



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 16 January, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

World Book Day: A Magical Success

What a fantastic day we had yesterday celebrating World Book Day 2026. A huge thank you to all families for the effort that went into the children's



costumes across all year groups, the detail, thoughtfulness and care that went into the children's costumes really did blow us away.

We have never had as many children dressed up!

The day was full of memorable moments. From the popular Secret Masked Reader to the

ever-popular teacher swap, there was a real sense of excitement throughout the school. [Why not have a go at the Masked Reader?](#)

One of the highlights came during our assembly when our Year 1 and Year 2 teachers performed *Room on the Broom* for the whole school. Dressed as each character, their performance brought the story to life, and our pupils just loved it.

Throughout the day we shared an important message with the children: **put the screen down and pick up a book**. We talked about how too much screen time can have a negative impact on the brain, while reading stories strengthens it. [Please see many more photographs on our Twitter feed.](#)

Book Before Bedtime Challenge

On World Book Day, we also introduced our **“Book Before Bedtime”** challenge. We want every child to spend at least 15 minutes each evening reading with a loved one before going to sleep. No digital devices, just a world of imagination and the power of a story. As one thoughtful Year 3 pupil said during assembly, *“I love reading before bed. It grows my vocabulary, it builds my imagination and I have amazing dreams.”*

Finally, a huge thank you to all of our staff for the energy, creativity and hard work that went into making the day such a success. Special mention to Mrs Gilbertson, who worked night and day behind the scenes to make World Book Day ‘26 the best yet.



Covid Memorial Opening in Derby Park



Today, our school had the honour of attending the grand opening of the COVID Memorial Garden in Derby Park. Local hero Tricia Sumner was joined by local Cllr. Dave Robinson, who cut the ribbon to officially open this special and reflective space. Tricia campaigned for this space with real passion, and has delivered a place people can go to, to remember loved ones lost during the pandemic.

It was a privilege for our pupils to be part of such a special occasion. During the ceremony, our children helped plant daffodils in the garden as a mark of remembrance and respect.

The garden will stand as a lasting tribute within our community: a peaceful place for reflection, remembrance and hope.



Y6 Bullybusters Visit : Dangers of AI



Today, our Year 6 pupils took part in an important workshop led by BullyBusters, focusing on the growing role of artificial intelligence and how to stay safe in an increasingly digital world.

During the session, the children learnt how to identify AI-generated images and discussed how the misuse of AI can have serious consequences, including situations that could become a police matter. The workshop encouraged pupils to think carefully about how technology can be used responsibly and the importance of making safe choices online - all in an age appropriate way.

Scooters and Bikes

Scooters and bikes must not be used. We will start issuing scooter bans to pupils who do not listen from next week.

Headteacher's Hot Chocolate

Friday 6th March - Headteacher's Hot Chocolate Winners			
Nursery	Rosa - you are becoming more confident each day and having a lovely positive attitude. You are a superstar!	3R	Anna R - for having a positive attitude to work and being a great role model!
RA	Jaxson Ponder - for being such a kind and caring friend to everyone at St Monica's and always having a lovely positive attitude!	3G	Jay S -For being an outstanding member of 3G. Jay is always helpful and has shown fantastic enthusiasm for our History topic. He especially enjoys spending his mornings building his very own Colosseum. Keep up the amazing enthusiasm, Jay!
RH	Reuben Russell - Reuben has been following our class routines and working hard to choose it, use it, put it away!	4W	Alfie Heaton - for demonstrating his faith through his wonderful acrostic poem in R.E. His words and illustrations show his understanding of how to give and receive Mercy. Well done Alfie!.
1H	Ella Coughlin - for always being a kind friend, supporting her peers and working to the best of her ability, She is a great help.	4T	Luna Farley - for sharing the importance of forgiveness and showing mercy through her powerful acrostic poem. She has shown how we can follow God's teachings and forgive others. Well done Luna!
1T	Oliver for always trying his best and for working hard to include finger spaces, capital letters and full stops in his writing.	5G B	Poppy Clunan - For showing real improvement in her maturity, being a helpful member of the class and trying her best in all her work. Well done Poppy!
2M	Lara Pinkwart - For showing excellent listening skills in class. She is a super St Monica's pupil!	5M	Frankie Molloy - For working hard this week in his lessons, showing a good attitude and displaying independence in his tasks. Well done Frankie! Keep up the good work!
2C	Myles McLoughlin-for being an absolute superstar with his writing. He is showing a positive attitude to his learning and for being a helpful member of our class. Well done!	6M	Darcie Mae Lally for showing huge improvements in her reading scores. She has shown such determination and we are so proud of her.
Miss Tohill - PE winner	Shay Small for making great progress in gymnastics. Shay was able to transfer all his shapes onto the apparatus and used body tension to make sure he looked like a gymnast.	6L	Patsy Nicholls Doyle. For being a fantastic member of 6L She shows care and compassion and is a wonderful reading ambassador.
Mr Gouldbourne	Lilly 3R - You are a superstar who will go far, it has been a joy to see you growing in confidence as a learner and a person. Keep believing in yourself!		

Attendance

We have had a superb week for attendance, with a whole school attendance at an astonishing 97.19%. This was our best week yet and a real testament to the partnership between home and school.

- Gold Trophy Winners: Miss Thomas 99.31%
- Silver: Miss Tew - 99.26%
- Bronze: Mrs Chorzepa/ Miss Horder: 99%

Best Regards,

Mr. James Gouldbourne

Headteacher, St Monica's Catholic Primary School