



ST MONICA'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2025

Our New Eco Council

We are excited to announce that our new Eco Councillors have been elected. A big congratulations to all the children who put themselves forward: you all shared fantastic ideas and showed real passion to be a St Monica's Eco Councillor.



Our newly elected councillors will be leading the way on a range of exciting environmental projects and campaigns throughout the year. From recycling initiatives to energy-saving efforts and caring for our school grounds, they'll be encouraging us all to think and act more sustainably. Their first project: Recycle Week in the final week of half term.



Key Updates

- **2 New Bike/Scooter Racks** have been installed for KS1 and Nursery - nice to see them full use already. A big well done to our School Council who campaigned for this
- A **new Boiler system** will be installed next half term - work starts October 6th and will cause minimal disruption
- **Meet the Teacher** - thank you for an excellent turn out, we will upload all presentations and text out links on Monday
- **Genes for Jeans Day - Next Tuesday**, pupils and staff will wear jeans for a £1 donation for this superb charity
- **Break up for half term: Thursday 23rd October** - please note school is closed on Friday 24th for INSET training



[Link to New Website](#)



Headteacher's Hot Chocolate

These superb pupils have displayed exceptional conduct and attitude this week. Your teachers are very proud of you!



Nursery	Brad for being a caring and supportive friend who held his friend's hand as he walked across the balance bar.
Miss Andrews	Beatriz for settling in well to Reception and being a kind friend to everyone around her. A real role model.
Miss Horder	Alice for making a fantastic start to Reception and always putting 100% into everything she does. A kind smile and a bright mind - you will go far, Alice.
Miss Hatcher	Tommy for showing independence in school - always with a kind word and smile. Keep it up, Tommy.
Miss Tew	Chimamanda for developing her self belief and confidence. I have loved seeing you participate more in class - well done!
Mrs MacDonald	Kaiben for asking thoughtful questions and showing enthusiasm in History and Science lessons. His writing has been exceptional.
Mrs Chorzepa	Bonnie's 'Letter to Nan' in our English lesson was beautifully written, and her I was especially impressed by how effectively she used conjunctions to connect her ideas and make her writing flow smoothly.
Mrs Reardon	Amelia M for always trying hard and showing great aspiration in her work. What a lovely, positive attitude!
Miss Gibbons	Bella for showing fantastic resilience when working independently. She has a great mindset and is always focused on working hard - always with a smile. Well done Bella!
Mrs Ware	Theou because he is aspirational. He loves to share his love of learning with the class. This week he shared his love of bible stories and maps. Thank you ,Theou!
Miss Thomas	Emilia for showing resilience and determination when faced with a challenging task. She has created a beautiful map of Ancient Mesopotamia and always attempts the harder tasks with success.
Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch	Joseph for completing marvellous maths work and determination in solving challenging maths problems. Well done!
Miss McGuckin	Conor for being a caring and supporting member of 5M who helps others in class and on the playground. He is an absolute joy.
Miss McGiveron	Callum - he consistently puts forth his best effort in everything he does, demonstrating remarkable resilience, a strong sense of pride in all he does . He is an outstanding role model for others to follow.
Mr Lynch	Eva for showing a fantastic attitude in all subjects. Eva has excelled in PE and sport this year so far - and has also shown how bright she is in lessons. What a superstar.



St Monica's: Attendance Matters

Class	Weekly Percentage	Year to Date
Nursery	95%	97.5%
Reception - Miss Andrews	100%	99%
Reception - Miss Horder	94%	96.5%
Year 1 Miss Hatcher	93%	97%
Year 1 - Miss Tew	95%	96.5%
Year 2 - Mrs Chorzepa	96%	98%
Year 2 - Mrs MacDonald	94%	96%
Year 3 - Miss Gibbons	94%	97.5%
Year 3-Mrs Reardon	99%	96%
Year 4 - Miss Thomas	97%	98%
Year 4 - Mrs Ware	96.5%	98%
Y5 - Miss McGuckin	96%	97%
Year 5 - Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch	93%	95%
Year 6 - Mr Lynch	92.5	96%
Year 6 - Miss McGiveron	93%	94%
Overall	95%	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.



