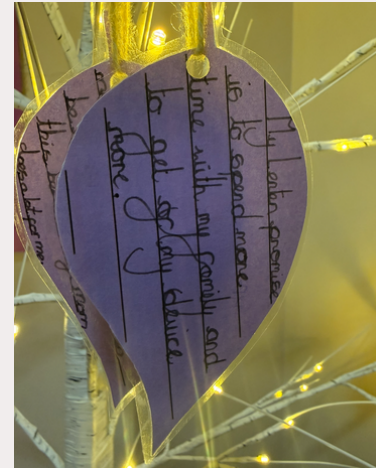




# ST MONICA'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 27th February

## Lent Assembly and Little Church



**Our Lent celebration assembly took place today. We reflected on how Lent is a special time when we can make meaningful promises and consider what we might give up as we prepare for Easter.**

**Year 5 shared their thoughtful Lenten promises, written on our Lenten leaves. These included: "I will spend more time with my family", "I will reduce my screen time", and "I will set more time aside for prayer and reflection". Why not ask your child what their Lenten promise will be?**

Our Lenten Promise Tree is now in the foyer. Each child will write a Lenten promise and it will be displayed for all to see. If any family members would like to take part, promise cards will be available in the foyer from Monday. Please do write one and we will hang it on the tree.

This Sunday, Mass at St Monica's is at 9:30am, it will be a celebration of Lent with Father Ged. There will be Little Church for younger pupils and a gathering afterwards in the Parish Hall. The hall has recently been refurbished, so it will be a lovely opportunity to come together and share in this special time.



# St Monica's - Attendance Matters

Phase winners		
EYFS	RH	99%
Year 1 / Year 2	1T	98%
Year 3 / Year 4	3G+4T	97%
Year 5 / Year 6	6M	97%

A fantastic week for attendance in St Monica's. We are superior to local and national trends, showing our children love being in our school, and our families support our mission.

**Overall attendance: 95.25%**



## Year 3 Easter Pageant - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March



We are delighted to share that one of the highlights of our school year, our annual Easter Pageant, will take place on Friday 27th March 2026 at 10am in St Monica's Church. All Year 3 families are warmly invited to Church on this special occasion.



## Derby Park - Spiritual Garden for COVID



**Tricia Sumner** is a local hero from our community who has campaigned tirelessly to get a COVID memorial area built in Derby Park. The area includes a bench, trees and a feature that allows people to write and attach messages to their loved ones. Tricia has a grandchild in our school and a long association with St Monica's. What an important space this will be for our local community.

The memorial area will be opened with a special service in Derby Park at 11am next Friday. We will be taking a group of children to show our admiration and respect for Tricia and those who worked tirelessly for this special space that will benefit so many. Why not read this superb story in the

**[Liverpool Echo?](#)**

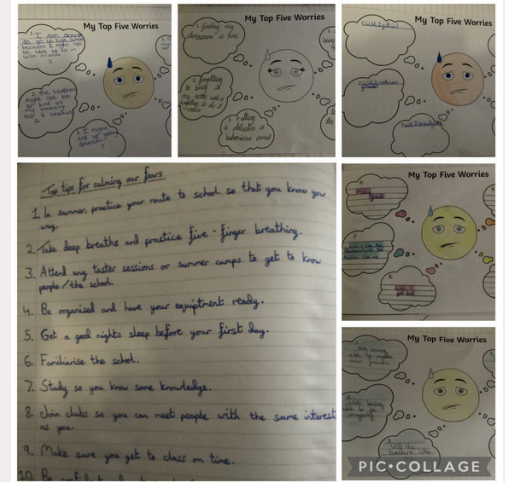


# Mental Health Week - Wellbeing

**Today, our whole school came together to celebrate Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Day, taking part in a range of thoughtful and engaging activities within our classes. This year's theme was 'Belonging'.**



Throughout the day, children explored ways to support their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. The morning began with a special assembly focused on Children's Mental Health, where we talked about the importance of looking after our minds.



Pupils were reminded that it is okay to talk about their feelings and that there is always someone in school and home who will listen and help. It was wonderful to see such thoughtful contributions from our children and to see the different work happening in each year group.



# World Book Day - Next Thursday

World Book Day takes place next Thursday. We are excited to celebrate a shared love of reading across the school. **Pupils are invited to come dressed as a character they enjoy from a favourite book.** We have a fantastic week planned, including: author visits, the popular Masked Reader, photo competitions and plenty of cosy reading time in class. If you have any old costumes at home that your child has outgrown, we would be very grateful for donations. Bootle Library also has a selection of costumes that have been donated that are available.



