







St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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26th November, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness that I am writing to share the news that our much loved colleague, Marie Hulligan, passed away suddenly yesterday evening. Marie's family have given us their blessing to let the school community know at this time.

Marie served St Monica's for an extraordinary 39 years. She supported generations of pupils with love, insight and warmth: she was a constant source of strength for staff and pupils alike. Her unwavering dedication improved the lives of thousands of children and families in our parish over the years. She was a special, unforgettable person.

Many of us remember her on residentials, always the first up in the morning and the last to bed, taking part in every activity with enthusiasm and laughter. Most importantly, she had an extraordinary ability to connect with pupils and motivate them to become the best versions of themselves.

Marie's legacy runs deep in this community. Her impact on the children of St Monica's will be felt for many years to come. Many pupils who are now in high school or employment would her ask her how she was and thank her, such was the impact she had on people's lives.

As you can imagine, staff are shocked and saddened by this news. We will tell pupils the news tomorrow morning, but you may find telling your child tonight can help give them the individual support they need. This is especially true for those pupils directly affected by the news in our Junior school, as Marie did not work in our Infant school.

If your child finds this news upsetting or confusing, please reassure them and remind them that their feelings matter. I will be talking to pupils tomorrow

about this news, to give them comfort and the support they need to process this news. If you feel your child needs additional support, please contact us and we will support all who need it.

We will work closely with Marie's family to ensure that the school marks her life in a way that is respectful and fitting to somebody who dedicated 39 extraordinary years to St Monica's. As the days pass, Marie's exceptional character and legacy will shine through and the impact she has had on our community will be celebrated.

Marie was treasured by us all. We hold her family and friends very much in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Mr. J Gouldbourne

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Headteacher