Our Nursery children have settled in well to staying for full days and are enjoying their packed lunches with growing independence. They've been learning through play every day, with recent themes focusing on colours and learning about ourselves. From sorting and painting activities to self-portraits and family discussions, the children are developing confidence, communication skills, and a sense of identity, all while having lots of fun! They are building lovely friendships and showing curiosity in all they do.



This week, Reception have been busy exploring matching and sorting this week. The children enjoyed playing a variety of matching games and had lots of fun hanging socks on the washing line in their matching pairs. It's been a great way to develop early maths skills through play.





Year 1 - by Miss Hatcher and Miss Tew



This week in RE, Year 1 have been learning all about the Harvest Festival—a time to give thanks for the food we have and to think of those in need. The children explored why harvest is important in many cultures and how people show gratitude for the earth's abundance.

As part of our learning, the children wrote a beautiful class prayer, thanking God for the food on our tables, the farmers who grow it, and the people who help bring it to our homes.

To put this into action, Year 1 are collecting donations for our local food bank, and we'd love your support. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to live out the values of kindness and generosity they've been learning about in class.

If you would like to make a donation, please see [this link](#) for a list of the items that are most needed.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us make a positive impact in our wider community!



Year 2- by Mrs MacDonald, Mrs Chorzepa and Miss Partington

The Year Two children had an exciting, hands-on experience as they explored the magical world of colour! Using just the three primary colours — red, blue, and yellow — they experimented with mixing and blending to discover how secondary colours are created. With curious minds and lots of creativity, they watched in amazement as vibrant oranges, greens, and purples came to life before their eyes. It was a fun-filled, colourful adventure that combined learning with play, sparking wonder and imagination in every child.





Year 3 - by Mrs Reardon and Miss Gibbons

Year 3 have been turning into rock detectives as part of their science investigations! We've been testing rocks to find out whether they are chalk or limestone, and how did we do it? With vinegar! We learned that if a rock fizzes when vinegar is added, that means a chemical reaction is happening, and that tells us the rock is either chalk or limestone.



Before testing, we made careful predictions, just like real scientists. We also revisited our learning about the rock cycle. We remembered that igneous and sedimentary rocks can change into metamorphic rocks through heat and pressure. It's been a hands-on, fizz-filled week of learning, and we're proud to call ourselves rock investigators!



Year 4 - by Mrs Ware and Miss Thomas

Our talented Year 4 pupils have been diving into the exciting world of brass instruments during their music lessons!



From trumpets to trombones, the children have been learning how to produce bold, brilliant sounds while developing their musical skills and confidence. It's been a joy to hear their enthusiasm echo through the school halls as they master their first notes and rhythms.



Not only are they exploring the technical side of playing an instrument, but they're also discovering the joy of making music together.



We can't wait to see their progress in the weeks ahead – a performance may even be on the horizon!



Year 5- by Mrs Gilbertson/ Mrs Birch and Miss McGuckin



Did you know the solute is the substance that dissolves and the solvent is the liquid it dissolves into?

To start the year, Year 5 have been exploring the fascinating topic of **Materials and Their Properties**, with a particular focus on **solubility**.

The children have been investigating what solubility means and how it helps us understand whether a material will dissolve in water or not.

Through investigating and class discussions, they've identified a range of materials that are soluble (sugar and salt) and insoluble (sand or pepper). They have also been working hard to deepen their scientific vocabulary, confidently using terms such as **solution, solute, and solvent** when describing their findings.



Year 6- by Miss McGiveron and Mr Lynch

Year 6 have been very busy in their science lessons exploring the fascinating topic of **electricity**. We've been learning all about how electricity flows through a circuit and investigating the different components that help make it work, including: **bulbs, wires, switches, and cells**. As part of our learning, we carried out an exciting investigation to discover how the number of cells (batteries) in a circuit can affect the brightness of a bulb.

After carefully planning, testing, and recording our results, we concluded that the more cells added to a circuit, the brighter the bulb became. This is because each cell adds more electrical energy, which increases the current flowing through the circuit. A higher current means more energy reaches the bulb, making it shine even brighter.



The class really enjoyed being hands-on scientists and showed excellent teamwork and curiosity throughout the investigation. Well done, Year 6!