St Monica's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Advent Term

October 2026

News from the school

Dear Families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter as we wrap up a wonderfully busy and successful first half of the autumn term! It has been an absolute joy watching our children flourish over the past few weeks. An extra warm welcome goes to all of our new families who have joined us this term. We are so delighted to have you as part of our school community, and we hope you and your children are settling in happily and feeling right at home with us.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents and carers for your brilliant support so than far this year. It was fantastic to see so many of you at our recent information evenings, and for your generosity during our Harvest celebrations. Thanks to your kind contributions, our local foodbank will receive a wonderfully generous donation that will make a real difference to families in need across our wider community.

I would like to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to the departing members of our FRIENDS committee for all of their incredible hard work, dedication, and support over the years, you will be truly missed! At the same time, a very warm welcome to our newly appointed committee members (and those staying). We are so grateful for your commitment and are really looking forward to working together to support our wonderful school.

Looking ahead, we have so much to look forward to when we return next term. The second half of the autumn term is always a magical time in school as we begin our exciting preparations for Christmas, alongside all the wonderful learning planned across every year group.

I hope you all have a very happy, restful, and peaceful half-term break with your loved ones. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school refreshed and ready to learn on Monday 2nd November.

Warmest wishes,
Ms Shanahan

A Little Family Prayer for Half Term

Dear Lord,

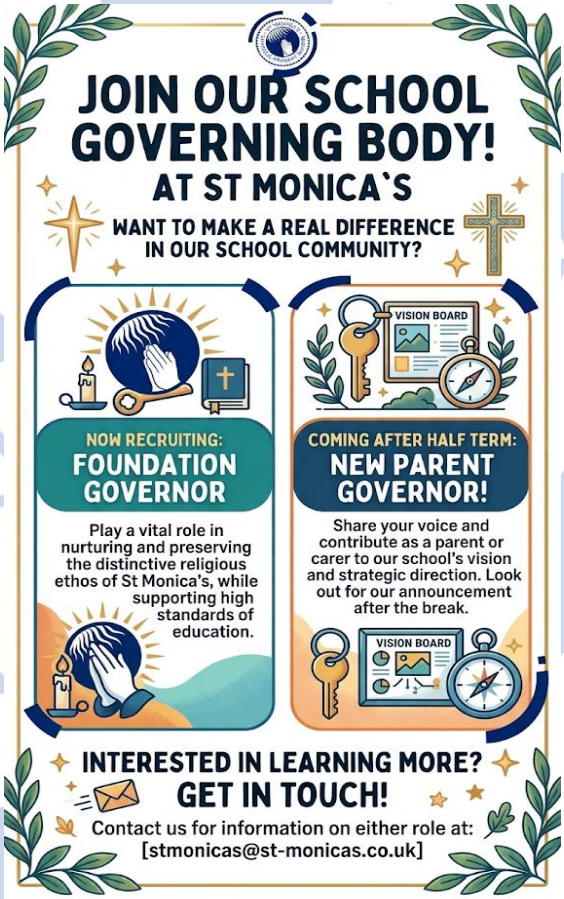
Thank you for a wonderful term of learning, friendship, and fun.

Bless our school family as we take this time to rest and recharge.

Keep us all safe, happy, and peaceful over the half-term break,

And guide us as we look forward to the weeks ahead together.

Amen.



Applying for a place at St Monica's Catholic Primary School

Are you looking for a Nursery or Reception place for your child in September 2027? We would love to welcome you to our St Monica's family!

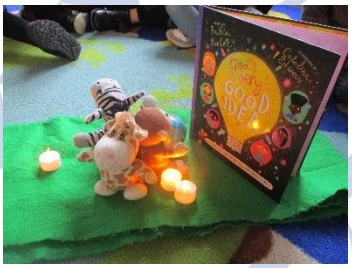
Welcoming new families to St Monica's! 💛



News from Nursery

Well, what an amazing start to the year the Nursery children have had. They have settled so well, they are learning our rules and routines and making friends. The children have enjoyed lots of fun activities, messy play, sharing stories and 'strong' work outside building our muscles to get them prepared for writing.

They have been Baptising babies, learning that we belong to God's family and that God made us and our beautiful world. I wonder what fun we will all get up to next half term?!





















