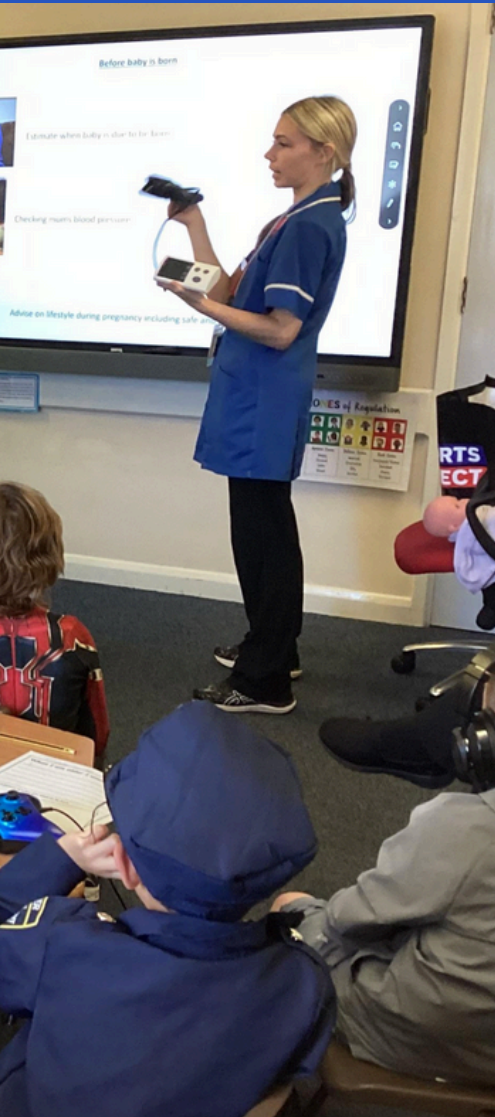




ST MONICA'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd January



Careers Assembly

In today's assembly, I asked the children to "Dream Big". We discussed the importance of believing in ourselves and having high aspirations for what we can become in the future.

I shared my own journey to becoming a teacher and then a headteacher, including the challenges along the way and the importance of setting targets and believing in myself.

Over the weekend, please take some time to talk with your children about potential careers and how they might begin to turn that dream into a life goal. Talk about your journey and how self belief was so important. Weekend challenge: keep talking about the power of 'Not Giving Up'.

We would be delighted if any parents or carers would be willing to support our upcoming Careers Week, either in person or online. It is never too early for our pupils to "Dream Big".



New: Parent Knowledge Organisers

Next week, we will begin sending Home Learning Organisers for our History and Science topics from Year 1 to Year 6.

These contain the essential facts your child is learning, and we would really appreciate your support by displaying them at home, for example on the fridge, and regularly quizzing your child on key knowledge. This will help children to embed the knowledge in their long-term memory and deepen their understanding in preparation for lessons.

Science study Properties and changes of materials Year ____ Term ____

Structure of matter
 everything made from atoms and molecules
 atom = smallest known part of any material
 molecule = two or more atoms, bonded
 particles = atoms + molecules

States and properties of materials
 conductor material that allows heat or electricity through
 insulator material that does not allow heat, electricity or sound through very well
 hardness how easily a material can be scratched
 solubility how well a substance mixes into a liquid
 transparency how see-through a material is
 magnetism when a material is attracted by magnetic force

Physical change
 generally reversible
 2 or more materials combined
 dissolve, melt, freeze, evaporate
 substance put into a liquid, the liquid that a solid dissolves in is a solvent

Chemical changes
 cannot change back
 heating, frying an egg, mixing certain materials, vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, burning ash and smoke, separating

Separation techniques
 solvent, mixture formed when a solid dissolves in a solvent, sand from pebbles, iron from water, salt from water, salt left behind

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Key Notices

E-bikes and Electric Scooters

Please note that riding e-bikes into school can be very dangerous. All e-bikes and electric scooters are banned on school premises. We also ask that all bikes and scooters are pushed, not ridden, once on the school site. People can be seriously hurt when children or adults are travelling at speed in crowded areas.

