

ST MONICA'S NEWSLETTER



Ash Wednesday

Father Ged led a beautiful service for Ash Wednesday this week. The children sat perfectly, listening attentively to Father Ged's child friendly explanation of Ash Wednesday and the significance of Lent. We especially appreciated how he reflected on the power of prayer in helping us pause, reflect, and grow—encouraging us to use Lent as a time to become the best versions of ourselves.

World Book Day

What a fantastic day we had for World Book Day! The children looked amazing, and we can all agree it was a joy to see so many creative costumes—thank you for your efforts!

This year's World Book Day motto, "Read Your Way," encourages pupils to discover texts and reading spaces that work best for them. Whether it's comics, football magazines, novels or poetry—whatever sparks a love of reading: embrace it.

My personal challenge for every child is to enjoy a "Book Before Bedtime", make reading a nightly habit. The day was truly one to remember, and the magic of reading was celebrated throughout the school.

Wellbeing Garden

Over the coming months, we have exciting plans to rebuild and uplevel our Wellbeing Garden as part of our Social Signature project. Our goal is to create a peaceful outdoor space that can be used as both an outdoor classroom and a prayer area.

Our School Council will take the lead in designing the space and they will keep you updated on its progress. This wonderful project is being funded by proceeds from last year's Summer Fayre, meaning it is a space that everyone in our school community has helped to create.

Spring Term Dates

Y6 Parents
Evening -
Next Week

**Tuesday
11th March**
Careers Day
rearranged

**Easter
Holidays**
Break up
Friday 4th
April,
Return
Tuesday
22nd April

2025/26
Term Dates
(click)



Faith Aspiration Respect Resilience

Nursery

What a great World Book Day we had in Nursery.

All the children and staff came dressed up as their favourite book characters. Throughout the day lots of different teachers shared stories with us - we even had a visit from a viking to read to us!

We talked about our favourite books and designed covers for them.



Reception

In Reception, we kicked off the week with Pancake Tuesday. Our pupils followed a recipe, carefully measured their ingredients and then made their own pancakes. They were delicious - why not make some at home for breakfast? On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day with lots of fun activities. We shared our favourite stories, and our outdoor area was transformed into the brilliant setting of 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' - it was so exciting for our pupils!



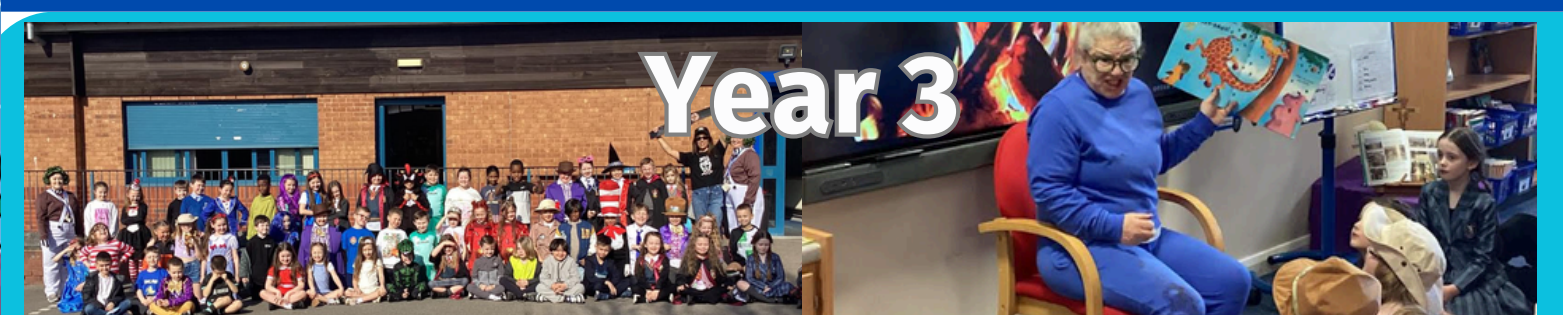
Year 1

In Year 1, we had an incredible time celebrating World Book Day! One of the highlights of our day was working with our amazing Year 6 leaders to create our very own stories. The older pupils helped us bring our ideas to life, guiding us through planning, writing, and even illustrating our stories. It was wonderful to see the teamwork and creativity on display

Of course, no World Book Day would be complete without some fantastic costumes. Our classrooms were filled with an array of storybook characters, from magical wizards and brave superheroes to adventurous explorers and talking animals. Everyone looked fantastic, and it was so much fun guessing who each character was!

We also took advantage of the beautiful weather and enjoyed some outdoor reading. Sitting in the sunshine with a good book made the stories feel even more magical.