St Monica's NURSERY

ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

A wonderful start for a bright future!



FOR 3 YEARS AND OVER

NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE!
January 2027 and September 2027

ONLY £12 PER SESSION
HALF AND FULL DAY SESSIONS AVAILABLE

ENROL NOW
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

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 Reception

Reception have made a lovely start to the new term! It has been wonderful to see the children settling back into school life, making new friends and growing in confidence each day. They have been enjoying lots of exciting activities, exploring their learning through play and discovering new things together. We are so proud of how far they are already coming and look forward to sharing many more happy moments and achievements with you as the term continues.

Our topic this term has been Marvellous Me! The children have enjoyed painting self-portraits and celebrating what makes each of us unique and special to God. They have been learning to express their likes and dislikes, recognising that everyone has their own interests and preferences. We have also explored the importance of our names and how they are a special part of our identity. Through learning about families and creating family trees, the children have begun to understand their family connections and what makes each family special. What a wonderful term of celebrating ourselves and the people who make us who we are!











We learnt about our senses







We went on a bear hunt using our sight!



We loved feeling the squishy soap







The lemons were very sour!



We did some scented painting with mint, cinnamon and rose essence



We enjoyed listening to the musical instruments



News from the Tree House

This half term, all the children have settled beautifully into the school routine and are coming in each day with big smiles, ready to learn! They have been making new friends and showing great effort across all areas of their learning.

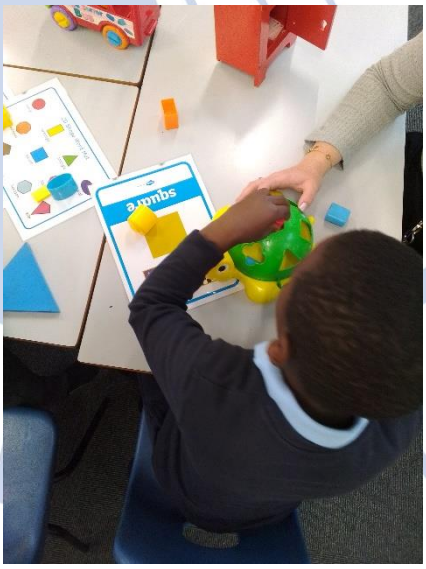
A particular highlight this half term has been reading the story 'The three billy goats gruff' - the children loved pretending to be the goats crossing the bridge!

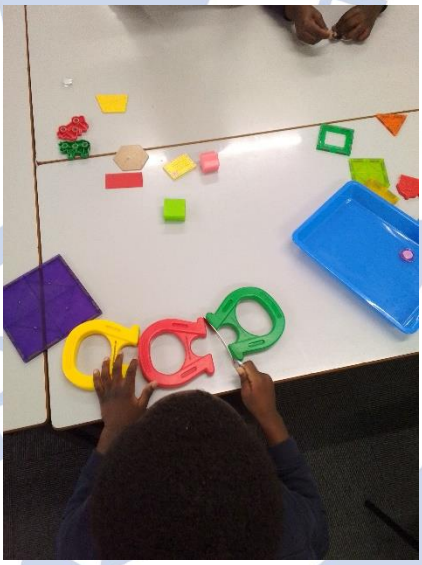


The children have particularly enjoyed our Science topic this term 'Forces and Motion'. All children were fully engaged when we explored with magnets, learning about pushes and pulls and finding different items that stick!

We have been developing our understanding of 2D shapes. Children were able to match the shapes and name some of them too.



