



St. Monica's Newsletter



Welcome to this week's newsletter. We hope you are all keeping well as we head into one of the busiest—and most joyful—times of the school year. The Summer Term is always special, as we watch the children grow in confidence, curiosity and independence. Our outdoor learning experiences are in full swing, with children exploring nature, problem-solving, and learning beyond the classroom.

As the Summer term progresses, we also begin to see children preparing for the next step in their educational journey, whether that's moving up a year group, starting school for the first time or moving up to high school. It's a time filled with excitement, new challenges and proud moments.

Teddy Bears' Picnic – Saturday 21st June

We're looking forward to welcoming our new Nursery and Reception children and families at our Teddy Bears' Picnic on Saturday 21st June. This is a lovely opportunity for families to meet each other, for children to become familiar with the school setting and staff, and of course, to enjoy some teddy bear-themed fun. Please remember to bring a picnic, a blanket and your favourite cuddly toy. We still have two Nursery spaces available, please contact school office if you are interested.

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Thursday 19th May

We are pleased to share that Father Ged will be joining us in school on Thursday 19th May to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to our Year 4 pupils who are preparing for their First Holy Communion in June. This is a special moment for the children as they continue their journey of faith and is a key moment in the preparations for the First Holy Communion.

New School Website – We Would Love Your Input

We are currently in the process of creating a new, modernised school website to better serve our families and community. To ensure it is as helpful and user-friendly as possible, we would love to hear from you. Whether it's easier access to term dates, class news, photo galleries, lunch menus or learning resources. Your feedback is really important to us as we make a website to be proud of. If you have a spare 5 minutes, [please follow this link.](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

Summer Term Dates

May 12th-15th
Y6 SATS

May 12th -15th
Y2 SATS

19th May: Y4
Sacrament of Reconciliation

19th May:
Nursery and Reception
Scooter Week

23rd May - Y5
Viking Workshop

23rd May -Final Day of Term

Monday 2nd June - Return to School

Thursday 5th June - Y4 First Holy Communion

2025/26 [Term Dates](#) (click)





This week, we have been busy exploring early coding and technology using Bee-Bots —our friendly, programmable robots! We learned how to give simple instructions to make the Bee-Bot move forward, backwards, and turn. This hands-on activity helped develop our problem-solving skills, spatial awareness, and understanding of sequencing—all while having lots of fun.



“I press the buttons and it moved!”

Nursery

“I pressed this turn button four times and it turned in a full circle. I loved it!”



This week in Reception, we’ve been learning all about Spring and the many changes this season brings. The children went on a seasonal walk around the school grounds, looking carefully for signs of Spring. We spotted blooming flowers, new leaves on the trees, birds busy nesting, and even a few early bugs enjoying the sunshine! After our walk, the children drew wonderful observational pictures of what they had seen, helping them to connect with nature and practise their drawing and noticing skills.



Just when we thought the week couldn’t get any more exciting, we had a magical surprise! After checking the school’s CCTV, we were amazed to see that Jack’s beanstalk had appeared in our playground! Even more thrilling, Jack had left us some magic beans to plant ourselves. The children are now carefully looking after their pots, eagerly waiting to see what might grow. Could we be growing our very own beanstalks?



This imaginative experience has sparked rich discussions, storytelling, and lots of curiosity—bringing our Spring learning to life in a truly magical way.



Year 1 Investigate Measurement Through Hands-On Learning

This week in Maths, Year 1 have been busy exploring the language and concepts of height, length, weight, mass, and capacity. Through a range of engaging, practical activities, the children have developed their understanding of how we compare and measure everyday objects.

We used a variety of hands-on resources such as cubes, rulers, scales, and measuring jugs to help us describe and compare different items. The children thoroughly enjoyed working together to investigate which objects were longer or shorter, heavier or lighter, and which containers held more or less. Taking advantage of the beautiful sunny weather, we extended our learning outdoors—measuring sticks, bottles, and even our shadows!

