



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 15th November

Dear Families,

Our staff took a trip to Zoe's Place to deliver our final donations today. An amazing £2,387.

The brilliant people at Zoe's Place were very appreciative of all the support, and said, "A huge thank you to a school with a big heart, St Monica's." Alongside our Social Signature project, we can say our children really are making a difference to the wider world. Would you believe, Jude in Reception raised £672 in his own time by keeping our local environment tidy. It is great seeing our children showing they can make the world a better place, day by day.



Anti Bullying Week

Our children have really thought about the impact bullying can have on others this week. The key focus for Anti Bullying Week was 'Respect' - pupils wore odd socks and have completed lessons and assemblies about different types of bullying. Oliver, our Y4 School Councillor, said, "We all have a role to stop people being mean, we can tell a trusted adult if

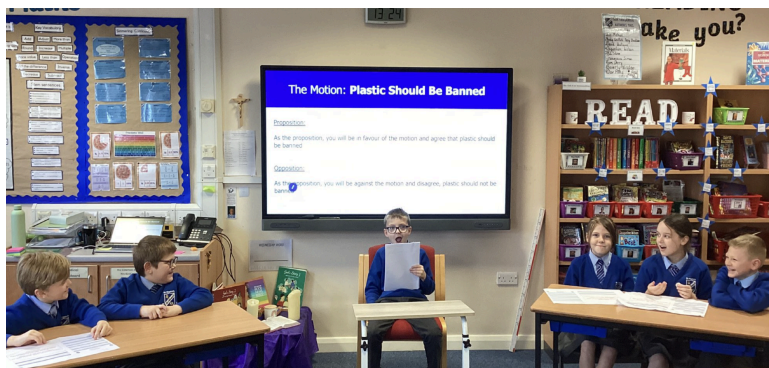
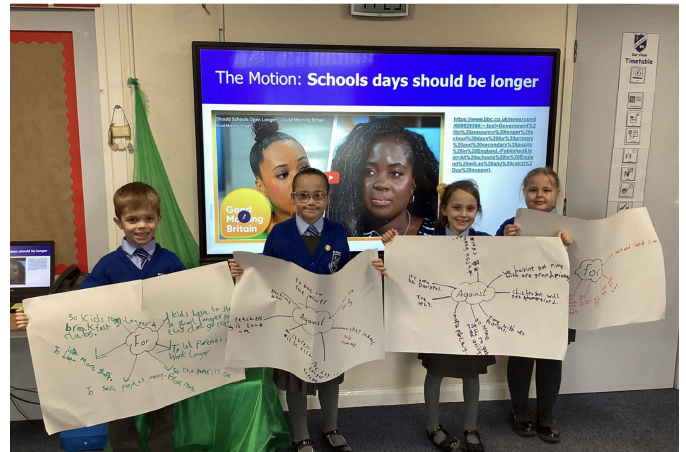


we see anything happening. We should respect others and ourselves. St Monica's is a safe and happy school, and we want to keep it that way!"

Debate Day

We have been teaching our pupils the skills behind public speaking this week, leading up to 'Debate Day' today. All classes had a different motion and classrooms were set up to host a real debate, with the proposition and the opposition.

Pupils showed real character and confidence to articulate their opinions - many for the first time. Why not ask your child what their debate focus was - can they persuade you? We have developed our curriculum to expect the highest levels of oracy from our children, developing vocabulary and confidence from Nursery to Y6.



Many key parts of our lives are defined by how well we communicate: our job interviews, our presentations, how we interact with one another. In many ways, how we talk is just as important as how well we can write.

Take every opportunity with your child to ceaselessly improve communication skills, for instance: encourage longer sentences, be patient if your child is searching for a word, ask for opinions about books and films they have read and watched, ask them to articulate and back up why they have formed an opinion, expect the correct vocabulary for items. Every conversation can be a training ground!

As Dale Carnegie, "Great speakers are not born, they're trained."

EYFS - Diwali Celebrations

Nursery finished their Diwali celebrations with a lovely party this afternoon: the children were full of knowledge and presented their knowledge to me: I was astonished by both their oracy skills and the key facts they had retained about this beautiful festival.

The children enjoyed traditional Indian food and music in the party: Mr Cooney also did a little dance which was a nice addition.

Attendance for the Week

Class	Percentage	Class	Percentage
Nursery	92.33	Class 3R	99.33
Class RA	96.00	Class 4W	96.13
Class RH	94.48	Class 4T	99.31
Class 1S	95.33	Class 5M	98.00
Class 1H	95.86	Class 5GB	89.33
Class 2M	97.42	Class 5M	94.19
Class 2C	86.67	Class 6L	97.38
Class 3Q	95.17	Overall	95.23

Well done to Mrs Reardon's class for winning the attendance trophy this week - keep it up 3R, with 4T not far behind! A better week than last week - we are back on the up. Let's see if we can get back towards 96% next week.

Key Dates for Christmas Performances

The special time of Christmas is coming up, which means our much anticipated Nativity and Y6 Carol Concert are on the horizon. Y2 are currently agonising on who will be Mary! I wanted to give you the key dates in good time:

- Nativity - Y1 Parents - Thursday 12th December, 10am
- Nativity - Y2 Parents - Thursday 12th December, 2pm
- Y6 Carol Concert, Tuesday 17th December- 6pm

Ticketing information will be sent in as soon as we can. I can actually hear our Year 1 children rehearsing the singing as I type. When you hear “Little Donkey” in a school, it really does start to feel festive.

Have a lovely weekend one and all.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. J. Gouldbourne

Headteacher