



7th January 2026

Spring Term Newsletter

Dear Children and Parents,

Welcome back to the Spring Term at St Monica's Catholic Primary School. We hope you had a peaceful and joyful Christmas break and that you are refreshed and ready for the term ahead. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school and to see their enthusiasm for learning continue to grow. The Spring Term is always a busy and purposeful time, filled with opportunities for progress, reflection and celebration of achievements across the curriculum.

Celebrating Our Academic Achievements

We are incredibly proud of the strong academic outcomes achieved by our pupils across the school. These results reflect the hard work of our children, the dedication of our staff, and the continued support of our families.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, outcomes remain strong overall. The majority of pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (73%), with performance broadly in line with Hackney and above national averages in several areas. Strengths were evident in Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development, where outcomes were particularly positive. Children also performed well across Literacy and Mathematics, demonstrating secure foundations for learning as they move into Key Stage 1.

Our phonics outcomes are a significant strength of the school. In Year 1, 93% of pupils met the expected standard, placing the school in the top quartile locally, well above both Hackney and national averages. Year 2 outcomes were also strong, with 100% of assessed pupils achieving the expected standard, reflecting the effectiveness of our early reading provision.

At Key Stage 2, pupils achieved consistently strong results across Reading, Writing and Mathematics (83%), compared to Hackney (76%) and National (62%). Outcomes at the expected standard were above national averages, with particularly strong performance in Mathematics (87%) and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (96%), where the school is placed in the top local quartile alongside Reading (87%). A high proportion of pupils also achieved at the higher standard, especially in Mathematics and GPS, demonstrating depth of learning and ambition for excellence.

These achievements reflect our commitment to high expectations, inclusive teaching and ensuring every child is supported to reach their full potential. We are extremely proud of what our pupils have accomplished and look forward to building on this success as the year continues.



As a Catholic school, the Spring Term is especially significant as we journey through Lent, a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During this time, we encourage our children to reflect on their actions, show kindness to others, and grow closer to God through simple acts of service and generosity. Assemblies, classroom prayer and RE lessons will support children in understanding the meaning of Lent in an age-appropriate and meaningful way.

This term, pupils will continue to benefit from a rich curriculum, enrichment activities and opportunities beyond the classroom. Our Forest School provision remains a valued part of school life, helping children to build resilience, teamwork and a deeper appreciation of God's creation. Please continue to ensure children come prepared with suitable outdoor clothing.

We are proud of our pupil leaders, who continue to demonstrate responsibility and commitment to our school values. They are excellent role models and ambassadors for the St Monica's community.

A few important reminders for the Spring Term:

- Children are not permitted to bring smartphones or smartwatches into school
- Breakfast Club runs from 8:30–9:00am (£2.50 per session)
- After-school enrichment clubs are charged at £35 per 6-week block
- Extended Day provision is £20 per hour
- Class Dojo remains our main communication platform; private messaging is disabled
- Children in Years 1–6 may bring a named pencil case with basic stationery
- The Hoxton Street entrance remains the sole point of entry; gates open at 8:50am

If you wish to discuss your child's progress or raise a concern, please follow the agreed communication steps:

1. Speak to your child's class teacher
2. Contact the Phase Leader if needed
 - EYFS and KS1: Ms Rodrigues
 - KS2: Mr O
3. Arrange a meeting with the Head of School
4. Finally, request a meeting with the Executive Head if necessary

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Working together ensures that every child feels safe, valued and supported to achieve their best.



As we walk together through this Lenten season, we are reminded of Christ's call to love and serve one another:

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32

May this Spring Term be a time of growth, reflection and renewed hope for our whole school community.

Warm regards,

Mrs Amanda Ruthven (Executive Headteacher) and Mrs Lenka Jallow (Head of School)