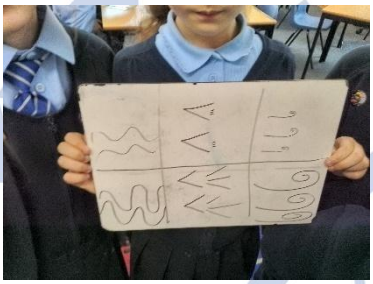
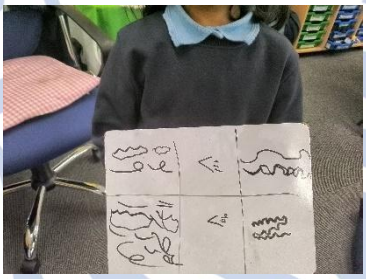
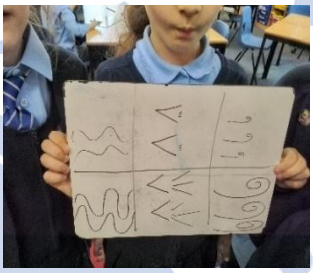
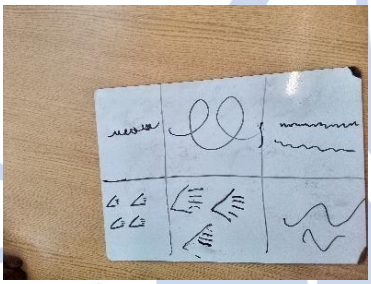
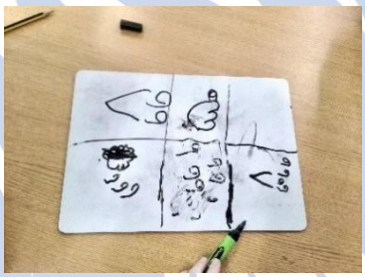


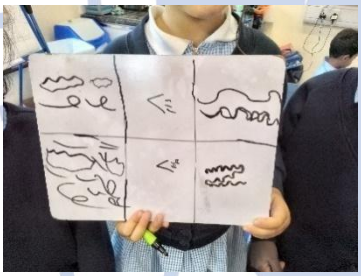
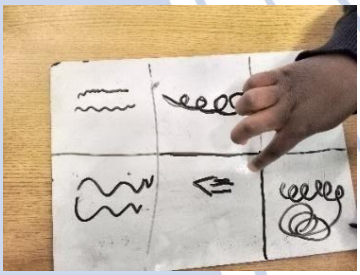
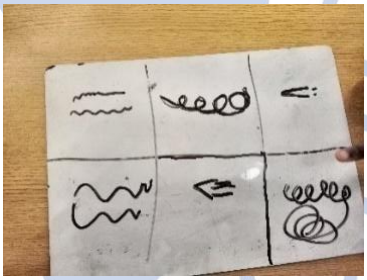


What a fantastic start to the new year!

News from Year 1 and Year 2

Year 1 and Year 2 have been exploring how to create a musical soundscape inspired by the seaside. The children experimented with the dynamics of sound, exploring how different sounds can be loud, quiet and vary in intensity. They also created their own symbols to represent three different types of sound, using these to express their musical ideas. Through listening, creativity and teamwork, the children brought the sights and sounds of the seaside to life through music!

We made clay worry monsters as part of our Zone of Regulation curriculum. The monsters are to help us to regulate.




We held an information evening for parents to come and explore the learning that the children undertake each day in Key Stage 1. Some of the activities were laid out for parents to have a go and we talked about expectations at year 1 and how they progressed to year















Bringing Year 1 and Year 2 together has created wonderful opportunities for our children to build stronger friendships, develop supportive relationships and learn from one another. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow as they work together, share experiences and create lasting connections across the year groups!

News from Year 3

Year 3 has been learning about bartering skills used in the Iron Age before coins to get everything they needed to survive! Working in "tribes," the children had to rely entirely on their communication and negotiation skills to swap everyday items like grain, wool, and tools. They quickly discovered how tricky it can be to trade without money, making it a fantastic, hands-on way to develop teamwork while bringing history to life.



Year 3 have been learning how shadows are formed and how the shadow changes as the sun moves across the sky during the daytime. They used their scientific skills to work carefully with a torch that was representing the sun.





In art, Year 3 have been developing their drawing and sketching skills. They looked at real life objects and then created a more fantasy-based piece of drawing.



News from Year 4

In History, we have been learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. We have had a fantastic time and have learnt so many cool facts! Recently, we learnt all about the afterlife and mummification. Fortunately, we were able to follow a similar process and mummify tomatoes!






In art, we have also been linking our learning to the Ancient Egyptians. Through different techniques, we have sketched out patterns and ideas that have led to us designing our very own scrolls! Take a look at some pictures of us making our own paper in the style that the Egyptians would make papyrus!






In Art, after making our own papyrus paper, we brought our Ancient Egyptian designs to life! The children carefully transferred their designs onto their handmade paper, using colours, patterns and symbols inspired by Ancient Egyptian art. They then added their own creative touches to produce beautiful Egyptian scrolls. We are so proud of their fantastic artwork!



