Our next sale will be announced in the new half term.

We accept donations of uniform at our office. Thank you again to the families that have donated.

Thanks, Mrs Plant

♥
PRE-LOVED
UNIFORMS

Head Boy and Head Girl

Congratulations to all year 6's who have been voted for a school responsibility this half term. Well done to all the children that put themselves forward and prepared speeches.

Head Boy and Head Girl – Jamie and Khensani



House Captains and Vice Captains

Congratulations to our new House Captains and Vice captains.

Red House	Captain: Alex	Vice-captain: Aalayah
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Blue House	Captain: Danita	Vice-captain: Zadok
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Yellow House	Captain: Jason	Vice-captain: Jezreel
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Green House	Captain: Zion	Vice-captain: Onyi
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Maths Challenge

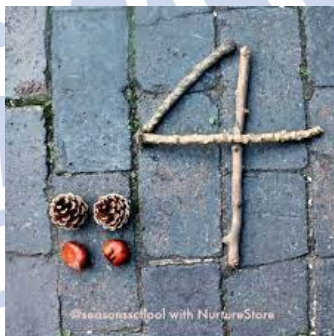
Half term maths challenge!

Stick Numbers!

Go out and find some twigs, can you create some digits?

- 1- Can you make the digits 0-9?
- 2- Can you make the digits 0- 20?
- 3- Can you make the roman numerals I- XII ?

We would love to see your stick numbers. Please send any pictures to either your class teacher or to Miss Crawford.



Harvest Donations

We are grateful for Harvest donations and the money you have sent in for our CAFOD stalls. The children have had a great time.

Please do remember to speak to us if you are experiencing any difficulties and we will do our best to support and signpost where we can.



News from Nursery

In Nursery we have been learning how to make the sign of the cross and that we are welcomed into God's family through Baptism.

We have been learning about Number 1 and we found lots of 1's around our Nursery.

On 'Your voice, your choice' day we had such fun. We chose to have some bubble fun and a glow in the dark disco party! The children chose their favourite songs to dance to and we even had a disco ball light!



News from Year 1

Year One have had a brilliant start to the year.

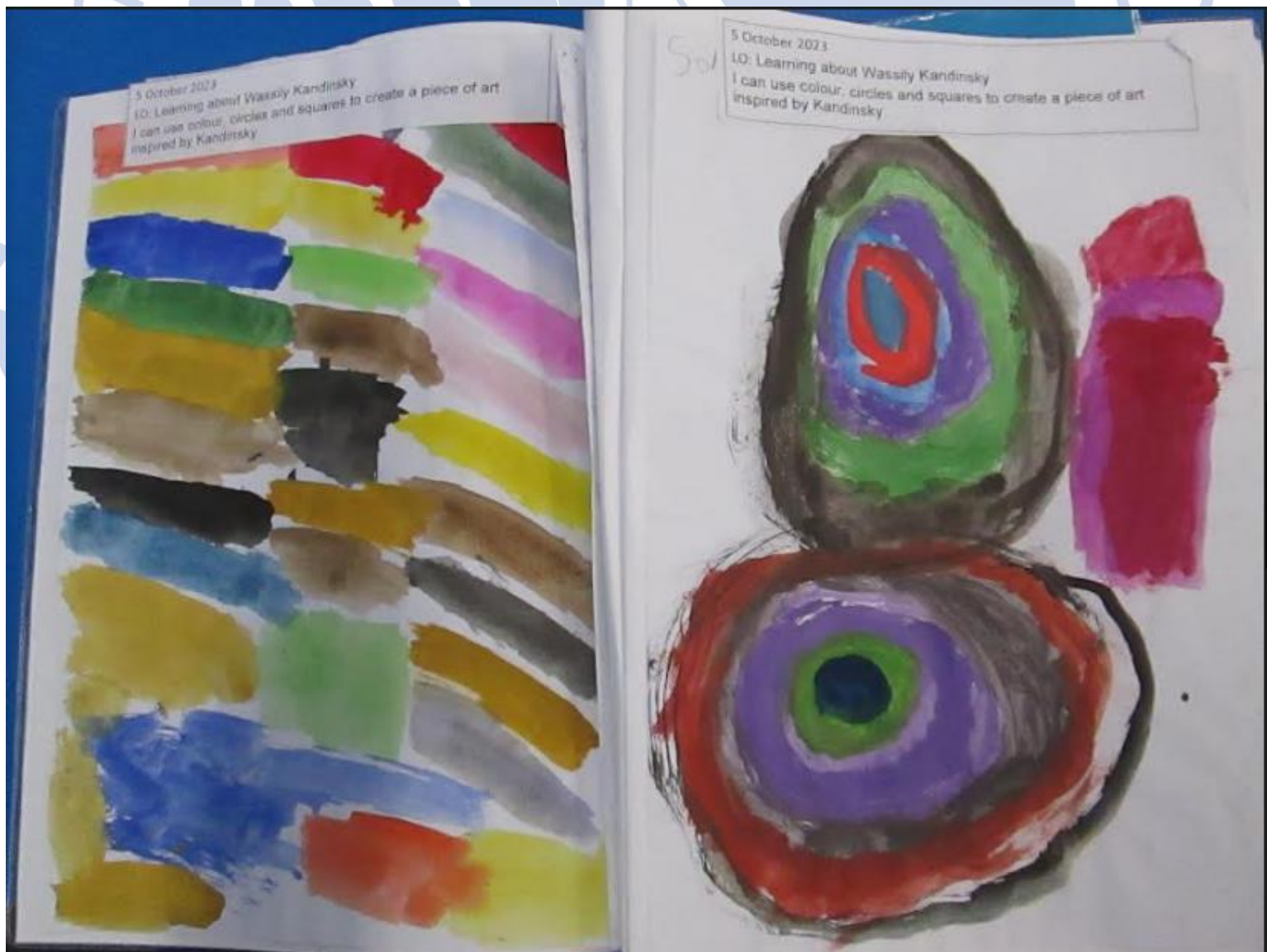
This half term in Maths the children have worked hard to learn the symbols for; greater than, less than and equal to and then use them successfully to compare number bonds to ten. Well done year one as this has been hard work!

