



ST MONICA'S RE NEWSLETTER

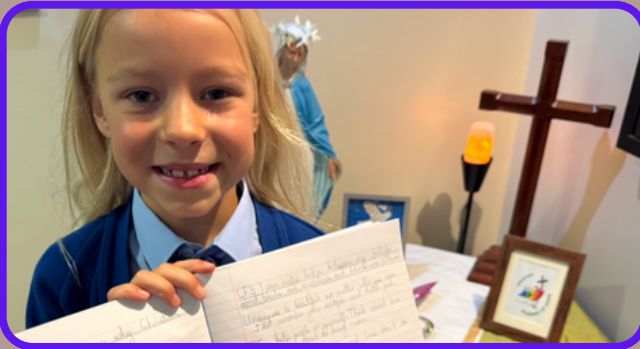
AUTUMN 2025

A warm welcome to our Autumn RE Newsletter. At St Monica's, Religious Education is at the heart of everything we do. By learning about our Faith, we aim to make St Monica's – and the wider world – a better place, one small act at a time.

This year, pupils from Nursery up to Year 4 are following the new Religious Education Directory, To Know You More Clearly, introduced by our Bishop. This curriculum places a deeper focus on Bible stories and scripture, helping children to understand how God's teaching can be lived out in their daily lives. This exciting programme will soon be extended to Years 5 and 6 as part of its phased roll-out across Sefton.

To support your child's faith journey, we have included some suggested home activities. These are designed to strengthen classroom learning while encouraging reflection and discussion as a family. Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership in nurturing your child's spiritual growth.

With every blessing,
Mr Gouldbourne and Miss McGiveron



Key Dates

- **Whole School Mass - Tuesday 7th October 9:30am (pupils only)**
- **Harvest Festival - final week of October**
- **Carol Concert Y6 - Tuesday 16th December - 6pm (Y6 Parents)**
- **Family Mass: Sunday 5th October and Sunday 2nd November**
- **Y4 First Holy Communion - Thursday 21st May (more details to follow)**

Dear pupils, parents and carers,

It is a joy to welcome you all back to St Monica's for the new school year. I hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for the year ahead, filled with learning, friendship and faith.

As we begin this new term together, I would like to invite all our families to join us each Sunday for 9:30am Mass. We also have special family masses on the first Sunday of each month: a special opportunity to come together as one parish family, to give thanks to our Lord and to ask for God's blessing for our pupils, staff and families. I look forward to seeing you there.

With every blessing, Father Ged



Creation and Covenant: EYFS to Y4, September and October



Home Activities

Look at pictures of animals and plants. Talk about what God made. Think about ways to help to look after God's world (eg, picking up litter). Share pictures of your child's Baptism.

'The heavens are telling the glory of God' (Ps 19:1).

In Autumn 1, children will learn about the bible stories about Creation. Children will learn about the sacrament of Baptism and will explore how God can call to us in our lives.



Prophecy and Promise: EYFS to Y4, November and December



Home Activities

Talk about how Mary was going to have a baby and that Jesus was born for everyone. Talk about how we can help others during Advent.

"In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets" (Heb1:1).

In Autumn, pupils will learn about the prophets and how they shared God's message with his people. The prophets spoke of a special promise – that God would send a Messiah, Jesus Christ. Children will explore what it means to wait and prepare for Jesus during the season of Advent, and they will revisit the nativity story and the mystery of Jesus' birth at Christmas.



Come and See - Year 5 and 6 - September to December



Home Activities

Make a collage using family photographs of all the significant family members—grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles - who show God's love to us. Why not share with us?

Domestic Church

- **Year 5: Ourselves - Created in the image and likeness of God, we are all unique and special**
- **Year 6: Loving - God who never stops loving, how we can show unconditional love to one another**



Home Activities

Talk to someone who has been to a wedding or commitment service and ask them to their memories of this sacrament.

