



# ST MONICA'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th February



What a superb selection of visitors we welcomed for Careers Week this week. From authors and firefighters to paramedics and midwives: what a range of inspirational careers our families have.

The week gave our pupils had the opportunity to hear first hand about the “stories behind the careers”. Children learnt about passion, never giving up on a dream and the importance of dedication and hard work. There was a real buzz in the air and it was clear to see how inspired our children were by meeting such passionate and knowledgeable people.

Events like this only happen because of the commitment, teamwork and care shown by school and families across the school. Thank you to all.



## Year of Reading 2026 - Photo Competition

Eleanor- Published Author



As part of The Year of Reading, we are launching a competition to see who can capture a photograph of themselves reading in the most unusual or interesting place. We have had fantastic winners in the past, including entries taken on top of mountains, in museums and even up trees! All you have to do is take a photograph of your child reading in an interesting place and submit it to us for the 2026 competition. Closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> March.

There will be an overall winner, voted for by parents, with a special prize. All pupils who enter will receive a Mindset Award and a Headteacher's sticker. All photos will be shown in Assembly on World Book Day. Let's push back against digital devices and show that reading is the ultimate pastime.



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## Attendance Competition Winners

We have had a very good week for attendance this week, with overall attendance above 96%. This is a fantastic outcome and one of our best weeks of the year.

We have been running a competition where the classes with the best attendance in each phase over two weeks win a story and treat with myself, and, the most anticipated prize, an extra playtime. It is great to see that this initiative has had such a positive impact on attendance across the school.

The winning classes are...

EYFS	Miss Horder
Year 1 / Year 2	Mrs Chorzepa
Year 3 / Year 4	Mrs Ware
Year 5 / Year 6	Miss Mc Giveron



## Year 4 Visit to Church



Year 4 visited Church this week to mark the feast of St Agatha. The children showed great respect throughout the visit and took part thoughtfully in the service. Father Ged shared how pleased he was to welcome the class, and it was a valuable opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of faith and tradition, and prepare for their First Holy Communion.

Parishioners were delighted to see the children and prased their behaviour and mindset. Well done to all. Visits such as this help strengthen the connection between school and parish.

## Safeguarding Team 2026 and Safer Internet Day

On the next page, you will see all our extensive Safeguarding Team in 2026. If you ever need help, or want to report a concern, please do not hesitate to contact school or speak to one of us on the gate. We take all matters seriously.

We have Safer Internet Day on Tuesday, when we will be teaching the children how to stay safe in the online world.



# SAFEGUARDING TEAM

**WE ARE HERE TO KEEP YOU SAFE AND HAPPY - PLEASE SEE ANY OF US IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS - AT ANY TIME.**



**MR J. GOULDBOURNE**  
DESIGNATED  
SAFEGUARDING  
LEAD



**MRS C. PRICE**  
DEPUTY  
SAFEGUARDING  
LEAD



**MRS L. FATE**  
SENDCO  
SAFEGUARDING



**MRS S. EVANS**  
EARLY YEARS  
SAFEGUARDING



**MR S. MURPHY**  
SAFEGUARDING  
GOVERNOR



**MRS S. PATTISON**  
ATTENDANCE  
SAFEGUARDING



**MRS R. HOUGH**  
WELLBEING  
SAFEGUARDING



**MISS J. TOHILL**  
LOOKED AFTER  
CHILDREN  
SAFEGUARDING

**SPEAK TO US IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS: 0151 525 1245**  
**SAFEGUARDING.STMONICAS@SCHOOLS.SEFTON.GOV.UK**