This real-world, practical approach allowed the children to apply mathematical vocabulary with confidence, while developing important problem-solving and reasoning skills. It was wonderful to see so much curiosity and collaboration as the children measured, poured, compared, and discussed their findings.



Year 2

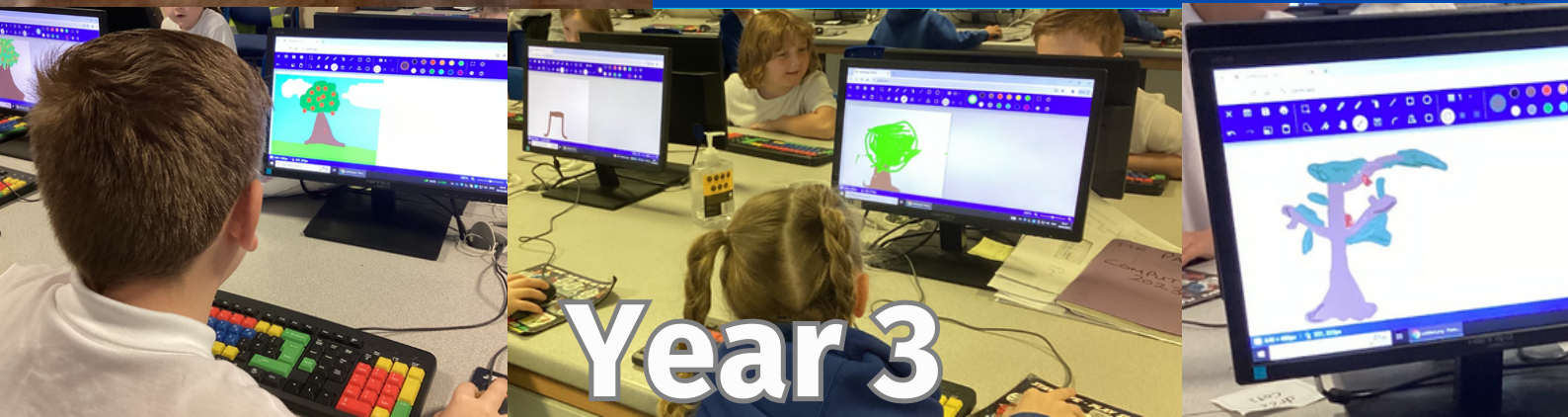
Year 2 Step into Polish Culture with the Krakowiak Dance!

This week in PE, Year 2 had a fantastic time learning a traditional Polish dance called the Krakowiak. The Krakowiak is a lively, fast-paced folk dance often performed in pairs, with the male dancer traditionally leading the steps. The children worked in partners to practise the rhythmic movements, stepping, spinning, and clapping in time with the vibrant music. Listening carefully to the beat was key, as the children had to know exactly when to change their moves. They showed brilliant concentration, teamwork, and coordination throughout the sessions.

“It was fun dancing with my partner—we had to keep in time!”

“The music was really fast, but we didn’t give up!”

Mr Gouldbourne was extremely impressed with their enthusiasm and wonderful dancing skills. It was a joyful way to combine physical activity with cultural learning—and a great chance to celebrate dance from around the world!



Year 3

In computing, Year 3 have been exploring digital and non-digital devices. This week we explored the craft of painting using a digital device. We pondered at the question “*Could Leonardo Da Vinci paint the Mona Lisa as beautifully on a computer?*” We attempted to paint ourselves and realised it was more challenging than it seemed!

Today in assembly, we celebrated the life and example of Pope Francis, as well as the Feast Day of St Joseph the Worker.

Faith in Action

We reflected on Pope Francis’s message of compassion, humility and care for others, learning about his journey from Buenos Aires to becoming our Pope. His words reminded us to live with mercy, serve the poor, and protect God’s creation.

