



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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Monday 2nd December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Year 5/6 and Safe Play on the yard

I met with all of the boys in Y5 and Y6 on Friday afternoon to stress the importance of playing safely on the yard and in PE. We spoke about the values of teamwork and kindness and how we must live up to the “St Monica’s Way”.

Some groups of boys are playing far too competitively and this can lead to arguments and rough play that cannot be tolerated. We have high standards and are putting these measures into place to ensure playtimes are safe and fun for all.

- **We are going to introduce a Board Games Club** - where pupils can learn how to play games like chess and draughts at dinner times.
- **On the yard, we are going to teach the boys new games** that do not involve contact and promote teamwork, as we cannot tolerate boys getting ultra competitive and becoming physical and argumentative with one another in St Monica’s.
- **We have set up 4 play zones**, one for each class. These areas are spaces for the boys to burn off energy and to play nice games with one another at play time and dinner time. Boys can choose to play in these

zones to burn off energy **or** to go on the wider yard and take part in more relaxed activities with friends of their choice. We already have a Lego table, a drawing table and a host of skipping ropes and other play items.

The ultimate aim is to ensure pupils are having a happy time whilst playing with one another. I have stressed that all play is “non contact” and rough play will not be tolerated.

There is a national trend of children becoming hyper competitive and talking to one another in person how they speak to one another during online gaming. I know not all of our children play online, but this is an issue for all schools. We want to buck the national trend and teach the children how to play nicely and interact with kindness.

The majority of boys play safe, show kindness to one another and have never been in trouble, but I want to send this message out to all of the families of boys in Year 5 and 6 so a consistent message is heard.

Please reiterate this message at home, we do have a lovely group of boys and society is throwing so much at all children right now, in regards to areas such social media and online gaming. The key message is not to grow up too quickly and enjoy being with your friends.

Yours sincerely

Mr J. Gouldbourne

Headteacher