

St Monica's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Pentecost Term

May 2026

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.

We are also looking forward to welcoming prospective families to our Nursery Open Evening on Thursday 11th June. Our Nursery continues to provide a warm, nurturing and engaging environment where children are encouraged to learn, grow and thrive together from the very start of their school journey. We are incredibly proud of the care, opportunities and experiences we provide for all of our children across the school and are grateful to all of our families for the continued support they show St Monica's.

As a school community, positive recommendations and word of mouth make a huge difference. If you know of any friends, neighbours or family members who may be considering Nursery or primary school places for September 2026 or January 2027, we would be delighted if you could share the details of our Open Evening and speak positively about the wonderful opportunities available at St Monica's. A flyer with further information is included on the next page of this newsletter.

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, 2nd 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 2nd June.

Ms Shanahhan



St Monica's NURSERY



A wonderful start for a bright future!

FOR
3 YEARS
AND OVER

NURSERY PLACES
AVAILABLE!

September 2026
and January 2027



 **OPEN EVENING**
11.06.26
05:15pm - 06:15pm

ONLY
£12
PER SESSION

HALF AND FULL DAY
SESSIONS AVAILABLE



**GOVERNMENT
FUNDING
IS AVAILABLE**
term following their
3rd birthday –
**FREE 15 HOURS
PER WEEK**



**ABILITY TO PAY
FOR MORE
HOURS**
if needed



**HALF AND
FULL DAY
SESSIONS**
available



**30 HOUR
PROVISION**
for those
eligible



VARIED ACTIVITIES
following the
EYFS
CURRICULUM



**FULLY
QUALIFIED
STAFF**



Neath Hill,
Milton Keynes,
MK14 6HB



01908 606966



stmonicas@st-monicas.co.uk

LEARNING,
GROWING AND
THRIVING TOGETHER!



News from the school council

On Wednesday 20th May 2026 the School council, Head boy and Head girl, accompanied by Mrs Hayes, Mrs Cathcart and Mr Patel, went on an amazing trip to LONDON!

We saw: The London Eye, The Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Downing Street - and maybe the Prime Minister in a big car with police escort - Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and the National Gallery.

We went on the train to Euston and the underground. It was so busy but the sun was shining and we had a lovely lunch in the park.

We walked a long way and were very tired when we got back to MK but we have made some fabulous memories.



News from Nursery



In Nursery we had a special visit from Miss Chappell's pet tortoise called Travis! The children really enjoyed learning all about how Miss Chappell looks after him and couldn't believe how quickly he could walk!



We were very excited to receive our caterpillars whilst learning all about minibeasts and we are very patiently waiting for our butterflies to emerge from their cocoons

The children have really enjoyed starting to learn some sounds in phonics this term. They even have their own set of cards that they really enjoy using during continuous provision. We have many teachers in the making!



We were all very excited when the farm came to visit us. The children had a wonderful time and enjoyed some hands-on time with the animals. Our favourite was the donkey 'Anthony' as that is our class saint name.

They even remembered that Mary and Joseph both travelled on a donkey.



News from RE

In Nursery we have been learning about our parish church being a special place for our parish family to gather together. The children enjoyed roleplaying what happens at church.



Interactive Virtual Rosary



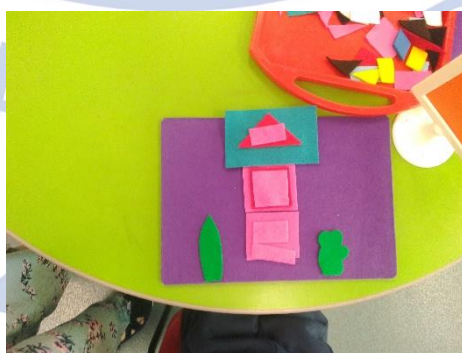
This week the faith ambassadors took part in an online rosary prayer service with the other Catholic Schools in Milton Keynes. It was a beautiful service and our Faith Ambassadors read beautifully and enjoyed joining in with their own rosary beads.

News from Reception

Reception children have been exploring shapes and discovering how they appear all around us in the environment. We talked about recognising 2D shapes in everyday objects and noticed that shapes can look different when they are turned or rotated.

The children enjoyed spotting circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles both inside and outside the classroom, and were excited to realise that a shape is still the same shape even when it is upside down or turned around.

We used shape hunts, building activities, and discussions to help develop mathematical language and confidence in identifying shapes in different contexts.



