



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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Tuesday 14th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may have seen in the news and through wider national campaigns, **2026 is the National Year of Reading**, a UK-wide initiative led by the **Department for Education in partnership with the National Literacy Trust** to support and celebrate reading for pleasure and lifelong literacy. This campaign aims to reverse a decline in reading enjoyment and inspire families, schools and communities to read more together and for enjoyment as well as learning purposes. We aim to embrace this year here at St Monica's and really push the importance of reading for all.

Why this matters:

Research from the National Literacy Trust shows that fewer children are reading regularly outside school than in previous years, with enjoyment and frequency continuing to decline. The emergence of digital devices and online distractions play a key role in this. Connecting with books and reading for pleasure supports not only academic success but wellbeing, confidence, vocabulary and comprehension, benefits that last well beyond the classroom.

Our Home Reading Initiative:

To support this national effort and your child's progress, we are launching a refreshed **home reading programme** for all children in **Nursery - Y6**.

- **Daily reading:** We ask that your child reads at home **each day**, in addition to the reading that takes place in school. Just a short, regular 10- 15 minute reading habit can expose children to over a **million words a year**, helping to build stamina, fluency and confidence.
- **Enjoyment and talk:** Please take this opportunity to talk with your child about what they're reading. Conversations about the story, characters or information help deepen understanding — and make reading a shared experience. Further support on reading at home and recommended reads are available on the **English** page of our school website under the **Resources for Parents** section: [St Monica's Catholic Primary School - English](#)

Recording reading:

- **In Years 1-6**, record each reading session in your child's reading record, with the date and pages read. We ask for **an adult signature at least three times a week** (or after every reading if you prefer) to confirm this reading has taken place.
- **In EYFS - Nursery and Reception** Expectations in these years are slightly different and further information and clarification can be found in the letter from your child's Nursery and Reception class teacher.

Encouraging Consistency and Celebrating Success

In Years 1-6, we will check reading records weekly to encourage regular reading and provide support where needed. Your child's teacher has noted the day their reading record will be checked in a letter in your child's reading record book and differs for each year group. **Please read the letter in your child's reading record for full details and information for the expectations in their year group.**

To celebrate reading achievements:

- **Weekly:** In Years 1-6, children who have three adult signatures will receive a **gold star**. Collect **10 gold stars** and earn a **golden coin** for the class. Children in **EYFS** will also receive golden coins for their home- reading.
- **Half-Termly:** A **Reading Star** award will be given to the child who has read the most over the half term, with a **mindset award presented by Mr Gouldbourne**.
- **Termly:** At the end of each term, each class will choose a **Reading Winner** who will receive a **book voucher** to recognise significant effort, progress or achievement in reading.

Reading Together Makes a Lasting Difference

Regular reading at home contributes to improved fluency, greater confidence and a deeper love of books — helping children not just to achieve in school but to become lifelong readers.

We have some other lovely events planned to celebrate the Year of Reading, in addition to the author visits we have already had, including World Book Day and a Book Swap day where we are collaborating with Kingley and Co. I will write with more information on these nearer to the time.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope that you will join us in making the most of the National Year of Reading and supporting this exciting initiative at home and in school.

Kind regards,

Mrs. S Gilbertson
(Reading Lead)