We also marked the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, honouring St Joseph as a faithful servant, a loving father and a humble worker. We learned how this special day is celebrated in different parts of the world, and how St Joseph reminds us of the value and dignity of honest work. **“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” Colossians 3:23**

This scripture guided our reflections, helping us understand that no matter what task we are doing, at school, at home, or in the wider community, we can do it with love and purpose, just like St Joseph. The key message was that all work, all jobs are meaningful and should be celebrated.



Year 4 Prepare for Their First Holy Communion with Faith and Joy

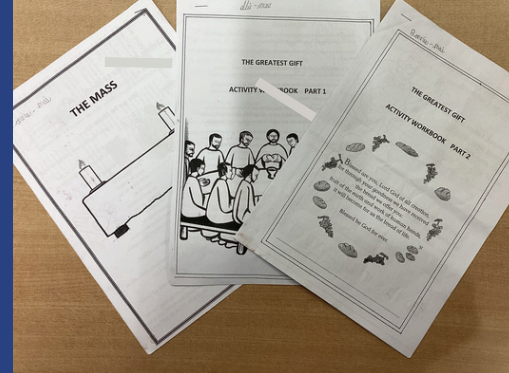
Our Year 4 pupils are joyfully embracing their preparations for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion—a significant and sacred milestone in their faith journey. With a spirit of reverence and enthusiasm, the children are deepening their understanding of this holy sacrament and what it means to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

Throughout their preparation, the children have been learning key prayers, exploring the symbolism of the Mass, and reflecting thoughtfully on the importance of forgiveness, grace, and belonging to the Body of Christ. They are actively participating in sessions led by their catechists, and engaging in meaningful spiritual discussions and reflections within the classroom.

Supported by their teachers, families, and the wider parish community, the children are growing in both confidence and faith as they prepare their hearts to receive Jesus for the first time. We are incredibly proud of the reverence and maturity they are showing during this special season of preparation.



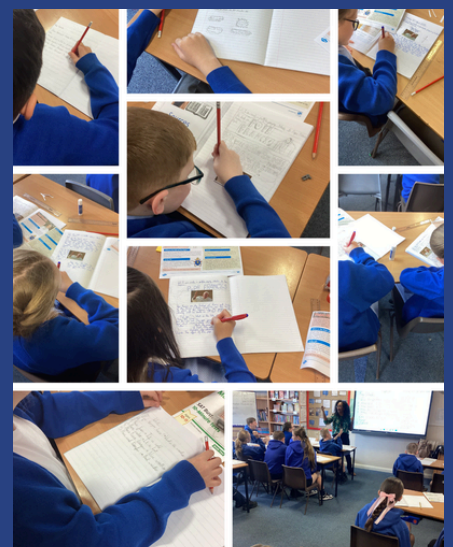
Year 4



Year 5

Our Year 5 pupils recently returned from an action-packed residential at CHET, filled with unforgettable experiences and lasting memories. Throughout the trip, the children embraced a wide variety of exciting activities, including fencing, archery, orienteering, rafting, maze games, climbing, and shelter building. It was a week full of adventure, teamwork, and personal growth. Every child showed incredible resilience—tackling new challenges with determination and overcoming fears along the way. From conquering climbing walls to navigating the maze together, they supported one another and demonstrated outstanding perseverance and courage. We are so proud of all the children for the positive attitudes they displayed and the memories they made. It was truly a special week that will be remembered for years to come!

Year 6 have been working so hard preparing for their upcoming SATs, we are extremely proud of the dedication and resilience that they have shown. They have made such an excellent start to their Summer term. To celebrate the life of Pope Francis they have created their own fact files which celebrate his life and all that he did for the Catholic Church. Year 6 have also been working hard to improve their Spanish skills looking at how to describe the weather. We are hoping that we can all say what a beautiful and sunny bank holiday weekend we are about to have...fingers crossed!



Year 6