The Reception children had a wonderful time during their on-site farm visit. They met a variety of friendly animals and learned lots of interesting facts about them, including what they eat and how they are cared for. The children especially enjoyed petting the animals and showing them lots of love. It was a fun and memorable experience that brought their learning to life.



News from the Tree House

Wow! What a busy half term!

In Literacy this half term we have looked at traditional stories and rhymes. The children enjoyed 'huffing' and 'puffing' like the big, bad wolf in The Three Little Pigs and trying to blow pompoms across the table. They enjoyed reading Goldilocks and the three bears, identifying and matching chairs, bears and porridge. Mark making and sensory experiences using oats was enjoyed by all!

In Math's this half term we have continued looking at 'Number' and completed tasks on capacity. The children liked using different resources (pasta, rice and lentils) to fill and empty containers.

Music lessons have been particularly noisy this half term! Playing a variety of different instruments 'loudly' and 'quietly', walking to the beat of the music and also banging on the drums. We have some budding musicians!

Core words we have looked at this half term are: that, don't, go, stop and finished. We continue to work on 'I want....' With all of the children to support them in their requesting.



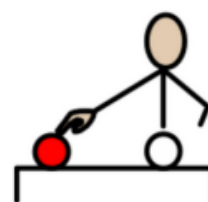
I



want



finished



that



drink



don't

News from Year 1

Year 1 have been enthusiastically caring for some caterpillars as part of our science learning about life cycles. The children have loved watching them grow and change each day and are eagerly waiting for the exciting moment when they transform into beautiful butterflies. It has been a fascinating experience that has sparked lots of curiosity and wonder about the natural world.



Look at how much they have grown



The caterpillars have chrysalis and soon they will hatch



In Science, Year 1 have been learning all about plants and what they need to grow strong and healthy. The children have planted their own basil seeds and are excited to watch them sprout and grow over the coming weeks. This hands-on investigation has helped them understand that plants need water, sunlight, air, and nutrients to thrive.

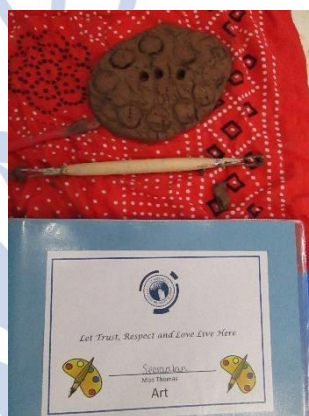
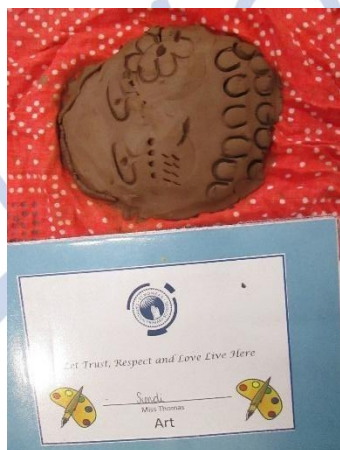


Come back next term for two exciting milestones as we release our beautiful butterflies into the wild and see just how tall and thriving our basil plants have become



News from Year 2

Year 2 have been working incredibly hard and creatively within their pottery lessons. They have been exploring different textures with various tools, making pinch pots and their final piece will be a textured clay house tile.



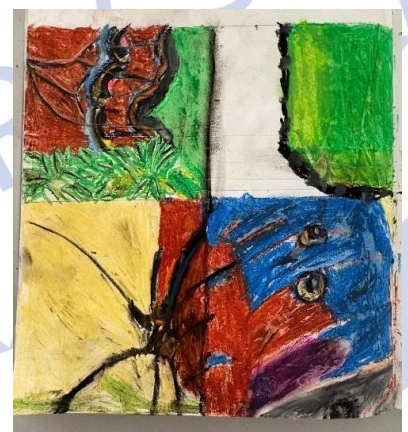
Year 2 have been exploring the British value of Democracy by learning that everyone's voice matters. The children have loved sharing their ideas, listening respectfully to others, and taking part in exciting classroom votes to make decisions together. It has been wonderful to see them developing confidence, teamwork, and an understanding of fairness and equality.



