



St Monica's Catholic Primary



Edition 103

# Newsletter

## Catholic Social Teaching: **Solidarity and Peace**

"In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers [or sisters] of mine, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

## Spring 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers, and Pupils,

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome back to school! I hope you all had a peaceful and joyful Christmas break, filled with special moments with loved ones. As we begin the Spring Term, I am filled with excitement for the wonderful opportunities and experiences ahead.

This term promises to be an exciting one as we prepare for Lent and the journey toward Easter. It is a season of reflection, growth, and renewal, both spiritually and academically. Together, we will embrace the challenges and joys of this new season with determination and faith.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible school community—parents, carers, staff, and, most importantly, our children—for your unwavering support, commitment, and dedication. Your partnership is at the heart of everything we do, and it is this strong foundation that allows our school to thrive.

Let us continue to work hard, supporting one another to achieve our best and live out our school's values each day. As we embark on this term, let us be guided by the words from Philippians 4:13:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

With God's strength and guidance, I am confident that together we will make this term a successful and rewarding one.

Wishing you all every blessing for a fruitful Spring Term.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Ruthven

Executive Head Teacher



Welcome back and Happy New Year to all of St Monica's community family and friends.

I hope you had a restful break. It is lovely to see children back in their classes and learning new concepts already.

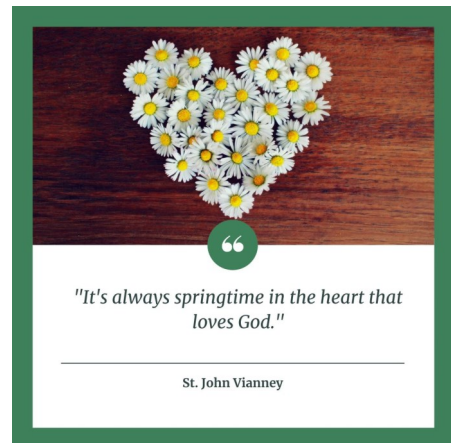
This term will be busy. We have coffee morning for parents; workshops for parents, parents' evening where you can have a look at your children's learning; Christian Unity week; British Science week; Shakespeare week; Red Nose Day; Poetry Day and many more. We will update you with dates on Class Dojo.

As we step into the spring term, we find ourselves immersed in a season of renewal and reflection. For us as a Catholic school community, this time is particularly meaningful as we prepare to journey through Lent, a season that invites us to pause, reflect, and grow closer to God.

It is also an opportunity to teach our students about resilience, compassion, and self-discipline. It is a time when we encourage them to think not only about what they can give up but also what they can give back—to their families, friends, and the wider community.

Thank you for your continued partnership in nurturing the spiritual, academic, and personal growth of our students.

God Bless,  
Mrs Lenka Jallow  
Head of School



### PEZ:

This academic year we are introducing Engagement Zones to our playground. This is to encourage children to have different play experiences and develop curiosity, teamwork and positive communication. The Zones will be the following:

- Arts & Crafts
- Mud Kitchen
- All things that move
- Construction
- Lego & small toys
- Zone 6 Music Stage
- Home area

### WELL-BEING

Good mental health and well-being is essential for school students. It helps them to learn effectively, cope with day-to-day challenges, and develop into resilient young adults. Well-being is a state in which pupils are able to develop their potential, learn and play creatively. Evidence suggests there are 5 steps you can take to help improve your mental health and wellbeing, these are connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give.

## Wednesday's Word

**Our Wednesday Word for this week, which links in with our Sunday Gospel is:**

*Joy*

“A joyful heart is a sign of Gods Spirit within us. When we follow Jesus by loving God and others, we are filled with Joy’

### Embrace Assemblies

At the end of each week, teachers will name a child in their class who has shown and have been upholding the School Values (EMBRACE), British Values, living out Catholic Social principles. These children will receive a certificate to congratulate them during our Friday EMBRACE assembly.

### SEAL

Happy New Year, I hope you all had a wonderful and restful holiday.

This year started off with Growth Mindset and Aspiration week, which tied in nicely with our new year's resolutions. Setting measurable and achievable goals should be the foundation for success this year. Our SEAL topics for Spring term are Going for Goals ( Spring1) and Good to be me (Spring 2) .Red Nose Day is coming up where the children love dressing up for comic relief later on in the term.

Ms Wekpe

### Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

You can contact Ms Rodrigues (Assistant Head & SENCO) and/or Ms Vaughan (Assistant SENCO) with questions or concerns at [senco@st-monicas.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:senco@st-monicas.hackney.sch.uk)

For further support, you can access the online support services: <https://www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/kb5/hackney/localoffer/home.page>

We are always here to help you and your children access the support and services required to engage successfully in learning.

### Forest Schools

Forest School is an outdoor education approach that fosters children's confidence, creativity, and well-being through hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment. It encourages exploration, teamwork, and problem-solving while developing a deep connection with nature. Mr. O has already introduced Forest School to each year group during our Outdoor Learning Day, sparking curiosity and excitement about this enriching experience. Mr O will be working closely with the children during our weekly sessions every Friday, encouraging them and providing deeper insights into the wonders of the outdoors, rain or shine!

## Best Attendance and Punctuality

Congratulations to:

**Class 1 for achieving 96.4%**

(Key stage 1)

Well done to Class 1 who achieved best attendance and punctuality in Autumn term.

**Remember that attending school is a legal requirement, so make sure you're on time and ready to go at the start of each day!**

## UNIFORM

As we enter Spring the weather outside is still frosty, Please ensure students come to school with a warm coat and suitable plain black shoes. The expectation is that students are always in the correct full school uniform.

Students are required to wear their uniform correctly at all times while in school but also when travelling to and from the school since students represent us in the wider community during those times.

We do have some preloved school uniform available. Please speak to the office if you are interested .

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

You may be eligible for Free School Meals, please read the information below on eligibility criteria and use this [link](#) to apply. It is really helpful to the school that you claim if you are eligible, as it gives additional funding to the school and not just for the period you are eligible, but also for a number of years afterwards if you have been in receipt of Free School Meals for long enough.

If you receive one of the following benefits then you could be eligible for free school meals worth over £390 per child per year:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with a taxable income of no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of Working Tax Credit\*
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- NASS support (The National Asylum Support Service)
- 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— for the four weeks after employment ends
- Universal Credit—provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

## Parent Handbook

Our digital Parent Handbook can be found on our website. This is an informative document that will furnish you with additional information about our school.

[https://www.stmonicasprimaryhackney.co.uk/web/school\\_prospectus/648949](https://www.stmonicasprimaryhackney.co.uk/web/school_prospectus/648949)