Baptism and Confirmation -Belonging

- **Y5 Life Choices - Marriage, Commitment and service**
- **Y6 Vocation & Commitment - Vocation of priesthood and religious life**



Home Activities

Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home. Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent and go to an Advent Mass.

Advent and Christmas Learning

- **Y5 Hope - Waiting in joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one**
- **Y6 Expectations- Jesus was born to show God to the world so we can follow in his footsteps**



Key Dates in Autumn Term

All Saints (1st November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love. The commemoration of all the faithful departed

All Souls (2nd November)

Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King OF THE UNIVERSE (24 November)

ADVENT (30 November)

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8 December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and co-operated with God throughout her life. When December 8 falls on a Sunday, the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday.

Christmas day, The Nativity of the Lord (25 December)

On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (30 December)

Headteacher's Hot Chocolate

Each week, pupils who have had displayed exceptional conduct and attitude in St Monica's are selected by their class teacher. They were celebrated in assembly and then enjoy a hot chocolate and a chat with Mr Gouldbourne to celebrate their conduct.



Nursery	Betsy D for always taking care of belongings, classroom resources and the school environment.
Miss Andrews	Joseph McK for following the school rules and trying his best when taking part in new activities.
Miss Horder	Bohdi P for settling really well into Reception and consistently following our classroom rules.
Miss Tohill - PE winner	Eva O'C for scoring a superb first goal of the season and being a real team player. A superstar of the future.
Miss Hatcher	Jude F for showing resilience and settling into Year 1 really well.
Miss Tew	Areesh R for consistently demonstrating our school values, especially aspiration, by always having a go at the SMC.
Mrs MacDonald	Ralph R for making such a positive start to Y2. Mrs MacDonald is so proud of his writing!
Mrs Chorzepa	Sophia W for consistently demonstrating exemplary behaviour and being a shining example of a Year 2 student.
Mrs Reardon	Max N for coming into school with a smile on his face, ready to work hard and help Mrs Reardon set up for the day.
Miss Gibbons	Ronnie-J O'K for impeccable manners and showing respect to all staff and his peers. He has made lots of teachers and children smile by holding the door open for them.
Mrs Ware	Rhea-Belle Jamieson for excellent work across the curriculum and a bright and positive attitude - and some superb work in Computing!
Miss Thomas	Harlen for showing aspiration in all work especially English, where he has made sure to correct and improve his writing.
Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch	Sofia D for wonderful work in RE in making links between our Christian beliefs and our talents and qualities. A superb pupil.
Miss McGuckin	Teddy E for showing resilience in his Arithmetic calculations this week and showing respect to everyone - adults and his peers.
Miss McGiveron	Mikey G for consistently giving 100% effort in all subjects and making an excellent start to Year 6. His determination and positive attitude are a fantastic example to others.
Mr Lynch	Enzo for showing fantastic participation during English discussions and thinking deeply about the answers to questions. His thoughtful contributions and enthusiasm for learning have really stood out.



St Monica's: Attendance Matters

Class	Weekly Percentage	Year to Date
Nursery	98%	99%
Reception - Miss Horder	97%	98%
Reception - Miss Andrews	96%	98%
Year 1 - Miss Tew	98%	99%
Year 1 - Miss Hatcher	99%	99%
Year 2 - Mrs MacDonald	98%	97%
Year 2 - Mrs Chorzepa	99%	98%
Year 3 - Mrs Reardon	87%	95%
Year 3 - Miss Gibbons	99%	98%
Year 4 - Mrs Ware	99%	99%
Year 4 - Miss Thomas	98%	97%
Y5 - Miss McGuckin	99%	98%
Year 5 - Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch	93%	96%
Year 6 - Mr Lynch	96%	97%
Year 6 - Miss McGiveron	99%	96%
Overall	97%	97%

Our whole school attendance stands at 97% and our target this year is to be above 96% - so this is a great start! Please see our website for key attendance information about the government changes to attendance and fines for holidays in term time, which can be found here: [St Monica's Attendance Matters](#). Remember, we can't teach an empty seat.