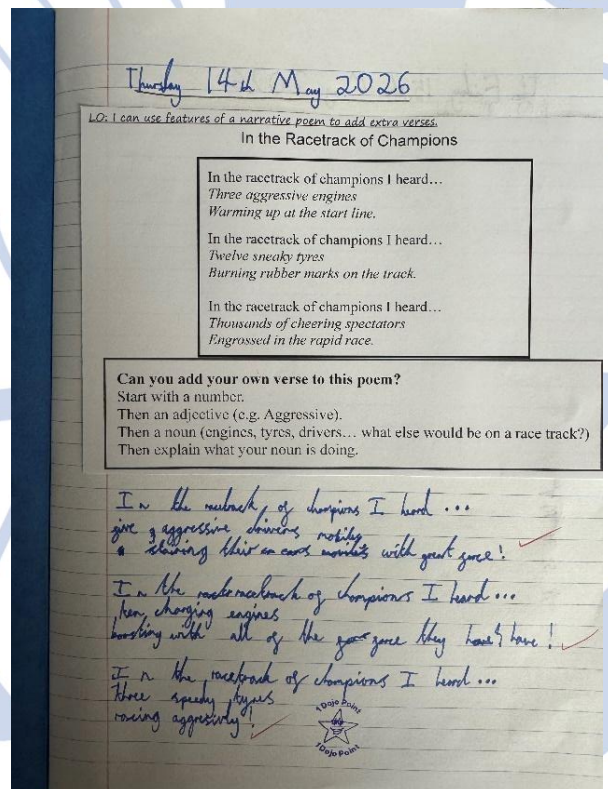
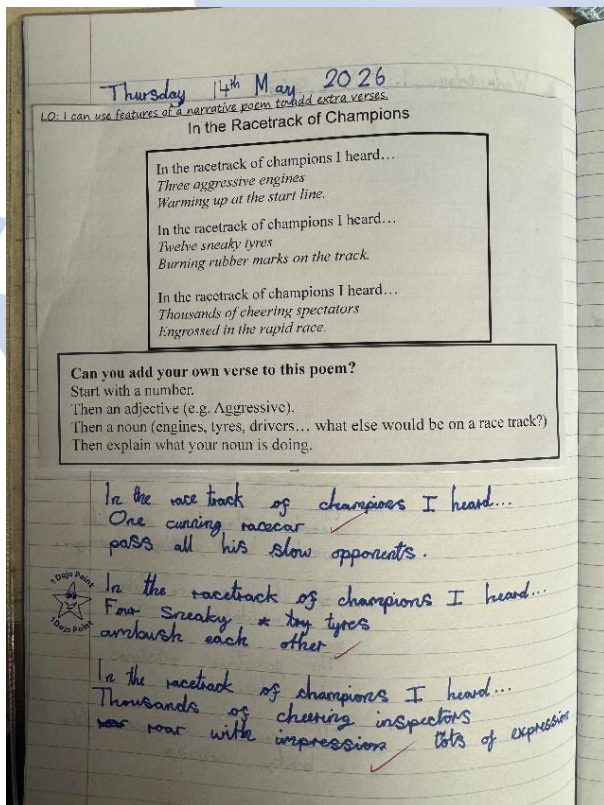
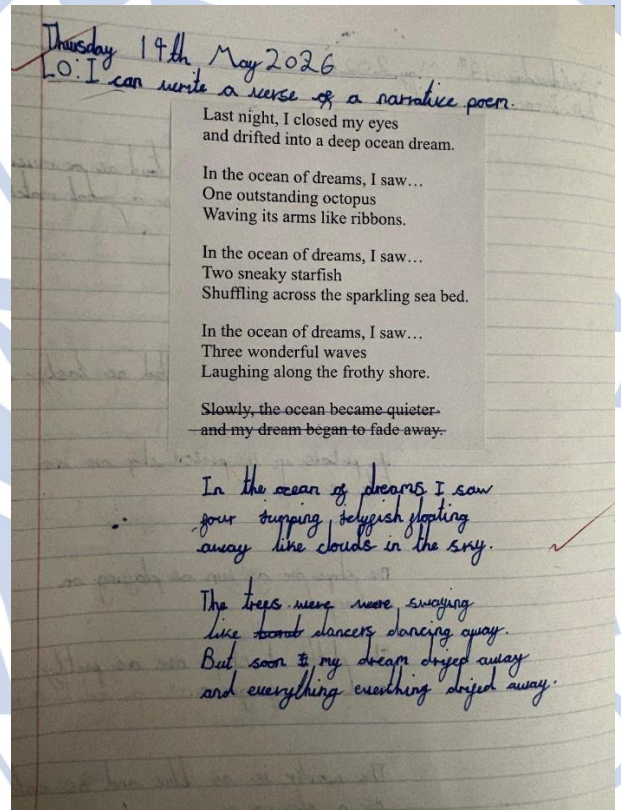
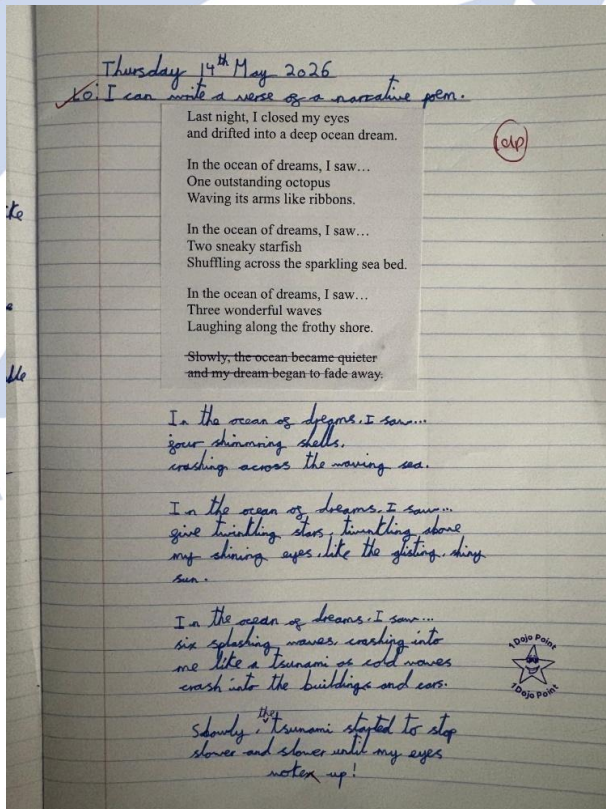
This half term Year 3 have been very busy learning all about Ancient Maya in history. We had an exciting Maya Day where the children learnt all about Maya traditions, animals found in the rainforest and even tried some tricky Maya maths. The children prepared and asked their questions to an archaeologist about her experience living in the rainforests of Central America and learnt lots of interesting facts. In the afternoon, the children had great fun creating Maya calendars.



