



St Monica's Catholic Primary School Weekly Newsletter 16th March 2021

Dear Parents,

It's wonderful to be writing to you from a noisy, busy, happy St. Monica's. The children have brought their energy and enthusiasm and it's a joy to have them all back.

Income Related Free School Meals

With Covid lockdowns impacting on so many peoples' incomes, more people than ever have qualified for Income Related Free School Meals. However in KS1 families don't see much incentive to apply as their child receives a free school meal anyway. This is an opportunity lost for the family and the school as a whole. Qualifying for Income Related Free School Meals brings two pots of funding: one for the child to receive extra support of resources and one for the school to boost provision generally. In addition, the number of children in receipt of Income Related Free School Meals triggers other grants. Do you remember Boris Johnson announcing the extra catch up money, the Recovery Premium? Well we've now heard that the money will be based on the number of Income Related Free School Meals a school has, and therefore St. Monica's will get very little. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you think you might qualify for this support, please apply. If you email the school office they will send you the relevant form to complete. Your child will benefit and so will the school.

Remote Learning Survey

Thank you for all your support and engagement during the recent period of lockdown. We would like to know your views on the Remote Learning offer we provided this Spring, so that we can review and improve what we do. Your comments in the previous questionnaire were very helpful in shaping the changes we made from last year's offer, and we are determined to keep getting better. Please look out for our Remote Learning Survey which we will soon be posting on the web site.

Mission Together Raffles

The children may have told you that our Lenten Charity Appeal is to support the charity Mission Together in their work in Myanmar. Each class has a box of Easter chocolate goodies to raffle and the £1 ticket price will go towards the charity shopping list: £7 for books and stationery; £10 for uniforms for pupils; £17 for a sack of rice and £50 for a hydroelectric generator. Today a child in Y3 brought in an envelope with £1 made up of numerous coins - his pocket money: well done, Stevie, you are really showing the values of our Mission statement.



KS2 School Meals

Gentle reminder that your school meals ParentPay account should be in credit for meals required. A school meal is £2.40 a day.

2nd Annual Altar Servers Day

"The Wilderness - A survival guide" Prayer and reflection alongside activities, games and lots of fun.

Where: Zoom

When: 27th March 2021 - 10-2.30

Who: Any young person 10 to 18 who serves in the parish (or at least did before last March)

How: Send an email to youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org and we will send you all the information you need.

Water Bottle

Each child should be bringing their own water bottle into school each morning and taking it home each night. Please ensure it contains only water, no juice.

Diocesan Building Fund

Every year we apply to this fund for improvement to the school. Last year we received money to redo the play-ground surface and to replace some deteriorating windows before they became dangerous. This year our bid includes repairs to the hall heating, improved paths on the site, and a renewal of the surface and edging of the tyre park. The total cost of these projects is about £22,000: well out of the realm of possibilities if we were to have to pay for them ourselves out of the school budget. In order to qualify for receiving money from this fund we have to pay a subscription every year, based on our pupil numbers. This year our contribution should be £2,820.00. The idea is that parents of children in a Catholic school are asked to make a voluntary annual contribution to the fund to help keep the Catholic school stock in good repair. It's a great deal! We always get hugely more out than we get in and if everyone contributed it would only cost £15 per child. Unfortunately we don't seem to have got the message out strongly enough as only 15 families are contributing at the moment (and 5 of these have children who have long since left the school but remember the importance of the fund and continue to pay a monthly amount). This leaves us in the position of having £1,861.00 in School fund with a deficit bill of £959.00 to pay in the next few weeks. If you can, please go to Parent Pay and make a contribution: help keep our school in good repair and offering the great environment that your children will benefit from.

Health and Safety/Parking Reminders

- Keep to your time slot at the gates - don't let your child get mixed up with the bubble who are going into school in the earlier slot. Not only does it mean that the bubbles are mixing but it also potentially leaves children in school without supervision.
- Masks must always be worn at drop off and pick up times.
- Double parking on St. Monica's Close has caused problems recently. There are very few parking spaces available for parents dropping off their children on St. Monica's Close which is why we recommend that you use one of the three local car parks - St. Monica's Church car park on Broomfields Road, St. Mary Magdalene's car park on Bridge Lane, or the car park behind the pool at Broomfields Leisure Centre.
- Some parents/carers are still using the disabled bays outside school/Broomfield's Leisure Centre whilst dropping off/picking up their children. If you do not have a disabled badge please park in the regular parking spaces leaving the bays free for those who genuinely need them.

Contact Details

It is important that if you change your mobile phone number or move house you must communicate it to the school office ASAP so we can update it on our system. Thank you.

Have a lovely week

Best wishes,

Mrs. Norman and all the staff.
