







St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful first week back. Summer Term is here and this is always a lovely term to enjoy as the sunshine starts to shine through (slowly).



Opening of St Monica's Prayer Garden

We held a ceremony for the opening of our Prayer Garden today. The ceremony celebrated Megan Hilton, a former pupil who tragically passed away aged 17. Megan's motto in life was "Always think of others", and we wanted to celebrate this by opening the Prayer Garden with Megan's family.

During the ceremony, Mrs Howarth delivered a wonderful, heartfelt reading, reminding us of Megan's caring nature and the way she always thought of others in our school. Father Ged then blessed a special bench in the garden to commemorate Megan, marking the space as a sacred place in our school.

If pupils are experiencing difficult moments, they can go with a member of staff, listen to the birds sing and find peace and calm. As the year progresses, this space will grow to become a place for whole classes to gather for prayer, lessons and worship.

We are grateful to the Hilton family for allowing us to be part of their journey in celebrating Megan’s legacy. They truly are amazing people and have started fundraising to continue improving the garden and make it a place to be proud of. They have already raised £500! As a school, we pride ourselves on being a strong, family-centred community, and today was a great example of how we find strength and hope together.



“Always Thinking of Others” Day

We wanted to celebrate Megan’s motto with our pupils throughout the day, so Miss McGuckin organised “Always Think of Others Day”.

Each class took part in discussions and workshops about how they can show love and kindness to others, both in school and at home.



There were some lovely moments: cards were made for staff across the school, with thoughtful messages of thanks for our kitchen staff, cleaners, office team and, of course, our site manager, Mr Cooney. Reception created a beautiful Kindness Rainbow to celebrate how they have shown kindness to one another this week. Year 4 wrote messages to local care homes in Bootle to spread smiles and joy.

Didn't they look amazing in the multi-coloured clothes they wore? It was like a pupil rainbow throughout the day. Your contributions for Alder Hey reached a fantastic £403.

Why not build on this at home this weekend? Have a kindness weekend and promote love, compassion and hope. Every time we look at the news, it is so overwhelmingly negative, and it was lovely to share real joy with the pupils of St Monica's today. They were full of joy and hope and colour.

Year 5 Girls Shine at Glow Golf Event

Our Year 5 girls took part in a Glow Golf event this week, organised by the South Sefton Schools Sports Partnership. Played in low lighting with neon clothing, the event was designed to build confidence and self-belief.

Our pupils showed great determination and played some impressive shots. Their hard work paid off as they narrowly beat St Elizabeth's by two points to win the event and bring home another trophy.

As part of their prize, the team will now attend The Open in July, where they will take part in children's activities before watching the professionals. An incredible opportunity for our pupils, and perhaps an even bigger treat for Rory McIlroy to meet St Monica's pupils, if you ask me.



A Plea to Parents: Park Safely Around School

Can I please ask all families to park considerately and avoid stopping in dangerous locations around school.

We have received concerns from neighbours who have been blocked in by cars parked on pavements and, in some cases, double parked on pavements. One family in particular has children with additional needs who may require emergency care and have been unable to leave their home on several occasions due to blocked access.

This is also an issue on Timon Avenue. If emergency services needed to access the school or nearby homes, obstructed roads could cause serious delays with potentially severe consequences.

I do appreciate that parking can be challenging at busy times. However, there is usually space available near the church on Fernhill Road, and I would strongly encourage families to use this and walk the short distance to school.

I would ask everyone to reflect on this: if your child needed urgent medical attention, and access was blocked by cars parked, how would you feel?

Attendance

Our overall attendance this week was 95.82%. A special congratulations to Miss Horder's class, who had the best attendance in the school with 99%.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a great weekend one and all.

Warm regards,

Mr. James Gouldbourne

Headteacher

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