In our art topic called 'Fabric of Nature', the children have created some amazing masterpieces this half term. They created some incredible mood boards inspired by the rainforest. After that, they explored using vivid images from the rainforest and using a viewfinder to select four interesting parts to copy using oil pastels.

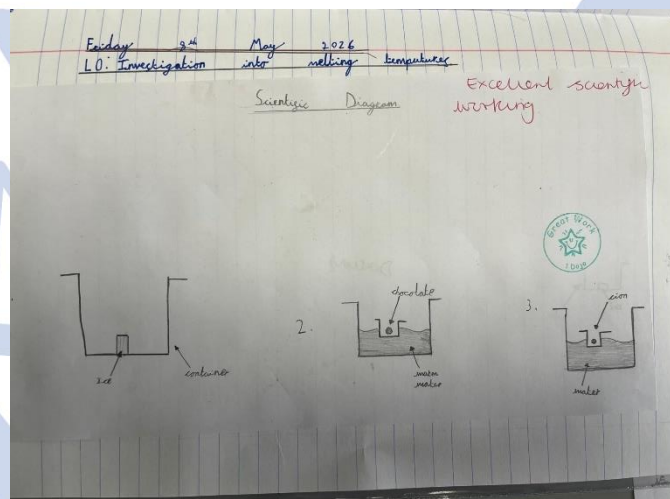


In literacy the children have been writing narrative poems. They have tried to use features including repetition, alliteration, similes, powerful adjectives and personification.



Year 4 became scientific detectives during a hands-on investigation into states of matter.

They actively explored the unique properties of various solids and liquids through interactive experiments. This exciting teamwork successfully deepened their understanding of how different materials behave. They also watched ice and chocolate melt, and drew brilliant scientific diagrams.