What a wonderful week Y2 have had! World book day was a great way to celebrate our love of reading and we had such great fun throughout the day. The day began with a whole school assembly led by Mr Gouldbourne dressed as Stoic the Vast - we even had a visit from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs! In the afternoon, Mr Parle read us an adventure story set under the sea and we made our very own bookmark which we intend to use in our reading book. We shared our favourite stories and even had a 'guess the title' book quiz. The day finished with a relaxing story read in the sunshine. It was a wonderful day which we will remember forever!



Year 2 had an amazing time celebrating World Book Day! We spent the day immersed in exciting book-related activities, including making our own bookmarks and designing front covers for imaginary stories. One of the most exciting parts of the day was our book swap—every child went home with a brand-new book to enjoy, helping to grow our love for reading even more!

We were also lucky enough to have Miss Patsy read us a special story. Her storytelling really made us think about the importance of kindness and how we treat our friends. Stories have such a powerful way of teaching us important life lessons, and we loved every moment of it.

Later in the day, we read a heartwarming book about a boy called Kenny, which encouraged us to think about welcoming others and celebrating different types of families. We had a wonderful discussion about how every family is special in its own way.

The First Week of Lent at St Monica's

This week, we marked the start of Lent, a time of reflection, prayer, and preparation for Easter. Our Ash Wednesday service with Father Ged reminded us that Lent is a journey to grow closer to God. Pupils and staff received ashes as a sign of commitment to kindness, self-improvement, and faith.

Children have been discussing their Lenten promises—small sacrifices or acts of kindness. From giving up sweets to helping at home, pupils have embraced the true meaning of Lent.

A key message from Psalm 51:10 guided our reflections:

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

In RE lessons, pupils learned about Jesus' time in the desert and how He resisted temptation. Inspired by His strength, we encourage everyone to stay steadfast in their promises.

As we continue through Lent, let's support each other in our journey of faith.



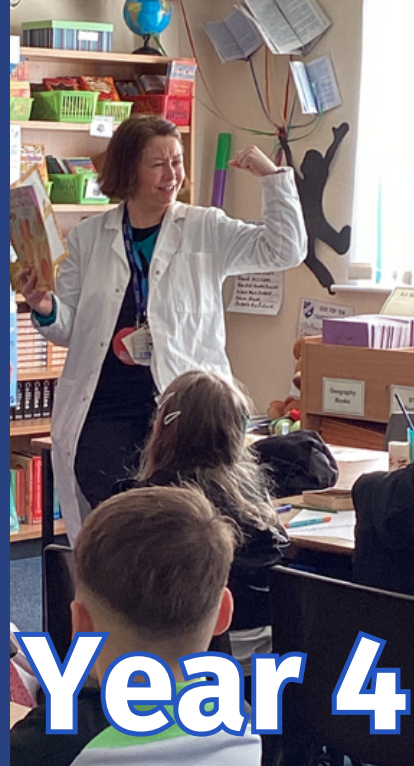
Year 4 Pupils Preparing for the Multiplication Tables Check

Our Year 4 pupils are working hard to prepare for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), a national assessment in June that tests their recall of times tables up to 12x12.

To build confidence, pupils take part in daily practice, using quick-fire quizzes, games, and online tools like Times Table Rock Stars. Friendly competitions and rewards make learning fun and keep motivation high. Progress is everything, one pupil has gone from 7/25 to 22/25 this week!

Teachers are also showing how multiplication is useful in real life, from shopping calculations to measuring and problem-solving. This helps pupils see the value of mastering their times tables beyond the classroom.

With dedication and practice, our Year 4 pupils are making fantastic progress. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing them succeed in the Multiplication Tables Check this summer! Keep up the great work, Year 4!



Year 5 have been busy this week in their learning across their curriculum subjects. In our topic of Dance in PE, we added dynamics to our routine to change the appearance of our performances. On Ash Wednesday, we received our ashes to symbolise the beginning of Lent and carefully reflected on our Lenten promises. Thursday was the highlight of the week with World Book Day where we had the opportunity to dress up as our favourite book characters, had Mrs Price tell us a story, design our own front covers for our favourite books and did research on popular authors: Michael Morpurgo and Tony Bradman.



Year 5



Year 6 had a wonderful day on Wednesday at Western Approaches in Liverpool. The museum, which houses a World War 2 bunker, was an immersive and informative experience for the children. We learnt all about the war, the key events that occurred during it, how Britain sent important communications and how we were able to break the code that the Germans were using. We even learnt about some of the important monuments and buildings in and around Liverpool that are connected to WWII.

Our tour guide was so impressed with us and even commented on our knowledge about WW2. One child even said that the trip was, "The best day of their life". A great day out for all

