



ST MONICA'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER, 2025

Harvest Festival

We've enjoyed a wonderful final week of half term here at St Monica's. On Wednesday, 6M led a lovely family assembly about the history of the Harvest Festival, celebrating the generous donations made by our families. It was lovely to see so many parents and relatives joining us to mark this occasion. Donated food will be delivered to a local food bank by our School Council when we return after the break: a heartfelt thank you for your kind donations.

Our Nursery and Reception children also shone brightly with two delightful nursery rhyme recitals on Wednesday afternoon. They performed with real confidence and joy: pupils introduced each song and the children's performances were nothing short of inspirational. You would never believe this is their first half term. The future of St Monica's is bright indeed.

Looking ahead, we're excited for TT Rock Stars Day on 21st November, when all children can come to school dressed as rock stars to celebrate the magic of maths. A detailed letter will be sent home soon with more information, but you can start thinking of costumes.

Finally, a reminder that Sunday, 1st November is Family Church at St Monica's. Our catechists will lead Little Church, and there will be refreshments in the Parish Hall after Mass (9:30 start). We'd love to see as many families as possible join us for this special celebration.

Have a lovely and relaxing half term - Mr Gouldbourne





Headteacher's Hot Chocolate

Each week, pupils who have lived out our values and have demonstrated the “St Monica’s Way” are selected by their class teacher. They are celebrated in assembly and then enjoy a hot chocolate and a chat with Mr Gouldbourne to celebrate their inspirational week.



Ms Tohill	Mikey Garry (6M) For a huge improvement at cross country and being a great role model to the Y3/4 Boys, making sure they were all ready and warmed up for their race. A boy who has real heart and never gives up.
Nursery	Summer Garcia for showing perseverance and determination with a tricky task. She works hard, loves to show friendship and has a kind heart.
Miss Andrews	Chloe Winters for her fantastic retelling of the Gingerbread man story using lots of new vocabulary! Amazing work, Chloe.
Miss Hatcher	Willow Gerrard for following our class rules and working well as a team when tidying our classroom. Well done, Willow.
Miss Hatcher	Jude Hoang for showing aspiration and resilience when completing his writing, a pupil who will go far with a pencil in his hand!
Miss Tew	Alarna for developing her confidence, being a kind friend and making fantastic choices everyday here in St Monica’s, what a lovely pupil.
Mrs MacDonald	Sophia Schorah for being reflective during our ‘Celebration of the Word’ time. She gives very thoughtful and considered answers. She is living out the ‘St Monica’s way’.
Mrs Chorzepa	Rory Reilly for demonstrating aspiration and resilience in completing his work, while showing growing independence.
Mrs Reardon	Elijah - for having an excellent attitude in Choir and showing his beautiful singing voice. Well done!
Miss Gibbons	Nova for exceptional kindness towards others, patiently helping her friends read questions and work through answers together. A true team player and a maths teacher in the making! Well done, Nova!
Mrs Ware	Francis Devine - Well done for showing great resilience! Even though you weren’t feeling your best, you still came to school and tried your hardest. That shows real determination and a positive attitude – you should be very proud of yourself.
Miss Thomas	Cody Muirhead - For showing resilience and determination when faced with a challenging task. Cody has tried hard across all subjects particularly his writing.
Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch	Dollie McNally- For demonstrating great skill during our Design and Technology lessons this week by designing and baking her own bread. Star baker!
Miss McGuckin	Freddie Anderson - For his positive and willing attitude to all he does. He has been a fantastic example in our PE lessons and across all lessons. Freddie always pushes himself and challenges himself - a role model!
Miss McGiveron	Nathan Doran - For his positive attitude and hard work towards his writing of his setting description with Mr Lynch.
Mr Lynch	James Bennett - For fantastic attainment in Maths so far this year. He is working hard to improve and maintain a high standard. A real all round superstar!



St Monica's: Attendance Matters

Class	Weekly Percentage	Year to Date
Nursery	97.12	94.32
Reception - Miss Horder	97.14	95.03
Reception - Miss Andrews	100.00	97.20
Year 1 - Miss Tew	96.94	96.62
Year 1- Miss Hatcher	98.24	94.83
Year 2- Mrs Chorzepa	94.29	96.58
Year 2- Mrs MacDonald	91.63	94.83
Year 3 - Mrs Reardon	93.97	95.28
Year 3 - Miss Gibbons	97.46	97.24
Year 4 - Mrs Ware	95.69	97.66
Year 4 - Miss Thomas	96.55	96.10
Y5 - Miss McGuckin	99.14	97.14
Year 5 - Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch	95.16	95.50
Year 6 - Mr Lynch	95.69	94.67
Year 6 - Miss McGiveron	91.63	92.98
Overall	95.16	95.82



Nursery - by Miss Byrne



This week, the children have been fully embracing the Autumn season with a special cooking activity! Inspired by the colours and produce of autumn, we made a hearty vegetable stew together.