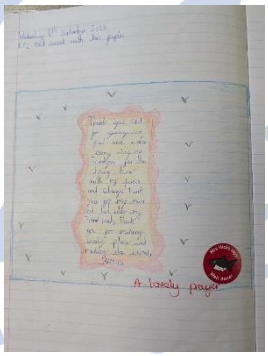




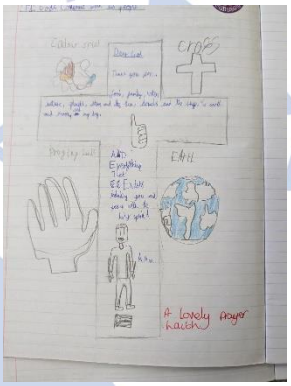


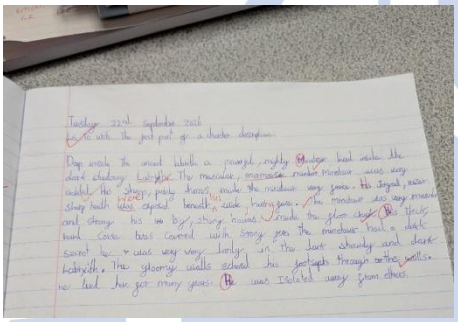
News from Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic term filled with exciting learning, new challenges and opportunities to grow. The children have shown enthusiasm, creativity and determination across the curriculum, building their confidence, developing new skills and working together to achieve their best. We are proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to sharing some of their highlights with you!

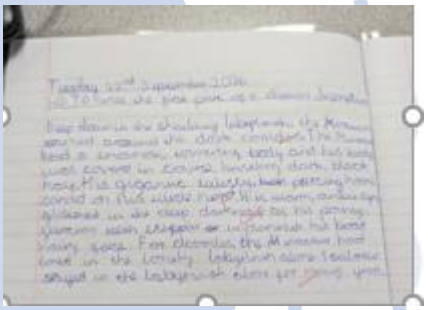


In RE, Year 5 wrote poems to celebrate God's covenants with his people.



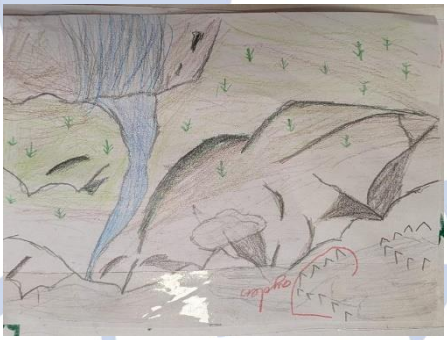


In English, year 5 have been using expanded noun phrases and interesting adjectives to describe a Minotaur.





During Prayer and Liturgy, Year 5 have been looking at different themes around stewardship. In this lesson, they were inspired by artwork and used it to create their





PSHE lessons this half term have focused on Zones of Regulation. Children have explored each zone and ways to get them back to Green!

On Wednesday 21st October, Year 5 visited the *City of Codes and Light* Space exhibition at Middleton Hall to spark their curiosity ahead of their upcoming Space topic. The children embarked on an exciting journey into the future, exploring interactive STEAM experiences that brought science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics to life. It was a fantastic opportunity to inspire their imaginations, encourage curiosity and get them excited about the wonders of space!











News from Year 6

What a busy and exciting half term it has been for Year 6! The children have been working incredibly hard across all subjects, showing fantastic enthusiasm and determination. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of the four operations, while in English, we have made brilliant progress with our writing through our new writing scheme.

Alongside all our hard work in the classroom, we have enjoyed some wonderful experiences! We visited Whipsnade Zoo as part of our Science learning about habitats and adaptations, giving the children a fantastic opportunity to bring their learning to life. We also stepped back in time for an exciting World War II Day, which helped us explore our history topic in a fun and memorable way.











Sports news

It has been a very busy but hugely successful half term for Sport and PE here at St Monica's! Our pupils have proudly represented the school in a wide range of competitions, demonstrating fantastic teamwork, determination, resilience and sportsmanship.