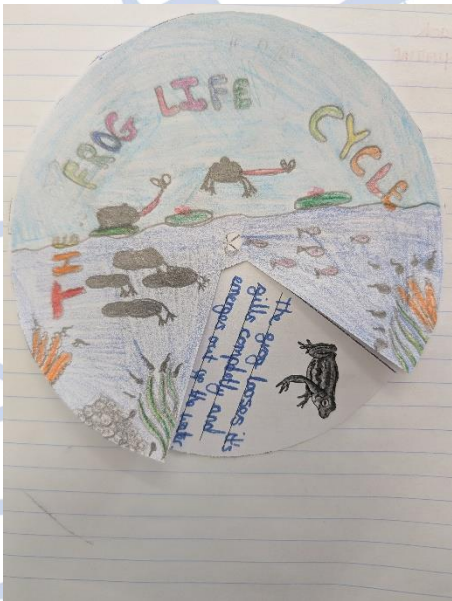
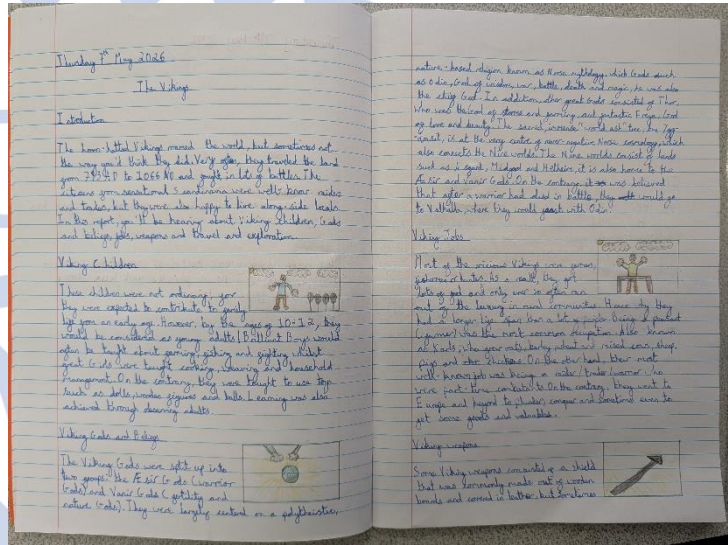


The children stepped back in time to become ancient Egyptian artists by crafting their very own papyrus paper. They carefully sliced, soaked, and layered paper to recreate the historic writing material Papyrus. They will then decorate their paper with designs tested out in their sketch books.



Year 5 have had a fantastic half term and have shown great enthusiasm across all areas of learning

In History, the children enjoyed learning about the Vikings, exploring who they were, how they lived, and the impact they had on Britain



In Science, pupils investigated life cycles and developed their understanding of how living things grow and change.

In Art, the children created impressive mixed media portraits, experimenting with different materials and techniques to produce unique and creative pieces. Well done to all of Year 5 for their hard work and positive attitude this half term!



News from Year 6

As we approach the final stretch of the academic year, we want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible dedication, creativity and resilience our Year 6 pupils have shown this term.

Our Year 6 children have been working incredibly hard preparing for their SATs. They have dedicated a significant amount of time this term to revising, polishing and practicing all the skills they have built up throughout their time at primary school. We are immensely proud of their focused attitude and determination.

While revision has been a big focus, the children have also been diving into some brilliant, hands-on learning across the curriculum:

- **St. Monica's Day Celebrations:** We spent a wonderful day learning all about our special patron saint. The children brought her story to life through expressive drama performances and created some truly stunning artistic masterpieces.



- **Shining Bright in Science:** Putting their physics knowledge to the test, the pupils successfully designed and built their own working torches!



- We have since moved on to our new topic, *Living Things and Their Habitats*, where the children have begun exploring the fascinating classification system created by Carl Linnaeus.



- **Wild Creativity in Art:** Inspiring our inner artists, the class has been exploring the beauty of animal prints. The children experimented with a variety of different mediums to recreate these intricate patterns in their sketchbooks with fantastic results.



Looking Ahead: An Exciting Final Half Term

We are so excited to head into our final half term with Year 6. It promises to be an unforgettable few weeks as we look forward to:

- Celebrating all of the children's hard work and success.
- Embarking on our highly anticipated Year 6 residential trip.
- Rehearsing and putting on the show of their lives in our grand end-of-year production!

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support. Have a wonderful break, and we will see you for a fantastic final term!

PRIMARY



ST MONICA'S COLOUR RUN!



 **FRIDAY
10TH JULY** |  **3:45PM**

TICKETS **£8.00** PER CHILD | **£6.00** PER ADDITIONAL CHILDREN

 **WHEN PURCHASING YOUR TICKET THROUGH PARENT MAIL
PLEASE PICK A T-SHIRT SIZE FOR YOUR CHILD**

★ **JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!** ★

-  **RAFFLE**
-  **TOMBOLA**
-  **ICE CREAM VAN**
-  **FIRE BRIGADE**

RUN. LAUGH. GET COLOURFUL!