# 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.

<b>Mr Gouldbourne</b>	Daniel Egbon - For making outstanding progress with his handwriting and work. It is lovely to see you working hard to reach your potential, Daniel. Keep it up!
<b>Ms Tohill</b>	Jude Ainsworth - For always do so well in PE. This week he was as fast as a horse running and hurdling and danced like a true cowboy in time to the music.
<b>Miss Byrne</b>	Grace - For her fantastic retelling of <i>The Great Race</i> and the wonderful enthusiasm she showed while learning about Chinese New Year. Well done, Grace!
<b>Miss Andrews</b>	Harry Perris - for showing a brilliant attitude to his learning this half term. He has really developed his independence as a learner and is making great progress in both phonics and maths! Harry is also becoming a very sensible member of our class. Well done, Harry!
<b>Miss Horder</b>	Nate Doherty - Nate has worked super hard on his writing. He has shown determination and is now fantastic at writing words independently. Keep it up Nate!
<b>Miss Hatcher</b>	Ruah, for growing in independence especially in writing. She has shown such determination.
<b>Miss Tew</b>	Mollie for showing incredible bravery and resilience. After breaking her leg, she has returned to school with a positive attitude and determination. We are so proud of how you have faced this challenge and jumped back into learning. Well done, Mollie!
<b>Mrs MacDonald</b>	Sophia Reid-For consistent hard work in maths this week and a great attitude towards practising times tables and problem-solving.
<b>Mrs Chorzepa</b>	Jack Henry-for always listening to the teachers' instructions, enabling him to write exquisite description of his journey.
<b>Mrs Reardon</b>	Maggie McDonough for great yoga work this half term. She has shown flexibility and balance and worked well in a pair. Well done!
<b>Miss Gibbons</b>	Sienna-Mae Carr - For making excellent progress in her writing. Sienna has written a wonderful historical narrative based on the text we have been studying. A true author in the making! Keep up the great work Sienna, Miss Gibbons is very proud!
<b>Mrs Ware</b>	Dottie Goodaker-Green for always giving her best in every subject. Dottie is also a very helpful member of our class. She always volunteers to to do classroom jobs. Well done and thank you Dottie!
<b>Miss Thomas</b>	Sophia Finn - For making fabulous progress in science. She has been working hard during our teeth and digestion topic and has made sure she has used our scientific vocabulary. Keep up the hard work!
<b>Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch</b>	Anthony Rawcliffe - For making excellent progress in his phonics and completing the programme. He has shown determination, resilience and aspiration. Well done Anthony!
<b>Miss McGuckin</b>	Luciana Wilkinson - For her attitude and determination she shows in all of her lessons. She has shown determination in her Maths when problem solving with multiplication. Well done!
<b>Miss McGiveron</b>	Wren Flannery - For her positive attitude in lessons and always trying her best. Wren is a fantastic pupil who always displays a kind heart and is a true St Monica's pupil.
<b>Mr Lynch</b>	Penny Boylan - For having a positive attitude across all subjects. She is showing a real determination to succeed in her SATs! Also, in PE - she is an absolute force to be reckoned with! Well done Penny!



## Nursery - by Miss Byrne



We have been learning all about Chinese New Year through lots of exciting, hands-on activities. The children are enjoying role play in our enhanced home corner, which was transformed with Chinese decorations, costumes, and themed resources to spark curiosity and imagination.

The children loved learning about The Great Race, discovering how the animals became part of the Chinese Zodiac. They eagerly joined in with the story, choosing their favourite animals and acting out parts of the race with lots of excitement and imagination.

The children also enjoyed painting dragons, using tweezers to pick up small objects, and listening to and playing Chinese music on the glockenspiel, helping to develop fine motor skills, coordination, and listening skills.



## Reception - by Miss Andrews and Miss Horder

Reception had a fantastic start to the week with a wonderful Careers Day. We were lucky to be inspired by visits from: a fire fighter, police officer, midwife, hairdresser and more. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who came in to share their time and experiences.

We then began our new topic on Chinese New Year and the children have been fully immersed in the celebrations. They have enjoyed dragon dancing, creating festive cards, and exploring and painting beautiful cherry blossoms.

It's been a joyful, busy week full of learning and creativity.





## 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

Year 2 have enjoyed a fantastic Careers Week, learning all about different jobs and how people help others in their work. We were especially excited to welcome some special visitors, including a midwife and a dental nurse, who shared their experiences and answered lots of thoughtful questions.

The children loved finding out about these important roles and were inspired to think about what they might like to be when they grow up.





## Year 3 - by Mrs Reardon and Miss Gibbons

This week, Year 3 worked on their co-ordination in our P.E. lesson. We thought about the importance of balance, strength, stamina and flexibility.

We found that we really had to concentrate to complete each challenge to the best of our ability. Practising helped too! We worked on developing our balance and hand-eye co-ordination.

Well done Year 3 on a great lesson!



## Year 4 - by Mrs Ware and Miss Thomas

This morning, pupils in 4T led their family assembly, where they proudly shared their learning about the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. They explained how this special feast reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world and how we are all called to be lights of hope in our everyday lives. The children showed a deep understanding of the message of Candlemas and inspired everyone present to think about how they can bring light, kindness, and hope to others.





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



Year 5 have had a fantastic time celebrating Careers Week this week. We were lucky to welcome visitors from a wide range of different careers, giving the children a great insight into the world of work. The pupils learned a lot about the different jobs, the skills needed, and the journeys our visitors took to get to where they are today. It was inspiring for the children to see how hard work, determination and following interests can lead to many exciting opportunities in the future. A huge thank you to all of our visitors who took the time to come into school and share their experiences with us – it was a valuable and memorable week for Year 5.



# Year 6- by Miss McGiveron and Mr Lynch

**Year 6 enjoyed a highly successful RE lesson this week, showcasing fantastic teamwork, curiosity, and enthusiasm for learning. Pupils worked collaboratively to research and present their understanding of the Dead Sea Scrolls, building their confidence and deepening their knowledge of an important historical and religious discovery.**

**The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of ancient manuscripts discovered in caves near the Dead Sea in the 1940s. They include some of the oldest known copies of texts from the Hebrew Bible and help historians and religious scholars better understand life, beliefs, and religious practices at the time they were written. Throughout the lesson, pupils communicated their ideas clearly, supported one another, and asked thoughtful questions, demonstrating strong collaboration and engagement. It was wonderful to see the pride they took in their work and the maturity with which they shared their learning.**



