



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

...a small school where big things happen...

Head Teacher: Mrs A. Ruthven



Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope you all had a lovely weekend! Finally, we can see the start of Spring as the days are starting to get just a little bit longer.

We are delighted to welcome all our children back to St. Monica's on Monday 8th March 2021. It seems a very long time since they were all last in school and we are looking forward to seeing their smiles and hearing all of their news.

We hope to resume the same routine we carried out in the Autumn Term with the staggered start and end of the day entrances for the different year groups.

Returning to the 'busy-ness' of school life is going to be a shock for many of us and we are going to have to be kind to ourselves as we adapt and return to the routine of school life. So that your child has a smooth transition back to 'normality' we suggest that their routine this week is similar to their school timetable so they do not spend their first school week back feeling tired and hungry which will distract them from their learning and make them unusually emotional.

Suggestions for the children include (and I am sure that you will have many more ideas):

- Get out of bed at the time they usually would for the school day
- Have a good breakfast
- Minimum food between breakfast and lunch (other than the fruit they would have at school)
- Lunch
- No grazing until 3:30pm
- Go to bed at the time they would normally go on a school day.

They will really benefit from the above suggestions which will help their social cognition, emotional understanding and resilience. We want the children to have a really happy week back at school.

During the first week back the teachers will set fun and engaging activities for the children such as art and craft, puzzles, games and PSHE activities. They will be having their PE lessons and will play additional games in groups and in teams. We want the children to get used to learning with their class mates next to them, which may be distracting after all this time. We also want to create opportunities for them to talk to their teachers and to each other about their experience in this lockdown.

We are incredibly proud of what all the children have achieved. We are aware of the negatives of lockdown and remote learning but there have been positives to remote learning too.



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Many children will have

- gained more independence
- become more self-motivated
- developed effective learning relationships with their parents
- developed their IT understanding
- found it easier to communicate their learning to their teacher and access their support

Some children will have benefited from

- being able to revisit recorded lessons
- working at their own speed.

On 8th March it will be wonderful to see all the children back where they belong. As parents you have been through an extremely difficult time. At some point each and every one of you has felt guilty that you haven't done enough and have been hard on yourself.

Children are like sponges they pick up and learn things all the time. They might not learn the one thing you are teaching them at that particular moment in time. But that's ok.

Look back on what you have achieved with your child. The teachers and Support Staff are certainly delighted with their achievements and we think that you have all been amazing! Before the children return to school, there is one more special day for you to share together. Thursday 4th March 2021 is World Book Day. Miss Rodrigues has already begun her plan of action so please do keep any eye out for additional information.

To enable the children to spend time reading and reflecting on books with the exception of each class' Zoom session, Thursday 4th March will be a mostly screen free day. The children will have lots of activities to complete to celebrate their love of books and reading. They can also, if they wish, dress up as a book character for their class Zoom session, though this is optional and we certainly do not want any families feeling pressure to make / purchase costumes. There is enough to be thinking about at the moment, but if children wish to have a photo of them dressed up in their costumes sent to school we will use them for a school display.

We have also planned a 'Super Heroes' week which Ms. Ribeiro will be discussing with you all this week. The aim would be for the children to understand that they can be their own heroes, promoting confidence after such a draining year.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all very soon!

Take care and keep safe.

Kind regards,



Mrs Amanda Ruthven
Headteacher