The children enjoyed cutting up vegetables (with child-safe tools, of course!) and carefully followed a simple recipe, learning about ingredients, measurements, and teamwork along the way. Our classroom was filled with delicious smells as the stew cooked, and there was lots of excitement when it was finally time to taste what we had made.

The stew was a big hit: it tasted delicious, the children were so proud of their efforts. Mr Gouldbourne said it was the most delicious stew he had ever tasted. Cooking together is a wonderful way to explore healthy eating, practise motor skills, and enjoy a shared meal as a class community.



Reception - by Miss Andrews and Miss Horder

Reception have been busy exploring Autumn and the changes this season brings. We have been using our senses to explore Autumnal treasures such as pinecones, pumpkins and conkers.

The children created beautiful dot paintings using autumnal colours, inspired by the artist Yayoi Kusama, and designed their own dotted pumpkins.

The children have also been working hard learning nursery rhymes and practising for their special performance. The performance was amazing: the children sang and performed with confidence and all of the Reception team are incredibly proud of the children.

What superstars you are, Reception!

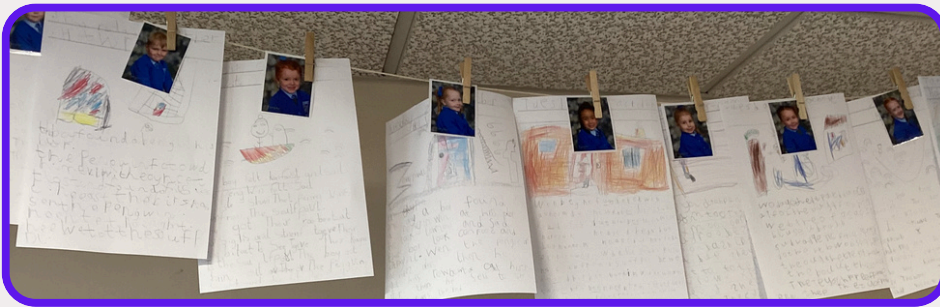




Year 1 - by Miss Hatcher and Miss Tew

This term, we have been learning all about Lost and Found. We explored the story in depth and even rewrote our own imaginative versions, adding our unique twists and ideas. Throughout this unit, we have been practising using capital letters and full stops correctly to make sure our writing is clear and easy to understand. We have also shown our school value of aspiration by challenging ourselves to include lots of descriptive adjectives and conjunctions to make our sentences more exciting and detailed. It has been wonderful to see everyone's creativity shine through in their writing.

Have a look at our wonderful work – we are so proud of ourselves.



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

Year 2 had a fantastic time immersing themselves in history during our Great Fire of London workshop. We were even visited by none other than Samuel Pepys himself, who shared his eyewitness account of the famous fire. The children explored the events of 1666 through a variety of exciting activities. They created dramatic artwork of the blazing London skyline, learned a traditional Tudor dance, and even wrote with real quill pens and ink: just like Samuel Pepys did in his diary. It was a memorable day, full of hands-on learning, creativity, and historical fun. Well done, Year 2!