# 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>	Alana Carthy - 4W, for being a born historian and working extremely hard all year in all she does. A role model who shows The St Monica’s Way everyday! Keep it up!
<b>Ms Tohill</b>	Archie Motion - 6M - for great batting technique in cricket. I think he surprised himself at how great he was. A big future awaits, Archie!
<b>Miss Byrne</b>	Sadie Hardaker - Well done to Sadie for trying so hard with your learning and always showing a kind and caring attitude towards your friends. I am so proud of the effort you put into everything and the wonderful example you set to others.
<b>Miss Andrews</b>	Elsie Perry - for trying her best in all aspects of her learning, working super hard to retain and write dictated captions. Well done Elsie, I am proud of you and your writing.
<b>Miss Horder</b>	Grace McDonough - Grace consistently has a positive attitude, she always tries her best and puts 100% into everything she does. She is a joy to have in our class. Well done, Grace!
<b>Miss Hatcher</b>	Elsie Le Marinel for dedication and aspiration to complete her work to the best of her ability all the time. I am very proud of her and how hard she works everyday. A superstar.
<b>Mrs MacDonald</b>	Louie O'Donnell - For wonderful ideas in his English lessons and a great effort in improving his handwriting. A boy who has made wonderful progress and will go far!
<b>Mrs Chorzepa</b>	Andie Talent- For her outstanding effort in English lessons, where she has shown great creativity and skill by using adverbs and noun phrases to make her writing more detailed, engaging, and expressive.
<b>Mrs Reardon</b>	Raphael B - Raph always listens politely, showing great respect. He tries hard with everything he does and is a wonderful role model. He was an excellent representative for our school at the boys’ football tournament. Well done!
<b>Miss Gibbons</b>	Keyahn - for a fantastic writing in our English lessons. His focus on describing the setting and bringing a character to life showed his ability to write in the style of an author. Miss Gibbons is very proud!
<b>Mrs Ware</b>	Maci Meenan - she is a wonderful role model to her peers. She volunteers every week to be a buddy which helps everyone feel included. Thank you and well done Maci!
<b>Miss Thomas</b>	Thomas Ftacek - For excellent research on the Vikings after we completed our History topic. He created an excellent report at home and was very detailed and a credit to him. A historian of the future.
<b>Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch</b>	Esme De Costa Greaves - For showing resilience and determination this week in her maths work on division using the formal method. Well done Esme!
<b>Miss McGuckin</b>	Myla Chart - For her positive attitude to her learning this week and for being a helpful member of 5M. Well done! Keep up the hard work.
<b>Miss McGiveron</b>	Harper McPartland - for her determination with her maths, she is listening carefully during lessons and making great strides with her reasoning skills which are reflected in her scores.
<b>Mr Lynch</b>	Lara Gomes Lacerda - for making a fantastic start to St Monica’s. Lara is a sensible, polite girl who has settled well. She shows great potential and has made friends already. She never stops smiling - what a lovely addition.
<b>Miss Quick</b>	Rose Carter - for her determination and perseverance in maths which is reflected in her rising scores. Rose has so much ability and it is lovely to see her hitting her potential!



## Nursery - by Miss Byrne

**This week in Nursery, we have been learning all about our history and how we have grown. We loved looking at our baby pictures and talking about the changes we can see, from tiny babies to the brilliant learners we are today! The children enjoyed sharing their photos with their friends and describing what they could (and couldn't!) do when they were babies.**



**We also had a very special visitor – Miss Hoy brought in baby Nella for us to meet. The children were fascinated to see how little she is and to talk about how she will grow, just like they have. It was a wonderful way to help the children understand how we all grow and develop over time. It sparked lots of thoughtful conversations and wonderful language from the children.**



## Reception - by Miss Andrews and Miss Horder

**This week in Reception, we explored the topic of our history, thinking about how we have changed since we were babies and what we can do now that we are growing up. We looked at the different stages of growth and talked about how we might continue to change in the future.**

**In our baby clinic role play area, the children enjoyed looking after baby dolls and acting out caring roles. We used our empathy skills to think carefully about how to feed, hold and care for babies gently and kindly.**

**We were also very excited to have a visit from a special baby, which helped us learn even more about how babies grow and what they need.**





## Year 1 - by Miss Hatcher and Miss Tew

Year 1 have been exploring sculpture in Art this term and have been busy creating wonderful papier-mâché African masks inspired by the vibrant work of Kimmy Cantrell. The children learned about bold patterns, exaggerated features, and expressive designs before sketching their own ideas. They carefully built their masks using layers of papier-mâché, then painted them in bright, contrasting colours to reflect Cantrell's unique style. The finished pieces are full of personality and creativity, and we are incredibly proud of the imagination and effort Year 1 have shown throughout this exciting project.



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



In Year 2 PE this week, we focused on net and wall games. The children learned and practised the “ready position” to help them move quickly and react in different directions. Children also focused on their underarm throw, aiming to throw it towards their partner so that they could catch it. Through fun games such as *Defend the Zone*, and 2v2 Throw Tennis, they developed their listening skills, quick reactions, teamwork, and ball control.

