



St Monica's Catholic Primary

School



Newsletter

Edition 102

Friday 13th September 2024

Catholic Social Teaching: **Creation and environment**

"Who turned the wonderworld of the seas into underwater cemeteries bereft of colour and life?"
Catholic Bishops of the Philippines, 1988

Autumn 2024 Newsletter

Dear Pupils, Staff, Parents and Carers,

As we step into the vibrant month of September, I extend a heartfelt welcome to each one of you. The start of a new academic year is always filled with excitement, anticipation, and the promise of new opportunities. It is a time to set fresh goals, embrace challenges, and celebrate the journey of learning and growth.

To our dedicated staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment and passion for education. Your hard work and enthusiasm are the cornerstones of our success. Together, we will continue to inspire and nurture our students, helping them reach their full potential.

To our students, welcome back! We are thrilled to see your bright faces and eager minds ready to embark on another year of discovery and achievement. Remember, every day is a chance to learn something new, to make new friends, and to take steps towards your dreams. Embrace each moment with curiosity and determination.

To our supportive parents, thank you for being our valued partners in education. Your involvement and encouragement are vital to our students' success. We look forward to working closely with you to create a positive and enriching environment for our children.

Let's make this academic year a memorable one, filled with joy, growth, and success. Together, we can achieve great things.

(Galatians 3:26-28)

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through Faith

Welcome back, and here's to an amazing year ahead!

Best wishes,
Mrs Ruthven



Welcome back! I do hope you have enjoyed your summer break with your families and friends. Children have already started working on Catholic Social Principles, School values as well as our new PEZ (playing engagement zones).

We are delighted to welcome new staff to the St Monica's team this year:

our new teacher, Mr Ricky Sullivan in Year 2 and Ms Georgina Johnson, TA in Reception class as well as Ms Natasha XXXX who is returning to our Office.

St Monica's is a place to grow and staff move into new roles as they develop. This year, Ms Rodrigues is not just our Assistant Head but also our SENDCO. Mr Antoniou remains our SENDCO SLT lead but Ms Rodrigues will be at school to lead SEND department.

Please remember that the school starts at 8.55am for all pupils, with the playground open and supervised from 8.40am. Good **punctuality** and an **attendance** of at least **96%** are minimum expectations.

At St Monica's, our pupils meet the high expectations we set for them, such as taking responsibility for being prepared for their learning. This includes:

* correct and labelled uniform - both full school uniform and PE uniform— please refer to our website

* healthy snacks and packed lunches (if you decide not to take the free school meal).

Communication—We use Class Dojo as our main tool for communication. We do kindly ask that you allow **up to 5 working days** for staff to respond to individual queries. We do our best to answer sooner, however sometimes that is not possible. If there is an urgent issue, please contact us via the School Office on 02077395824.

We are looking forward to working with all of you this academic year

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

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:

Zone 1: Arts & Crafts

Zone 2: Mud Kitchen

Zone 3: All things that move

Zone 4: Construction

Zone 5: Lego & small toys

Zone 6 Music Stage

Zone 7: Home area

There will be half termly news letters about PEZ on Class Dojo to update you on how it is going. Thank you for all the donations we have had so far Please keep them coming!

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. Pupils who experience well-being can build and enjoy positive relationships with others and feel belonging to their school community. It is very important that we all look after ourselves.

Wednesday's Word

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

JESUS

"Jesus loves us without limits. Each encounter with Jesus fills us with joy, with that deep joy which only God can give."

Pope Francis

Embrace Assemblies

At the end of each week, teachers will name a child in their class who has completed excellent work. These children will get a certificate to congratulate them during our Friday's assemblies. They will be named and their work celebrated. Children are being chosen for a whole range of reasons including upholding our School Values (EMRACE), British Values, living out Catholic Social principles.

SEAL

Welcome back . I hope you all had a wonderful and restful holiday.

This term for PSHE we have a number of interesting things for the children to learn. Our SEAL topic is "New Beginnings" for this half term (Autumn 1). This looks into how children settle in their new classes/ school, make new friends and relationship. The second topic is "Getting on and falling out" this builds on relationships made and how to sustain them (Autumn 2). We have Anti-bullying week to look forward to later on in the term, the children will explore the types of bullying and what to do.

Ms Wekpe

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

You can contact Ms Rodrigues with questions or concerns at 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 they require to engage successfully in learning.

Mobile Phones

Students are not permitted to bring a smartphone to school. A smartphone is defined as any phone capable of taking an image or video, or being connected to the Internet. Students may however bring a 'non-smartphone', i.e. Nokia or similar phone to school providing that it is switched off and out of sight at all times. This means that once your child walks through our gates, their phone must be switched off and handed to the Class Teacher. Phones that either do not conform or are found to be switched on will be confiscated and retained by the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Best Attendance and Punctuality

Congratulations to:

Class 41 for achieving 98.8%

(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

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.

Please be mindful of the school uniform policy, particularly when buying socks/ tights, shoes, polo shirts, jumpers and blazers with our school logo. Some parents regularly collect left over items so if you are in need of any clothing, please speak to your class rep. We might have a bank of clothes that can be redistributed.

Please ensure that ALL items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. Thank you for your cooperation.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

You may be eligible for Free School Meals, please read the information below on how 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