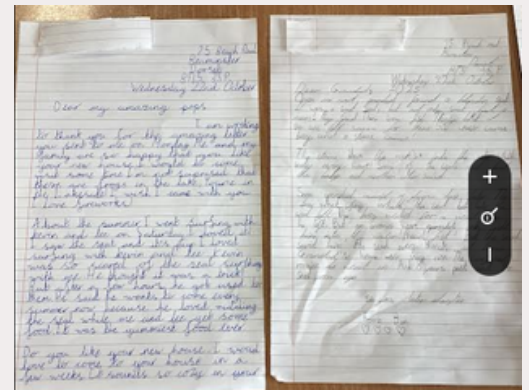
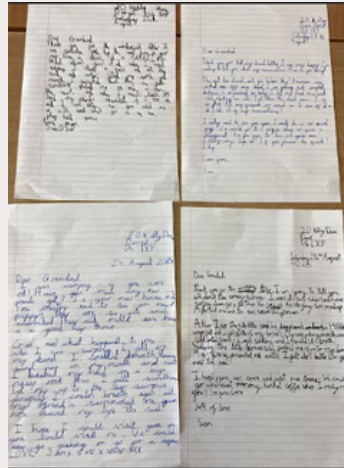
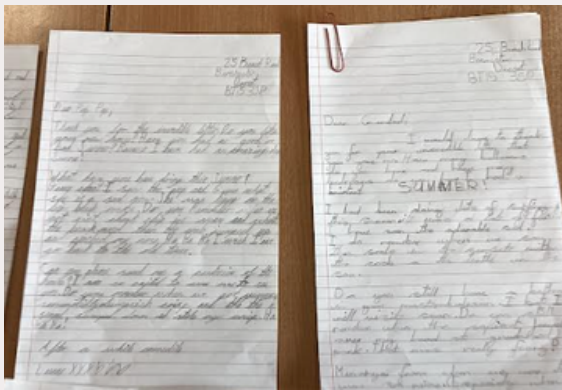




Year 3 - by Mrs Reardon and Miss Gibbons

This week in English, Year 3 have been writing informal letters using our book, Seal Surfer, as a stimulus. We enjoyed thinking about how the character would feel as he wrote to his grandson and remembered their precious times together. The children worked extremely hard using great ideas, paragraphs, informal language whilst also taking great care with their presentation. Well done, everyone!

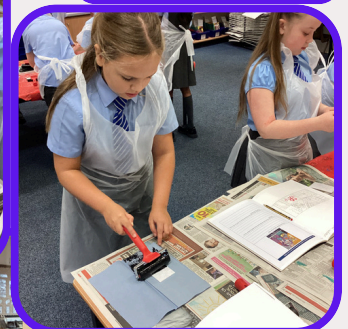
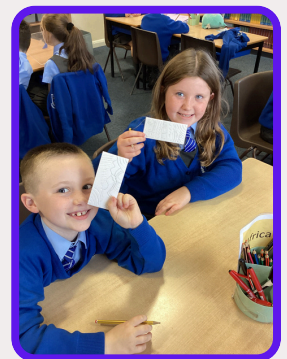
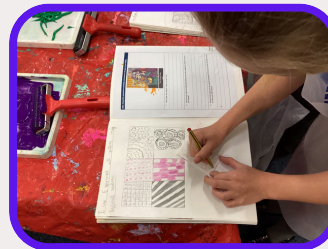
Perhaps over half term, the children could write a letter to someone special?



Year 4 - by Mrs Ware and Miss Thomas

In Art and Design this week, our Year 4 children have been busy exploring the exciting world of printmaking! Inspired by the bold shapes and colours of Mondrian, Kandinsky, and Matisse, they designed their own unique patterns and transferred them onto individual printing plates, using printing ink to create vibrant press prints.

The children showed fantastic creativity and care as they experimented with shapes and textures. Afterwards, they reflected thoughtfully on their own work and shared constructive feedback with their peers, demonstrating growing confidence in both creating and evaluating their artistic pieces.





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



In RE, Year 5 have been learning about Life Choices and what it means to live as followers of Jesus. They reflected on scripture from the Book of Ephesians and explored how God calls us to live with love and purpose. As part of their learning, they also explored our school mission statement and discussed how they can live it out each day. In school, they talked about being kind, respectful, and using their gifts to help others. At home, they reflected on the importance of helping their families and acting with love. In the community, they recognised the importance of gathering together at Church as followers of Jesus. Year 5 are demonstrating how to live out their faith each day. We encourage you to chat with your child about their learning in RE at home.



Year 6- by Miss McGiveron and Mr Lynch

As part of our RE topic Vocation and Commitment, Year 6 explored the life and calling of St Andrew. We focused on scripture from the Gospel of John, where St Andrew is called to follow Jesus and share in His mission to spread the Good News.

The children reflected deeply on what it means to be 'called' and how such a moment could change a person's life. Stepping into St Andrew's shoes, they wrote diary entries from his perspective, expressing the emotions, thoughts, and transformation he might have experienced after meeting Jesus.

The children offered thoughtful and insightful reflections, showing great maturity and understanding of what it means to respond to a calling. It was a meaningful and inspiring lesson that encouraged us all to think about our own commitments and purpose.

