

# ST MONICA'S NEWSLETTER



## Online Safety - Merseyside Police Visit

Sergeant Gavin from Merseyside Police visited today to talk about Digital Safety. He spoke to the school about the dangers of digital devices and the dangers of too much screen time. He then had a more detailed conversation with just our Year 6 children about staying safe online, the dangers of group chats and how dangerous sharing information such as photographs with others online can be. "A digital footprint lasts a lifetime", he said. He made it clear he has to knock on doors multiple times per week due to cyber bullying in schools.

We are determined to teach our pupils how to stay safe online: thank you for the responses to our parent voice about online safety.

- My personal advice is to keep children off social media until Year 7 or 8 at the very least. Over many years in education, I have never seen a child's life or wellbeing improved by being on Snapchat or Instagram too young, children start to believe in the myth of a distorted reality and want to match it.
- **Group chats on social media are impossible to keep a track of for parents, especially with edited messages and deleted messages - if your child is on social media restrict this to smaller groups with other children you trust and know the parents of. The much larger groups are dangerous and will ping all night long, reducing concentration and increasing digital addiction. The larger groups may also have strangers in who your child does not know.**
- For screen time, agreed time limits for weeknights and weekends work well - my children have to complete homework and read their book to get a tablet or Switch time - and get "bonus time" if they write me a paragraph without mistakes or read another chapter at a weekend.
- **I have witnessed issues with pupils who have long online sessions on Fortnite and this is another area I see a pattern of problems with. Not so much with Minecraft, I must say.**
- We continually reinforce that people are not always who they say they are online. "Stranger Danger" is my mantra online and offline.

We are finalising all our dates for Autumn 2, including the much anticipated Y2 Nativity and Y6 Carol Concert and I will share these with you next week. Have a fantastic weekend one and all.

**Faith Aspiration Respect Resilience**



Nursery have been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali, the festival of light, this week.

We have been making 'rangoli patterns' using a variety of different media. Rangoli patterns are bright patterns which are placed on the floor to welcome visitors into homes.

[Learn more here.](#)

## Nursery



Reception have had an exciting week exploring Autumn, we have looked for signs of Autumn, and also made amazing pumpkin art inspired by Yayoi Kusama! We have loved creating our own dot patterns.

[Here is nice video about Yayoi.](#)



## Reception

As part of our Science topic, we have loved investigating our environment to identify different flowers and trees. We further explored plants by planting some lovely flowers in our outside area. Have you seen our beautiful flowers?

We also wanted to improve our local area by picking litter around our local environment.



## Year 1

# Year 2



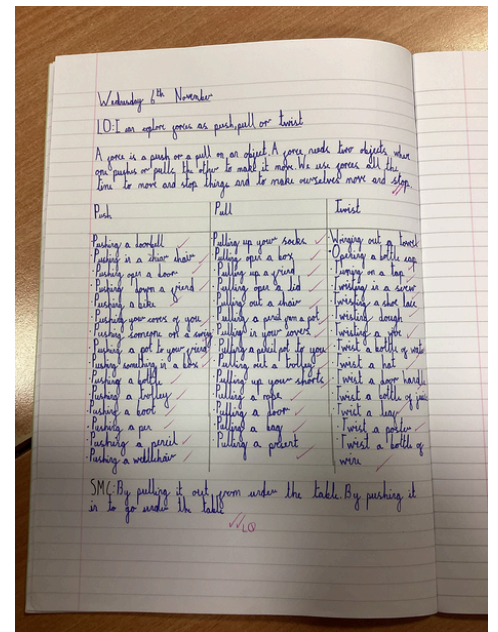
Year Two had an exciting visit from real owls this week. This linked in with our Literacy and Science topics. We learnt many interesting facts about owls, which we are going to use in our own non-chronological report.

Year 3 have started their new Science topic: Forces and Magnets.

For their first lesson, the children explored what a force is and thought about examples of push, pull and twist forces.

We can't wait to carry on our learning next week when we will be exploring friction!

Why not read through this excellent module on the [BBC Bitesize](#) about this unit.



# Year 3



## Attendance Matters

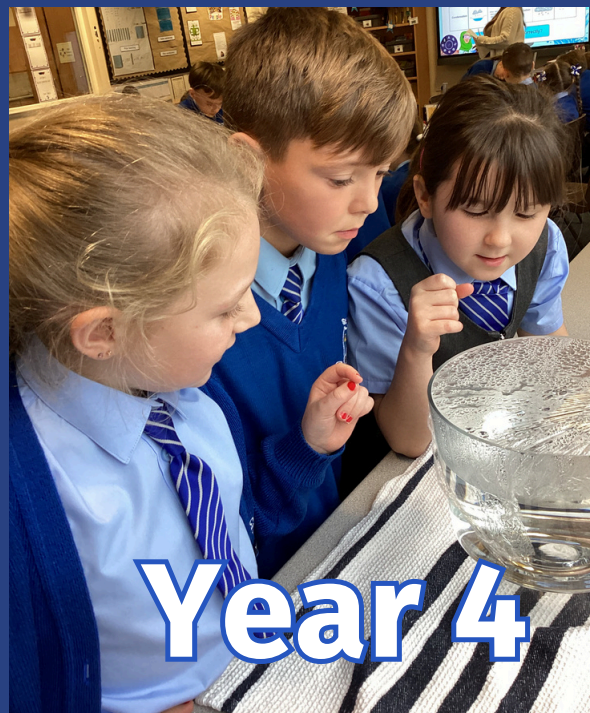


We have had our worst week of the year this week, with a very low 92%. This is a shame, as many new topics have been started and children have missed that crucial first lesson.

As we always say, "You can't teach an empty chair." Let's get back to the standards we are used to in St Monica's next week.

This week year 4 have had fun in science. We have been studying states of matter and in our investigation this week we observed how liquid can change into a gas and then back to a liquid by watching condensation happen in real time. We then made our own comic strips about the water cycle.

[Here is the module on BBC bitesize if you would like to read through with your child](#)



In Science, we started our topic of Materials and their Properties, we have been learning about insulators. We carried out an investigation to find which material was the best insulator. We found that foil was the best, however we realised that some groups didn't obtain the best results because the material was held in their hands for a longer time period.

[Here is the module on BBC Bitesize if would like to read through with your child.](#)



In our computing lessons, Year 6 have been designing their own webpages based on their own chosen interest. We have created logos, given our webpage a header, inserted pictures and researched facts to inform our viewers. Our webpages have varied in content from learning how to look after puppies to advice about how to stay safe online.