Another very successful half term for sports at St Monica's where we have entered the Year 5/6 boys handball, Year 5/6 girls' handball and the Year 3/4 girls football league.

Our Year 5/6 boys handball team done so well, going unbeaten in 8 games, scoring over 80 goals and conceding only 10 throughout the whole league campaign. They were absolutely fantastic and really demonstrated the values of St Monica's along the way, a brilliant effort from them all.

Our girls handball team done a fantastic job in finishing 4th in Milton Keynes only to miss out on the bronze medal by one goal! They were fabulous the whole time, cheering and supporting each other in every game, winning or losing.

Finally, our Year 3/4 girls football team have done so well, we have played 8 games, winning 5, drawing 2 and losing only once. We have one more week of the football league before the final's night after half term. What has impressed myself, Ms Shanahan and Mrs Ball the most is how they have gained so much confidence within themselves throughout the duration of the league so far. I'm sure they will keep this up and win more games!



News from the Library

Where in the World have you been?

This is a board display that was started back in September 2025 for the children to see where in the world staff have visited during the summer and throughout 2025-2026. Children are able to see which continent each country is on and have enjoyed seeing new photos appear.

Board display about a country.

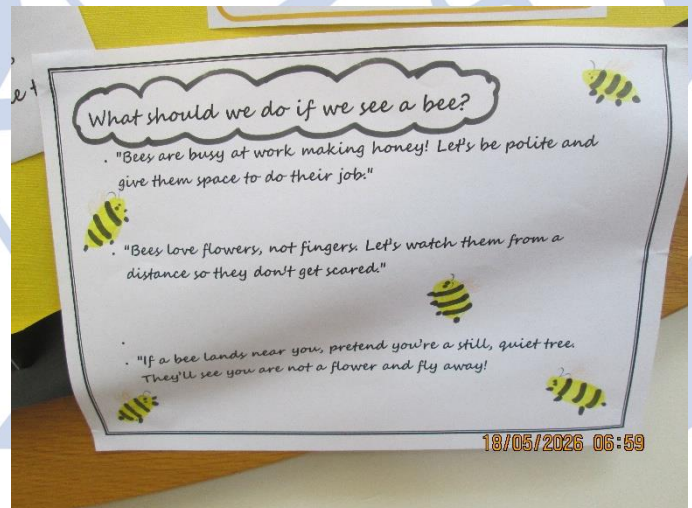
Since September 2025 a country has been displayed to show the children the traditions, food eaten, sports played and much more regarding that particular country. We have so far covered: Ghana, Australia, Poland, Ireland and are currently displaying India. Thank you so much to all the parents who have emailed photos, sent in jewellery to display, and clothing. This has been really appreciated to make the display really stand out.

Next half term the country will be about Sri Lanka.



Bee display

Wednesday 20th May is Bee Day! This display shows all about the different types of bees and how they are great workers! It also mentions how we should behave if a bee is near us and how we can help bees in our gardens.



A HUGE thank you to the FOSM for funding us to buy some new books for the library and classes.

There are lots of favourites amongst these new books as well as some new authors that will be introduced to the children.

I look forward to hearing what the children think of the new books when they return after half term.



Congratulations to all our Word Millionaires, 500,000 words and 50,000 words read children who have made it onto the 'Word Millionaire Board'.

It is a difficult task to read a million words, as I have found out! A huge congratulations to all the children who have made it onto the board. I am keeping an eye on some children that are very close to the word counts set for their year group.

Year 1 - 20,000

Year 2 - 50,000

Year 3/4 - 500,000

Year 5/6 - 1,000,000

This year we have some members of staff that have read a Million Words. Mrs Hayes and Mrs Romans are way ahead in the reading competition!

At the end of the academic year all the children who have reached the Word Challenge will be invited to a Pizza party which will be held in the staffroom!

Keep reading! Good Luck everyone!



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 James – 3SB



St Thomas – 2FB



St Mark – 4RP

Group	% Attend
St. James	97.6
St. Thomas	97.2
St. Mark	96.6
St. Joseph	96.1
St. Peter	95.6
St. Clare	94.9
St. Lucy	94.6
St. Francis	94.5
St. Anthony	93.6
St. Luke	93.6
St. Joan	93.4
St. Matthew	93
St. Augustine	92.9
St. Catherine	92.7
St. Therese	88



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.