Building Works Update

The building work for our new boilers and heat source pumps is nearing completion. We are looking forward to improving the appearance of the Southport Road entrance once the project is fully finished. The work has gone smoothly, and I would like to thank you for your patience while skips and vans have been on site.

Uniform Expectations

We continue to ask parents and carers to ensure children attend school in plain, non-branded dark blue tracksuit bottoms. School is not a place for fashion or brand labels, and it is disappointing that some children are using this as an opportunity to be unkind towards others who are following the rules. This is unacceptable. We are a school that values character, kindness, and equality, not brand names.



Message from Father Ged: Mini Church

Hi everyone,

Just to let you know that Little Church will be taking place at St Francis de Sales on Sunday 25th January, during the 10:30am Mass, which will celebrate the Feast of St Francis de Sales. We will be coming together as one parish to celebrate as joint churches.

Please note that there will be no 9:30am Mass at St Monica's on Sunday 25th January.

Mini Church will take place as usual at St Monica's on Sunday 1st February, led by our wonderful catechists.





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.

Mr Gouldbourne	Ralph and Rory Reilly - for showing amazing progress in their learning and displaying a fantastic mindset to school. Keep it up, boys!
Ms Tohill	Bonnie Christensen - For learning how to use a uni-hoc stick so quickly and being an excellent coach to her friends.
Miss Byrne	Jude – for fantastic effort in maths, always trying his best and giving 100%.
Miss Andrews	Harry Rowlinson - for working hard in his maths and developing his number knowledge. He has been working super hard all week, well done Harry!
Miss Horder	Lenny McNally - has been trying super hard in his phonics lessons. He is showing resilience and never gives up even when he finds it challenging. A superb pupil!
Miss Hatcher	Naia - for working extra hard on her phonics, coming in every morning with a lovely smile on her face, showing determination, aspiration and resilience. Keep going, we are proud !
Miss Tew	Iggy - For excellent progress in writing and for applying his phonics to his work. Keep it up! Well done for coming in every morning with a smile, your hard work is evident everyday!
Mrs MacDonald	Sonny Winters - Always showing determination, motivation and resilience in his lessons. He never gives up, even if he makes an error. He is a true St Monica's boy!
Mrs Chorzepa	Callie Hulse- for always listening to the teacher's instructions, enabling her to write exquisite commands for taking care of dragons.
Mrs Reardon	Freya T for always trying hard and showing great resilience and enthusiasm, Well done, Freya!
Miss Gibbons	Isabella has shown great resilience in Maths. She always puts in 100% effort and has worked extremely hard as we begin learning to multiply two-digit numbers by a one-digit number. What a superstar: keep up the fantastic work, Isabella!
Mrs Ware	Eleanor Spencer for always giving her best to all that she does. She is a wonderful role model to her peers and an excellent example of St. Monica's core values. Well done Eleanor!
Miss Thomas	Daniel Egbon - For aspiration and hard work! Daniel has worked extremely hard to improve his handwriting and his hard work is paying off. He is presenting his work beautifully and is working hard to ensure his work is neat. Well done!
Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch	Arshina Ghanapapour - For a super start to our new reading initiative showing consistency with her reading and being a super role model to others.
Miss McGuckin	Evie Law - For consistently showing determination and aspiration in all of her lessons. She demonstrates an excellent mindset in her writing and really takes her time to proofread what she has written - keep it up superstar!
Miss McGiveron	Aoife McAlynn - For trying hard in all of her subjects. Aoife shows great determination to succeed during her time in Year 6.
Mr Lynch	James Cunningham - for having a brilliant attitude towards all his lessons & for making such a conscious effort with his SATs revision! Well done James!



Nursery - by Miss Byrne



This week we have investigated a mysterious house and discovered straw, sticks and bricks in the garden, which led us to reading **The Three Little Pigs**. we learnt about pigs and wolves and enjoyed creating 'Wanted' posters for the **Big Bad Wolf**.

Our role-play area became a construction site where the children worked together to build houses using different materials.

Through storytelling, discussion and role play, the children developed their language by learning new vocabulary and confidently sharing their ideas.