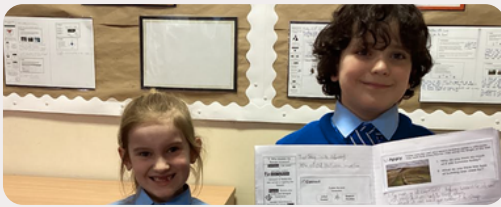
We finished by reflecting on what we did well and what we can improve next time.



## Year 3 - by Mrs Reardon and Miss Gibbons

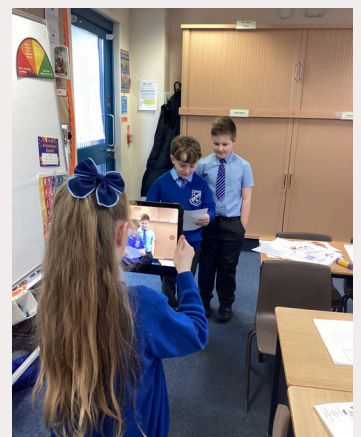
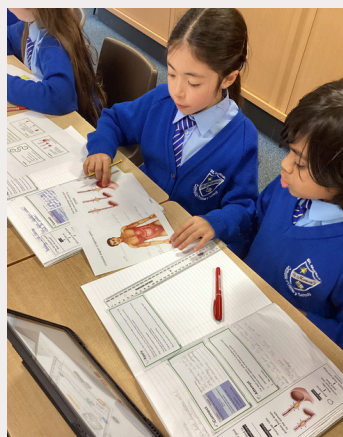
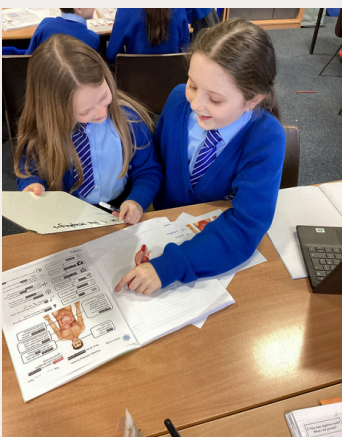
In History this week, we learned about the Celts and their resistance to the Roman invasion of Britain. We explored the story of Boudicca, the courageous leader of the Iceni tribe, who led a rebellion against Roman rule. Although Boudicca's army fought bravely, the Romans were far better trained and organised, and they ultimately defeated her forces.

We also used our mapping skills from Geography to locate where Hadrian's Wall was built to protect Roman Britain from tribes in the north. Can you believe that parts of it are still standing almost 2,000 years later? [BBC Bitesize Boudicca Clip](#)



## Year 4 - by Mrs Ware and Miss Thomas

Year 4 have been busy exploring the fascinating journey food takes through the digestive system. This week, pupils created short educational videos to showcase their understanding of how food travels from the mouth, down the oesophagus, and into the stomach. They demonstrated how muscles in the oesophagus use a wave-like motion called peristalsis to push food along, bringing their science learning to life through creative explanations and visual models. The videos highlighted both their growing scientific knowledge and their confidence in presenting ideas in engaging ways. Why not quiz your child about the journey over the weekend?





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



This week, Year 5 have been reflecting thoughtfully on their Lenten journey and the promises they have chosen to make during this special season. They have taken time to think carefully about how their promises will help them grow spiritually and become more compassionate, patient, and generous individuals. Alongside this, the children have reflected on the journey and sacrifice Jesus made during His life. Through discussion and prayer, they have shown maturity and respect as they considered the meaning of sacrifice and how they can follow Jesus' example in their own daily lives. We are very proud of the Faith and care Year 5 have shown during this time of reflection.



## Year 6- by Miss McGiveron and Mr Lynch

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils, who have been working exceptionally hard on their fact files all about Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. As part of this unit, the children have explored what Rosh Hashanah is, how it is celebrated, and why it is such a sacred and meaningful time for Jewish people around the world. They learned that Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish High Holy Days – a time of reflection, prayer, and new beginnings.



They discovered the importance of the shofar (a ram's horn that is blown in synagogue), the symbolism of sweet foods such as apples dipped in honey to represent hopes for a sweet year ahead, and the practice of asking forgiveness and making a fresh start. What has impressed us most is not only the quality of their research, but the maturity, sensitivity, and respect they have shown in learning about the beliefs and traditions of Judaism.



As a Catholic school, we are committed to helping our children understand their own faith deeply, while also developing respect and appreciation for the faiths of others. Learning about Rosh Hashanah has given Year 6 a valuable opportunity to reflect on shared values – repentance, forgiveness, prayer, and the importance of family – which resonate strongly within our own Christian tradition.



# 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  
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**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**

