



ST MONICA'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY OCTOBER 10TH, 2025

Church Visit: Welcoming Our Reception Children

On Wednesday, we gathered in our church to officially welcome our new Reception children into the St Monica's family. It was a special Mass, beautifully led by Father Ged. Our youngest pupils shone throughout, sitting so sensibly and joining in with smiles and confidence. Thank you also to our wonderful school choir, whose singing made the celebration even more memorable.



Science Superstars!

This morning, our Science Ambassadors visited Alsop High School to mark World Space Week. They took part in a range of exciting scientific investigations, exploring, experimenting and learning all about the wonders of space. They were fantastic representatives for St Monica's, showing curiosity, teamwork and pride in everything they did.



Parking Outside School

Parking: Think Safe, Park Safe

Parking around school is becoming increasingly dangerous, and we need to work together to make it safer for everyone. We already open fifteen minutes early to ease congestion at the gates, but now we need everyone's help and support to Think Safe, Park Safe.

On Kelly Drive, cars are being parked so poorly that neighbours' vehicles have been damaged. This also creates a serious risk, as ambulances cannot always get through. We have children with acute medical needs, and if an ambulance were ever needed urgently, blocked access could have serious consequences.

On Southport Road, some cars are being parked on the grass, pavements and even double parked. This is especially dangerous for our youngest children who ride scooters or bikes to school. Unsafe parking is putting them at real risk.

Please, let's all **Think Safe, Park Safe**. [If you have thoughts or suggestions on how we can improve this situation, share them with us](#). I will summarise the feedback in next week's newsletter.





Headteacher's Hot Chocolate

Each week, pupils who have shown exceptional conduct, kindness and a positive attitude are chosen by their class teacher to be celebrated as shining examples of St Monica's values. During Friday's assembly, we recognise their wonderful achievements before the whole school and then they enjoy a special treat: a hot chocolate and a chat with Mr Gouldbourne. It's a lovely opportunity to celebrate their hard work, good choices and the joy they bring to St Monica's.

Miss Tohill - PE winner	Jordan K (Y5) for showing great improvement in his gymnastics movements (even overcoming his fear of walking along the beam) and using the correct terminology to talk about the adaptations to his sequence.
Miss Byrne	Carter for always making the right choice, he tries hard with all he does! What a great pupil.
Miss Horder	Dominic V for working hard to keep our classroom tidy, always working hard, and being a beacon of kindness. What a lovely pupil!
Miss Andrews	Elsie - Mae for being a good role model at tidy up time, working hard to look after our class environment! She always has a big smile on her face, too. Well done Elsie, what a star!
Miss Hatcher	Elsie R always following the school values and will definitely go FARR if she continues to work hard - I think we have a superstar on our hands.
Miss Tew	Jack D for showing determination and resilience whilst completing his science work. A born scientist - he will go far. Well done, Jack!
Mrs MacDonald	Madison H for fantastic scientific knowledge and enthusiasm about food chains. She always works hard, tries her best everyday and always gives super answers.
Mrs Chorzepa	Joachim R for being a great participant and always sharing clever ideas in our lessons. A clever and kind boy with a warm heart.
Mrs Reardon	Millie who has tried incredibly hard with her handwriting and has achieved a Pen Licence. Well done, Millie!
Miss Gibbons	Teddie has made excellent progress in his handwriting, showing impressive resilience and pride in his presentation. He is also taking up brilliant new sports outside of school - what a pupil!
Mrs Ware	Leila H, who always gives her best effort in everything she does. She approaches every subject with enthusiasm and determination, and her hard work truly shines through. You should be very proud of your positive attitude and consistent effort Leila. Well done!
Miss Thomas	Amelia A for working hard in all lessons, particularly science. She has shown aspiration by taking part in class discussions and using new vocabulary.
Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch	Oliver S for excellent effort in writing, consistently showing dedication, creativity, and a willingness to improve. Keep up the great work!
Miss McGuckin	Ted M for his willing and positive attitude to all lessons. He always wants to contribute in all lessons and is a role model pupil. Well done!
Miss McGiveron	Ava M for consistently giving her best effort, showing perseverance in the face of challenges, and demonstrating a kind and caring heart towards others
Mr Lynch	Lydia R for her unwavering determination in everything she undertakes. A true star in every sense.