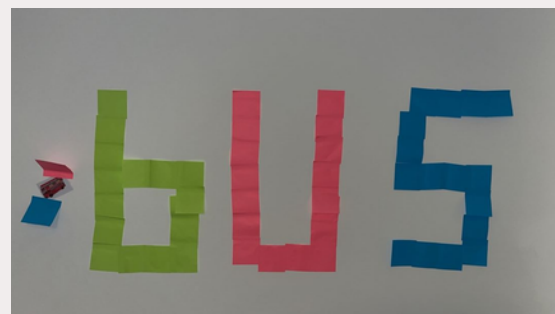
It has been a fun and engaging week full of curiosity, creativity and teamwork.



Reception - by Miss Andrews and Miss Horder

This week in Reception we explored the story **The Naughty Bus** and imagined the mischievous adventures he might have on his journey home. The children took their own **Naughty Bus** home and loved sharing the cheeky mischief he got up to with their families and back at school. As part of **Drawing Club**, they designed and drew their own **Naughty Bus** characters and adventures.

We explored maps and worked together to create large-scale messy maps, thinking about routes and landmarks. The children also created their own bus stop role play area and enjoyed going on bus rides outdoors.





Year 1 - by Miss Hatcher and Miss Tew



Year 1 have been enthusiastically engaging in yoga sessions as part of their learning, exploring a range of poses while practising balance, control and coordination.



The children have been discussing mindfulness and learning simple breathing and calming techniques, and we have already seen positive outcomes as they use these strategies to help them relax, refocus and manage their emotions. Yoga has been a wonderful way to build strength, stamina and mobility, while also supporting the children's overall wellbeing in a calm, enjoyable and inclusive environment.



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

This week in Art, Year 2 students explored Aboriginal art through the work of Australian artist Anna Price Petyarre. They learned how Aboriginal artists use symbols to tell stories about the land, nature, and culture. Students created artworks using naturalistic and X-ray styles, incorporating shapes, patterns, lines, dots, and colours to represent natural elements. Their finished pieces show creativity, thoughtful use of symbols, and a growing respect for Aboriginal art and culture.





Year 3 - by Mrs Reardon and Miss Gibbons

This week in PHSE, we have been thinking about our dreams and goals. We discussed our different ambitions and imagined how we will feel when we achieve them. It is important have dreams and goals and we should always aim high! We learnt about the scientist Jane Goodall who worked incredibly hard to acheive her goals. All these thoughts show the importance of high aspirations and resilience, two of our St. Monica's core values. Keep aiming high, Year 3, you have amazing poential!



Year 4 - by Mrs Ware and Miss Thomas

Year 4 have enjoyed two informative Healthy Habits sessions, where they have been learning about the nutrients found in the food we eat.

During the first session, the children focused on sugar and explored the surprising amounts hidden in everyday foods and drinks, which many found shocking. In the second session, they learned about fat and the effects it can have on our bodies, helping them to understand the importance of balance and making healthy choices.

These sessions were a real eye-opener for the children and led to lots of thoughtful questions and discussions about healthier lifestyles.





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



This week, Year 5 began an exciting new hockey unit in PE. Children focused on learning position control, practising how to hold the stick correctly and move safely and confidently with the ball. They also worked on developing the push pass, learning to push the ball accurately along the ground to a partner using control rather than power.

The children showed excellent enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination as they practised these new skills. They supported one another well and listened carefully to instructions. It has been a positive start, and we look forward to seeing their skills and confidence continue to develop.



Year 6- by Miss McGiveron and Mr Lynch

In science this week, Year 6 have been learning all about the circulatory system and how it keeps our bodies working. We explored the important role of the heart, blood, and blood vessels, and learnt how oxygen and nutrients are transported around the body while waste products are removed.

To help us really understand how the circulatory system works, we took part in a fun, hands-on activity where we physically demonstrated the journey of blood around the body. By acting out each stage, we were able to see how the heart pumps blood and how it travels through arteries, veins, and capillaries. This practical approach helped bring our learning to life and made a complex system much easier to understand. Year 6 have shown great enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the topic and have developed a strong understanding of how vital the circulatory system is for keeping us healthy.

