



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 16th October, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at St Monica's, with plenty of opportunities for our children to learn, take part and try something new. Year 5 brought Ancient Greece to life through their workshop, Year 6 made Mexican street food, and our Nursery children treated me to the most delicious stew I have ever tasted!



Open Days for Nursery and Reception 2027

A reminder that our Reception and Nursery Open Days for 2027 entry will take place on Wednesday 11th November and Wednesday 25th November. We look forward to welcoming prospective families to meet our staff, explore our school and see what makes St Monica's special.

Parents Evening Dates

Parents' Evening for Years 1–6 takes place on Wednesday and Thursday. We look forward to sharing your children's progress, celebrating their achievements and discussing how we can work together to support their next steps.

The children have been working hard on their independent writing ahead of your visits. If you still need an appointment, please contact Jack in the school office, who will be happy to help.

- Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October: Nursery and Reception

- Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd: Year 1 to Year 6

Glasses for Tanzania

Together, we have raised over £400 to help fund two pairs of life changing glasses for 2 children at our partner school in Tanzania. Being able to see clearly will help these children learn how to read and write and thrive in all aspects of their lives.

I love that our pupils will actually get a video from the children in Tanzania when the charity visits these brilliant children. This is the difference we can make when St Monica' comes together. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity.

KS1 Stay and Pray

After half term, our KS1 classes will open their doors to parents and carers for **Stay and Pray**, starting at **2:30pm**. The children will share a song and showcase work linked to their RE topic, followed by time to look through their books with you. We will finish with a prayer together, a lovely opportunity to share in your child's learning and the faith life of our school.

- **1H:** Wednesday 11th November
- **1T:** Thursday 12th November
- **2M:** Wednesday 18th November
- **2C:** Thursday 19th November

EYFS and KS2 dates will follow. We look forward to welcoming you in!

Weekly Attendance Heroes

Thank you to all of our families who continue to support excellent attendance and punctuality. Department for Education research shows a clear link between regular attendance and stronger attainment: every



day in school supports children ' s learning, friendships and wellbeing.

Our trophy winners this week are: Miss Tew for the Infants; Mrs Ware for the Juniors! Well done!

Nursery	88.81%	3P	94%
RA	97.33%	4T	96.33%
RW	95.33%	4G	95.52%
1H	98.67%	5W	96.55%
1T	99.33%	5M	96.33%
2C	91.79%	6L	94%
2M	87.50%	6M	91.38%
3R	96.33%	Overall	94.75%

96.01% Overall for St Monica's for this year

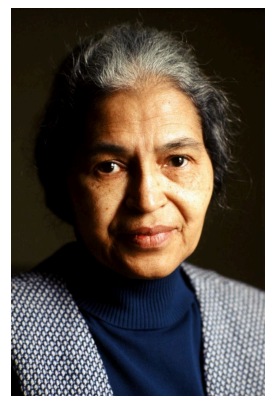
Friday 16th October: Headteacher's Hot Chocolate Winners

Class / Teacher	Winner	Reason
Nursery	Paddy Taafe	For being such a kind and caring friend. Paddy's lovely nature and wonderful behaviour make him a delight to have in our class!
RA	Zimife Joe	For always showing kindness and care towards her classmates. Zimife is a joy to be around and reflects our St Monica's values. We are proud of you!
RW	Patrick Harrison	For his fantastic retelling of The Gingerbread Man, using our new vocabulary, 'mischievous' and 'sneaky'. It is lovely to see how much Patrick enjoys stories. Well done!
1H	Jacob Mills	For making a real effort with his work and showing an improved attitude towards learning. Keep building on this positive progress, Jacob!
1T	Kallie Lewis	For consistently making good choices and showing a fantastic attitude towards learning. Kallie has worked hard to blend sounds and read words, showing real determination. Well done!
2M	Grace Dwyer	For making a huge effort with her writing this week, producing lovely sentences and presenting them neatly. Her hard work at school and at home is paying off. Well done, Grace!

Class / Teacher	Winner	Reason
2C	Tommy McHugh	For showing wonderful perseverance and determination to improve his writing. Tommy puts our St Monica's values into action through his continued effort. Keep it up!
3R	Tilly Williams	For making a superb effort to improve her handwriting. What a difference your hard work has made, Tilly! Keep aiming for that pen licence!
3P	Ava Davison	For persevering with her spelling and working hard to apply it in her writing. Your improvement has been fantastic, Ava. Keep it up!
4G	Betsy Potter	For her fantastic adventure narrative inspired by Gorilla. Betsy's wonderful imagination shines through in her writing. Keep up the excellent work!
4T	Gabriella Garrity	For working hard to improve her listening skills and showing such a positive attitude towards school. Keep up the great effort, Gabriella!
5W	Jared Onjewu	For thinking carefully and explaining his reasoning in clear, well-structured sentences. Jared approaches his learning with a thoughtful, positive attitude. Well done!
5M	Leila Hoang	For her fantastic effort in maths, particularly addition and subtraction, and in her diary writing inspired by Queen of the Falls. Leila presents her work beautifully and has every reason to feel proud!
6M	Betsy Boylan	For a vivid setting description, using figurative language to bring the island to life and make the reader feel as though they were there with Michael. Wonderful writing, Betsy!
6L	Jack Quayle	For making a great start to Year 6, particularly in his writing, and earning his pen licence this week. Well done, Jack!
Mrs Evans	Noah Murphy	Noah Murphy for always having such beautiful manners! He is polite, kind and respectful, remembering to use his lovely manners throughout the day. Well done, Noah!
Mr Gouldbourne	Lewis Garcia	For the superb progress he has made across all lessons. Luis has shown real maturity in his approach to learning, and I cannot wait to see what he achieves next. Keep it up, Luis!

Assembly Reflection: Small Acts, Lasting Change

As part of Black History Month, we reflected on the story of Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Alabama in 1955. At a time when unfair rules treated Black people differently because of their skin colour, Rosa took a courageous stand. Her arrest helped spark a bus boycott, bringing people together to demand change. Her story reminds us that courage, determination and people working together can make a lasting difference.



“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.” Isaiah 1:17

These words remind us that our faith calls us to act when others are treated unfairly. In St Monica’s, this begins with everyday choices: welcoming someone into a game, challenging an unkind comment or speaking up when something is wrong. These moments help us live out our belief that every person is made in God’s image and deserves dignity and respect.



As parents, carers and staff, we help children understand that differences should be valued. By listening, answering their questions and being models of kindness and fairness, we can help our children grow into people who stand up for others and make everyone feel they belong.

We finish next Friday at 3:15 for half term, returning on Monday 2nd November. Have a great weekend one and all,

Mr. James Gouldbourne

Headteacher

St Monica’s Catholic Primary School