St Monica's: Attendance Matters

Class	Weekly Percentage	Year to Date
Nursery	87.37	94.82
Reception - Miss Horder	93.33	94.85
Reception - Miss Andrews	93.33	96.87
Year 1 - Miss Tew	97.86	96.62
Year 1 - Miss Hatcher	95.00	96.12
Year 2- Mrs Chorzepa	93.33	97.01
Year 2- Mrs MacDonald	96.55	95.48
Year 3 - Mrs Reardon	94.14	95.54
Year 3 - Miss Gibbons	96.21	97.27
Year 4 - Mrs Ware	98.97	98.36
Year 4 - Miss Thomas	95.86	96.25
Y5 - Miss McGuckin	97.59	97.27
Year 5 - Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch	94.84	95.27
Year 6 - Mr Lynch	87.59	94.39
Year 6 - Miss McGiveron	95.5	93.85
Overall	94.83	96.07



Nursery - by Miss Byrne

This week in Maths, the children have been exploring the concept of matching through lots of hands-on and playful activities. We've been focusing on identifying pairs and sorting objects that are the same. One of the favourite activities was our button matching game, the children carefully looked at size, shape, and colour to find matching buttons – great for developing early observation and comparison skills.

We also took our learning a step further by matching shoes! The children enjoyed lining up shoes in pairs. These everyday items helped make the learning relatable and fun. Activities like these support early mathematical thinking and help build the foundation for sorting, classifying, and comparing numbers and shapes in the future.



Reception - by Miss Andrews and Miss Horder

What an exciting week we've had in Reception. The cheeky Gingerbread Man paid us a visit and left quite a mess in our classroom: there was flour everywhere and even a special recipe to follow! What a mischievous little man he is, he was even seen in Mr Gouldbourne's office. We've been busy in our brand-new bakery, measuring, mixing, and baking our very own gingerbread men.





Year 1 - by Miss Hatcher and Miss Tew



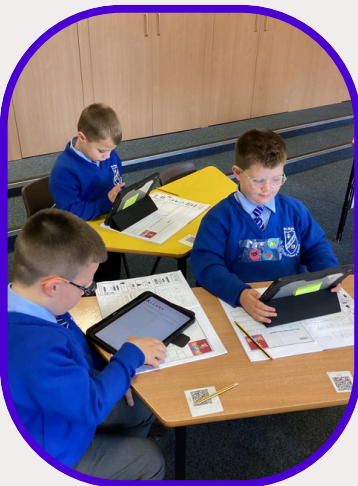
Seasonal Change

With storm Amy, the year 1 children were really engaged by the change in weather. We discussed what happens during autumn and then chose our favourite leaf. We brought them into class and catabolised leaves by different criteria.



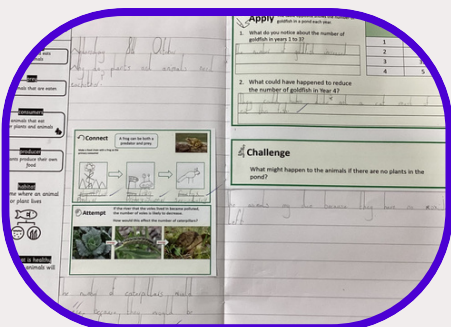
Year 2- by Mrs MacDonald, Mrs Chorzepa and Miss Partington

Science – Exploring Food Chains!



This week Year 2 have been diving into the fascinating world of food chains in science. The children have enjoyed exploring how animals and plants are connected through what they eat. They've been learning key vocabulary such as producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer, predator, and prey, and have had lots of fun identifying where different animals fit into a food chain. It's been wonderful to see their excitement as they discover how nature works together!

Through interactive games, sorting activities and creating their own food chain, Year 2 are becoming confident in using scientific vocabulary like producer, consumer, predator, and prey. It's been brilliant to see their curiosity grow as they explore how animals and plants are all connected in the natural world.