In PSHE the children have learned about what to do if they need help in an emergency, they used role play to act out dialling 999 and then asking for the correct emergency service followed by describing the scene in which they have found themselves in.

In Phonics the children have adapted well to their groups and worked hard to learn new sounds and blend them in words. Please keep up the reading at home.

We had a great day on Your Voice, Your Choice Day, we painted pictures in the style of Kandinsky and enjoyed a disco with our friends during the afternoon. The children said they felt "happy" as a result of their day which definitely boosted their mental health.

We are extremely proud of our children for working hard this half term even when the work has been challenging. Thank you for your continued support.



News from Year 2/3

Year 3 have been learning some French greetings and made bunting.

As part of our Stone Age to Iron age topic, year 2/3 have been making Stone Age clay story tiles. First we looked at cave paintings, identifying images and the information behind them and used these to design our own tiles.



In RE year 2 concluded their topic on Beginnings, creating a beautiful display to celebrate how we are all part of God's creation



News from Year 5

The children in Year 5 have been planning and organising their own collective worship sessions. They have chosen particular themes and found scriptures that link to this. They also have written some of their own prayers too. We look forward to continuing this next half term and to seeing as many of you as possible at our stay and pray on Friday 3rd November.



Over the last few weeks, the children have been busy creating and organising their own stalls for CAFOD. They have worked so well together in their groups and are so excited to raise money for this charity.



News from Year 6

On Wednesday, Year 6 visited Whipsnade Zoo for our science topic on 'Adaptation' and looked at how different animals adapt to their environment to survive and hide from predators.

The children saw a variety of exotic animals that originate from different parts of the world, such as Asia, Africa and Europe. Animals that they saw included tigers, elephants, penguins, rhinos and so much more!

Children had an exciting Workshop on the adaptations of animals and how they survive in different climates. They were able to walk around the room, where they were able to observe different skulls of animals and answer different questions on how animals survive.

The children enjoyed the Butterfly House and Aquarium where we saw over one hundred unique species of butterflies, different species of fish and even some alligators!

The trip was a great experience for the children and they thoroughly enjoyed looking at the animals.



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.





St Joseph – 6FC



St Peter – 6KB



St Mark – 5CC

Class	% Attend
St. Joseph	96.8
St. Peter	96.5
St. Mark	96.4
St. James	96.1
St. Clare	96
St. Luke	96
St. Joan	95.9
St. Lucy	95.7
St. Thomas	95
St. Catherine	94.8
St. Therese	94.8
St. Augustine	93.5
St. Matthew	89.6
St. Anthony	89
Avg	94.9



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

Diary Dates

The dates below are subject to change

Date	Event	Time
November 2023		
Friday 3rd	Year 5 Stay & Pray	9-9.30am
Wednesday 8 th	Books with Breakfast	8.30-9.00am
Thursday 9 th	Year 4 Stay & Pray	9.00-9.30am
Friday 17 th	Year 2 & 3 Stay & Pray	9.00-9.30am
Friday 24 th	Year 1 Stay & Pray	9.00-9.30am
December 2023		
Friday 1 st	Reception Christmas Reading Cafe	9.00-11.00am
Wednesday 6 th	Nursery Stay & Play	8.45-9.30am
Tuesday 12 th	Reception Nativity	1.45-2.45pm
Wednesday 13 th	Nursery Nativity	10.30-11.00am
Thursday 14 th	Reception Nativity	6.00-7.00pm
Friday 15 th	Christmas Clothes Day	
Monday 18 th	Year 2 & 3 Carol concert	3.30-4.30pm
Tuesday 19 th	KS2 Carol Evening	6.00-7.00pm
Wednesday 20 th	Year 1 Carol Concert	3.30-4.30pm
Thursday 21 st	Christmas Party Day	
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 3rd	Year 1 Stay & Pray	9.00-9.30am
Friday 24 th	Reception Stay & Pray	9.00-9.30am
June 2024		
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
July 2024		
Wednesday 3 rd	KS2 Sports Day	9.30—12.00pm
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