



St. Monica's Primary School

Newsletter 13th September 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

A big, warm welcome back to school from all of us here at St Monica's! I hope that you all enjoyed your summer break, and made some lasting memories together as families.

Last week our classes spent a lovely three days settling into their new rooms, learning routines, doing fun class-building activities and working on our mission statement. We have also welcomed our new starters to Reception over a stagger of four days, and a number of pupils in year groups further up the school - so to all of them and you, their families - we are very happy to have you with us!

This August, Pope Francis spent time in Lisbon for World Youth Day, and his message to the young people there, and around the world was this:

"Dear young people, never lose your courage to dream big and to live life completely! Adopt the culture of care and spread it. Become champions of fraternity. Face life's challenges by letting yourselves be guided by God and by good counsellors."

We look forward to another year of supporting and guiding your children, so that they have courage to dream big, are champions of God's world and become the people God has called them to be.

Please do get in touch with me if you ever have any questions or queries, and our class teachers are always happy to help so do approach them if you have any concerns, questions or equally any happy news to share about home achievements of your children.

Have a lovely week,

Mrs J Pearson

Forest School Curriculum -

Our classes have been renamed with bird names this academic year, which ties in with the start of our Forest School curriculum, which will be running for every class at some point in the year. Our bespoke forest school curriculum is written around the curriculum topics being studied in classes, and the pupils will engage in a variety of forest school skills, progressive through the key stages.

Our first class is Blackbirds who will be spending two afternoons a week this half term in our Forest School - I look forward to seeing the amazing work they get up to on their topic when they start on Tuesday 19th September.

Our Reception pupils will also have one session a week of Forest School every Wednesday this term, with their first session today.

Children's Liturgy Sessions - Sunday 10am Mass, St Monica's Church

The children's liturgy sessions during 10am Mass have begun again, and I warmly welcome you to bring your children along to 10am Mass. Whether you come every week, or you make a commitment to come once a fortnight, or a month, the liturgy group leaders are there to help your children make sense of the Gospel and say prayers together in a lovely, quiet setting in the resource room. Through the liturgy sessions, the children also learn the pattern of the Mass, which supports them as they get older and begin to make their Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. For those in a Sacramental year, the programme of preparation always includes some focused Sunday 10am Masses where the pupils read the scriptures and prayers and ask the congregation to pray for them. These dates will be sent out with the Sacramental Preparation letters. For these pupils, regular opportunities to go to Mass and to take part in the children's liturgy group helps their preparation for the sacrament immensely.

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Mini Monica's

Mrs Lightfoot in St Monica's Nursery is starting Mini Monica's, a weekly parent and tots group, which will run on Wednesdays from 9.10am - 10.10am. Please spread the word - sessions are only £1.

Uniform

An amendment to the published uniform policy (2022) - navy coloured items are also permitted for PE uniform. The policy will be updated to reflect this, but please feel confident that navy is an acceptable colour.

Can I give a gentle reminder about school shoes, to ask that you ensure that shoes and not boots or trainers are worn for daily school wear.

MDA vacancies

We are looking to recruit two positions for Midday Supervisors, working on a FRIDAY lunchtime, 12pm - 1pm. This will help us to free members of staff to take on other roles over the lunch period on a Friday.

Details of the role will be advertised, but please ask at the office or give us a call if you are interested.

Clubs

This week our clubs started and the children are loving the opportunity to be a part of these groups. We do have a few spaces left for KS1 Pocket Rockets on a Wednesday. There is a charge for this club of £5 per child per session. It is an active, fun club for the children. If you are interested in reserving a place, please contact Mrs Rylance.

P.E. Lessons

Monday	Year 3, Year 4
Tuesdays	Reception, Year 1, Year 4
Wednesday	Year 2, Year 6
Thursday	Year 6
Friday	Year 1, Year 2, Year 5

Year 5 will be starting their swimming lessons on Tuesday 19th September

Mad Science

We have the amazing Mad Science team coming in to provide an assembly this Friday. Their mission is to inspire children through science, sparking lifelong imagination and curiosity. After the assembly, the children will be coming home with a flyer from them to tell you more about it as they plan to offer a club in Autumn 2 Term.

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