Year 3 - by Mrs Reardon and Miss Gibbons

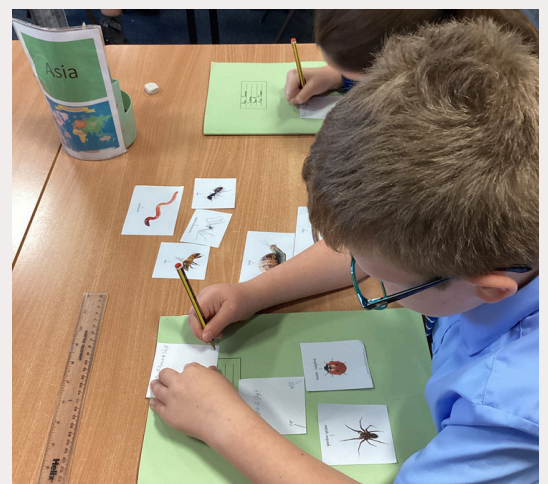
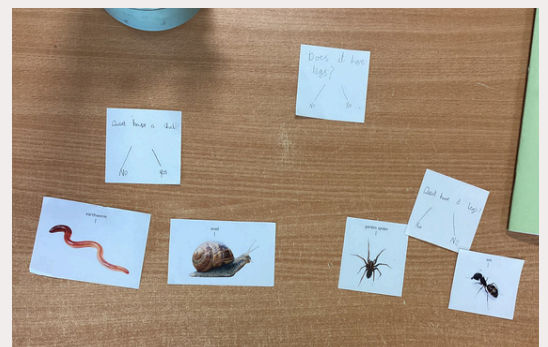
This week in Science, Year 3 have been looking at soil. We discovered it is not just dirt but tiny fragments of rock, decaying materials and microorganisms. We sieved and separated the soil and thought about which soil would be the best to grow plants in. Did we think the soil from Mrs Reardon's garden or the soil from school would be best? We realised the soil that was damp would be the best as plants need water to grow healthily.



Year 4 - by Mrs Ware and Miss Thomas

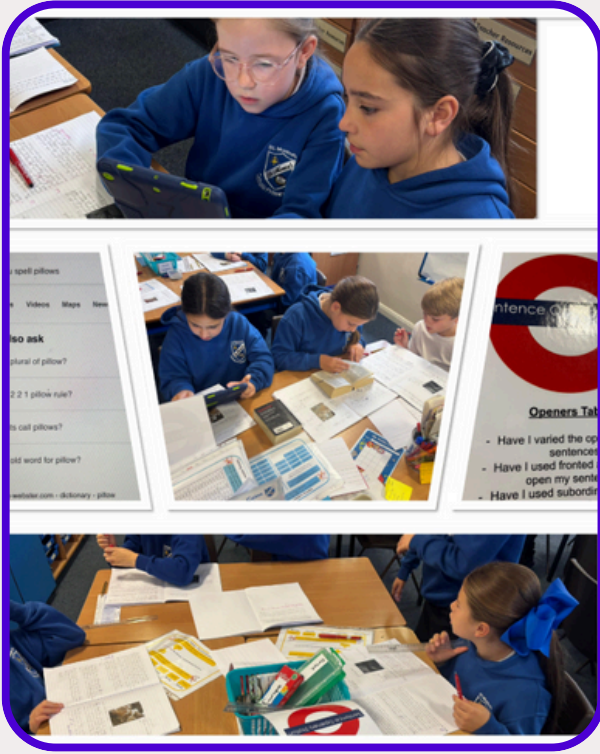
In our Year 4 science lessons, we explored the fascinating world of invertebrates and how scientists classify them. We learned that invertebrates are animals without a backbone, and we looked at different groups like insects, arachnids, molluscs, and crustaceans. To help us understand how classification works, we created our own classification keys using yes or no questions.

We carefully chose questions based on features like: the number of legs, whether the animal had a shell, or if it had wings. It was exciting to investigate real examples and think like scientists as we sorted and identified different invertebrates.





Year 5- by Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch and Miss McGuckin



Year 5 have been working incredibly hard in English this week and developing some very important writing skills. As part of our focus on becoming confident and accurate writers, the class took part in an exciting carousel of editing stations. The children approached each task with fantastic focus and enthusiasm, supporting one another and thinking carefully about how small changes can make a big difference to their writing. It was wonderful to see them taking ownership of their work and applying what they have learned in class. We cannot wait to see their writing on our new 'Writing Lines' in class.



Year 6- by Miss McGiveron and Mr Lynch

This week in Year 6, our budding scientists wrapped up their Electricity topic with an exciting and thought-provoking investigation. The children explored the effects and consequences of changing components within an electrical circuit – a fantastic opportunity to apply their knowledge in a practical context.

Working collaboratively, pupils developed their own hypotheses, designed fair tests, and carefully observed what happened when they altered variables including the length of wires. They recorded their findings systematically, analysed results, and drew thoughtful conclusions based on evidence.

It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, curiosity, and critical thinking in action. This investigation not only deepened their understanding of how circuits work but also strengthened their skills in scientific enquiry and teamwork.

Well done, Year 6 – future engineers and inventors in the making!

