



# St. Monica's Primary School

## Newsletter 1st March 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Mission Day - On Thursday we held our Spring term Mission Day. Across school the children participated in learning activities focused on Jesus and His followers, and considered what character strengths it takes to be a follower of Jesus. Each Year group also spent time on an individual focus -

Reception began with Jesus himself, and learnt about how we are called to follow in his footsteps, and what that means.

Year 1& 2 focused on Jesus calling the fishermen Peter, James and John. They thought about the character strengths that the fishermen would have and the reasons Jesus chose them. They thought about how Jesus called them (and us) to be "fishers of men".

Year 3 looked at the disciple Thomas, and considered what it means to believe without seeing something - to have faith.

Year 4 focused on two important figures in Jesus' life, Mary and Martha (the sisters of Lazarus). Although the sisters may not have left their home to follow Jesus from town to town as the men did, the class considered what the scriptures tell us about their faith and love for Jesus.

Year 5 looked carefully at the calling of Matthew, who was a tax collector and not well loved by his community due to his dishonest ways. They considered what Jesus' calling of such a man meant about Jesus - how he sees in us our true selves, and calls us back to the right path, through forgiveness.

Year 6 had very thought-provoking discussions about Judas, and used the scriptures in the Bible to help them to decide, was Judas a 'villain', or is that an unfair picture that we have of him.

The afternoon assembly began with the celebration of the word, listening to the story of Jesus calling the disciples, and then it was over to the classes to show and share their learning from the day. I have to say, it was the best Mission Day assembly we have had so far, and the learning that went on across school yesterday was phenomenal! It was lovely to have some parents able to join us for our celebration assembly, and join us in prayer at the end.

Year 1&2 Assembly - This morning it was a joy to watch the Year 1 &2 pupils in their class assembly all about The Great Fire of London, which has been their history topic for this term. It was a brilliant performance, with enjoyment being evident in every child that took part. A huge thank you to the KS1 team who supported the children in bringing this together so wonderfully, and well done to all the children!

Mass in honour of St Monica—Tuesday 5th March 10am.

We will be celebrating Mass with the whole school in church on Tuesday. This will be in honour of St Monica, our patron and the patron saint of mothers. You are warmly welcomed to join us and we ask if you are able to help walk to church with the classes, we would be very grateful. Please contact the school office if you are able to assist with this.

Parent Survey - Next week the office will be sending out a whole-school parent survey to get your feedback through a range of questions. It should only take two or three minutes to complete, and you can choose whether to do one response for a whole family, or do several responses if you prefer (one per child, if you have more than one child attending school). We really appreciate your time to share your experience with us.

May I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs J Pearson

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### World Book Day—Thursday 7th March

We happily invite children to dress up this World Book Day but we also hope the celebrations will encourage children to *Read Your Way* so we are also inviting children to come to school in the clothes they find comfiest to read in.

This World Book Day, we're encouraging children to start their reading journey with a sentence, a page, a chapter or more. Every child is a reader, however they choose to do it!

### Some of our planned activities

1. All pupils will need to **bring in a large potato** to make one of their favourite story characters. This activity will provide the opportunity to get creative, whilst fostering a love of reading through exploring stories and engaging in book discussion. We can't wait to see what the children's creativity unleashes and to meet all of the potato characters. How many will you recognise in our next school newsletter?
2. KS2 classes will join the BBC for a World Book Day Live Lesson. We'll be designing our own amazing reading space – a place to find and recommend books we would love to read. From fact or fiction, to graphic novels and comic books, there's a book to suit everyone, so what's yours?
3. We will surprise the children with Drop Everything and Read.
4. We will come together as a whole school for a special World Book Day Assembly.
5. We will celebrate our love of reading with a fabulous book-based menu! Please find attached our *I Love Reading* Lunch Menu designed by Mrs Wallace and Ms Clare.
6. We will listen to books being read aloud.



### Mission Fundraising—Sponsored Walk 2nd February

Thank you to those families and friends who have kindly donated. Today is the end of the fundraising collection for sponsorship. Our current total is £286.00 Outstanding sponsorship can be donated through the justgiving link, or if donating cash please put in a labelled envelope and hand in to the office. We hope we can reach our £500 target. [https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-monicas-primary-school-1706280349511?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fst-monicas-primary-school-1706280349511&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-monicas-primary-school-1706280349511?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fst-monicas-primary-school-1706280349511&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

### Message from the office

Another reminder that outstanding debt on ParentPay accounts need to be cleared to £0.00 by the end of this month. Many thanks for your support with this.

### Key Dates:

Sunday 3rd March 10am - Enrolment Mass for First Eucharist

Tuesday 26th 6pm - Passion Play in church

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### Parents' Evenings

The appointments for parents' evenings will open at 4pm today. Please go to your Spider app to book your slot from this time.

#### Monday 18th March and Thursday 21st March

Y1/2 Wrens  
Y3 Blackbirds  
Y5 Swifts  
Y6 Skylarks

#### Monday 18th March and Wednesday 20th March

R/Y1 Robins

#### Tuesday 19th March and Thursday 21st March

Y4 Kingfishers

Appointments are strictly 10 minutes only. Thank you

### Weekly Attendance

Group	% Attend
Robins	94.8
Wrens	94.3
Blackbirds	94.5
Kingfishers	93.1
Swifts	95.8
Skylarks	93.3
Totals	94.2

Letters for individual pupils attaining less than 95% attendance will be sent home on Monday.

### Forest School

We have had a request from Mrs Dailey for any spare small plastic plant pots to be brought in to school please. Thank you..

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