







St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 30th January, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Safer School Assembly

In today's assembly, we talked about the importance of our pupils feeling safe. We talked about our safeguarding team, and everything we do in our school to keep children and staff safe. I introduced our new Safeguarding Governor, Mr Sean Murphy, to the children and explained to them that if they ever have any worries or concerns, they should speak to their trusted adult, or a member of the Safeguarding Team straight away.

I am the Safeguarding Lead of the school, and all pupils know they can come to me if they need to, or their 'Trusted Adult'. *Please ask your child who their trusted adult is in school, this really helps the children grow in confidence if they need to speak to somebody.*

Keeping Safe in Sefton

Sefton is an incredible place: a world in a borough, with beaches, canals, railways and level crossings, forests, and even a seaside resort. We are so lucky, but all of these amazing areas have dangers. In the assembly, I spoke to the children about these dangers. See if your child can answer the following questions:

- 1. How can we act safely around railways? What is a level crossing?*
- 2. How can we act safely on a beach? What dangers are there on the beach?*

3. *How can we act safely around busy roads like Southport Road?*

4. *How should we act when we are around a canal?*

I also challenged the children to have early nights as “Sleep is a Superpower!” and explained that an early night helps our brains take our learning from our short term memory into our long term memory, and a good night’s sleep also helps our body repair itself. All the children promised they would have early nights from now on.

Attendance Matters

We have dipped a little this week for attendance, with a whole school attendance of 95.1%, below our 96% last week. We are still in a strong position compared to National and Local averages, but we can always improve.

- *Gold: Mrs Chorzepa, with a fantastic 98.67% for the week*
- *Silver: Miss Thomas - 98.62%*
- *Bronze: Mrs MacDonald - 98.26%*



Next week will see the second week of our Attendance Initiative, with the results announced next Friday. The winning class will have hot chocolate and a story with myself - and an extra breaktime. Special mention has to go to Molly, who came into school in a wheelchair so she did not miss lessons, now that’s a St Monica’s pupil!

Term Dates

[Term Dates for 2026/27](#) are available on our website, with a return date of Wednesday 4th September 2026.

Headteacher’s Hot Chocolate

This week, a lovely group of children have been chosen by their class teachers to enjoy hot chocolate as a special treat. Their teachers had some wonderful comments to share about them, recognising their hard work, kindness, and positive attitudes:

Friday 30th Headteacher's Hot Chocolate Winners

Mr Gouldbourne	Infants: Arlo Knibbs - what a resilient and brave young man. He has worked hard all week and does so with a smile. You'll go far, Arlo!		Juniors: Mila Marsden-Gillett - For showing resilience and positivity all week, Mila is working hard to prepare for herself for her SATs and is showing a fantastic mindset to school. Well done, Mila.
Nursery	Betsy - for always being thoughtful, sensible, and a truly kind friend to everyone around her.	3R	Elijah for showing a positive attitude to his work and making good choices. This is a kind boy with huge potential. Well done!
RA	Ivie Rowlinson - for being a kind and caring friend to all in St Monica's. She shows determination in her learning and a can do attitude to all areas of the curriculum. Well done Ivie!	3G	Kayden for outstanding progress in his writing. He has worked tremendously hard to improve his handwriting and expand his use of vocabulary. His efforts are a true reflection of his resilience and determination. Miss Gibbons is very proud of him — well done, Kayden!
RH	Jesse Hughes - for working really hard in his Maths lessons. He has worked super hard to make 6, 7, and 8 in lots of different ways and can even spot doubles! Well done, Jesse!	4W	Leila Hoang - for her outstanding charitable mindset.. She is a kind, clever and caring pupil who is an inspiration to all of us with her fundraising efforts. Well done, Leila!
1H	Malik - for settling into St Monica's so well, showing resilience, determination and a lovely caring attitude towards his new school friends. A true St Monica's boy.	4T	Georgia Groves - For her great determination and hard work across the curriculum. She works hard to vary the structure of her writing, includes all the key features and always takes time to edit and improve her work. Well done Georgia!
1T	Sienna, for working hard at home and demonstrating excellent resilience and focus in her learning. Well done, Sienna.	5GB	Ruby Martin - For being a wonderful role model to the class, always working hard, showing resilience and determination. Keep it up, Ruby!
2M	Daniel Banks - For always showing respect and kindness to his teachers and friends. He is a lovely young man who has time for everybody. He is a true Y2 role model.	5M	Bonnie O'Connor - For being a role model to other pupils and always setting an example. She shows 100% in all of her lessons and is working particularly hard in her Maths learning about fractions and pushing herself to complete challenges. Well done!
2C	Ember is a perfect example of a Year 2 pupil. She consistently follows instructions, always tries her best in all areas of her learning, and shows respect to everyone around her. Ember demonstrates a positive attitude in the classroom and is a pleasure to teach.	6M	Israa Majeed - For being a wonderful new addition to Class 6M. She has already made wonderful friends and is working so hard. It feels like she has always been here.
Miss Tohill - PE	Grace Barton - For great improvement in ability and confidence in both dance and sprinting. She performed a beautiful dance with a friend to the class and enjoyed it. In the sports club, Grace shocked everyone at how fast and powerful she was when sprinting.	6L	Lidia Rudnik- For showcasing a brilliant attitude towards her learning. Lidia is a good role model, kind to everybody and a lovely, kind hearted pupil. Keep it up, Lidia!
Mrs Hough	Heidi Walsh - For showing real resilience and a superb St Monica's Mindset all week - keep it up, Heidi!		

World Book Day

We will be celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday March 5th**. Pupils can get dressed up as their favourite book character and we will be celebrating the National Year of Reading with a host of activities. More information will follow, but you can start thinking about your costumes now.



Today, we had five winners of a poetry competition to celebrate: Freya Mae, Amelia, Isla-Grace, Georgie, Lula - all are now published poets and can be very proud of themselves.

Parking

Please be aware that parking on the pavement around the school is extremely dangerous. This week, a neighbour was blocked in her driveway on the roundabout as cars had double parked on the pavement close to the roundabout. This is a very dangerous situation for pupils and parents walking to school, especially close to such a busy road. Parking close to Derby Park/ St Monica's Church is a short walk, but much safer for all. One mistake is all it takes on a rainy morning and somebody could be badly hurt.

Little Church

On Sunday, at St Monica's Church, we warmly invite children in Years 1–5 to take part in Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9.30am Sunday Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to hear the Word of God in language they can understand, helping scripture come alive in a way that is engaging, fun and meaningful. It allows children to explore our faith at their level with our amazing Little Church helpers and the ever brilliant Father Ged.

Best Regards,

Mr. James Gouldbourne

Headteacher, St Monica's Catholic Primary School