Children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in the following competitions:

- 🏐 Year 3/4 Mixed Netball
- 🏐 Year 5/6 Mixed Netball
- ⚽ Year 3/4 Boys' Football
- ⚽ Year 5/6 Boys' and Girls' Football
- 🏃 Cross Country for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
- 🏆 Year 5/6 Boys' and Girls' County Football Qualifiers

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their enthusiasm, commitment and positive attitude. Well-done to everyone who has represented St Monica's and helped make this such a fantastic sporting half term!





This half term, 56 pupils have proudly represented St Monica's in Key Stage 2 sporting competitions! After half term, the excitement continues with more fixtures and competitions for all ages, including our first-ever Year 5/6 Swimming Gala in December! We look forward to celebrating even more sporting success!

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.









FOSM

Making Room for Christmas? 🎄

Are your little ones ready to make space for some exciting new toys arriving this Christmas? Why not give their pre-loved toys a new home!

FOSM (Friends of St Monica's) is collecting pre-loved toys to give them a second chance to bring joy to another child. 💖

If you have any toys in good condition that your children have outgrown or no longer play with, we would love your donations!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

BE IN SCHOOL. BE ON TIME. BE READY TO LEARN!

96% AND ABOVE — GREAT JOB! KEEP IT UP!

BELOW 96% — YOU WILL RECEIVE A PHONE CALL TO DISCUSS ATTENDANCE.

BELOW 94% — A LETTER WILL BE SENT HOME.

BELOW 92% — A MEETING WITH THE KEY STAGE LEAD WILL BE ARRANGED.

BELOW 90% — A MEETING WITH THE HEADTEACHER WILL BE REQUIRED.

BELOW 90% ATTENDANCE

NO ABSENCES WILL BE AUTHORISED, INCLUDING ILLNESS, UNLESS THERE IS PROOF OF A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT.

- WITHOUT EVIDENCE, ABSENCES WILL BE RECORDED AS UNAUTHORISED.
- THIS INCLUDES ILLNESS.
- PROOF OF A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT WILL BE REQUIRED.

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR FUTURE!

GOOD ATTENDANCE = BETTER OUTCOMES!

YOUR FUTURE STARTS TODAY!

ATTEND TODAY ♥ ACHIEVE TOMORROW ♥ SUCCEED FOREVER

Attendance figures



St James – 4HQ



St Lucy – 3ST



St Clare – 5GA/BJ

Group	% Attend
St. James	98
St. Lucy	97.7
St. Clare	97.1
St. Peter	96.9
St. Francis	96.3
St. Thomas	96
St. Therese	95.9
St. Matthew	95.8
St. Luke	95.3
St. Joan	95.2
St. Mark	95.2
St. Anthony	94.3
St. Joseph	94
St. Catherine	93.6



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDER

St. Monica's Catholic Primary School Autumn Term 2 / Advent Key Dates 26/27		
Date	**Event**	**Time**
02/11/2025	Children return to school	
12/11/2026	Better together session for parents - Sleep	2.00 - 3.00pm
13/11/2026	Anti-bullying - Odd Socks Day - FOSM Toy Donation Dress down day	
17/11/2026	Annual Flu Vaccination	
18/11/2026	Books Over Breakfast	8.00 - 8.30am
24/11/2026	EYFS Open Evening	6.00 - 7.00pm
25/11/2026	SATs Info Evening	6.00 - 7.00pm
26/11/2026	EYFS Open day	
30/11/2026	St Andrews Day - Blue house wear Blue Clothing	
02/12/2026	EYFS Xmas Stay & Pray	8.45 - 10.00am
04/12/2026	FOSM Disco	TBC
04/12/2026	Open Classrooms	2.30 - 3.15pm
08/12/2026	EYFS -Play to Parents	10.00 -11.00am
11/12/2026	Santa Dash own clothes - Festive Jumpers running bottoms with trainers	
14/12/2026	Annual Flu Vaccination - Catch up Day	
14/12/2026	KS1 - Play to Parents	2.00 - 3.00pm
15/12/2026	KS1 - Play to Parents	5.00 -6.00pm
16/12/2026	Kingswood Christmas Dinner - Don't forget to Order	
16/12/2026	Rainbow Club Christmas Party	3.15 - 6.00pm
17/12/2026	Party Day	
18/12/2026	Carol Service for Parents on the Playground	TBC
18/12/2026	End of school term	
04/01/2027	Inset Day	
05/01/2027	Pupils Return Date	