



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

43 Hoxton Street, London N1 6QN .



Newsletter

Edition 96

Thursday 9th February 2023

Catholic Social Teaching: To uphold dignity of work and workers' rights

Cultivating the vineyard of the Lord includes cultivating the lives of those who toil in the vineyard. God's vineyard is the entire earth, and the "workers" in the vineyard are all of God's people, earning our daily bread as co-creators with God, no matter our craft.

Spring Newsletter

Welcome Back!

2023 is upon us and the year ahead is full of potential. We begin this term filled with hope for the unveiling of God's plans for us. May the words of our Lord be our inspiration as we guide our children to a deeper relationship with Jesus, our Lord.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI passed away on the 31st December 2022. Please join us in prayers of thanksgiving for his life of faith, and for the repose of his soul. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Wednesday 1st February was the Feast Day of one of our class saints, St Brigid. She is also known as Brigid of Ireland or the 'mother saint' of Ireland. According to tradition she was born in 451AD and died in 525AD. She was believed to have been an abbess who founded several convents of nuns, most notably that of Kildare, which was one of the most important in Ireland. She is patroness of many things, including poetry, learning, healing, protection, blacksmithing, livestock and dairy production. It is believed if you hung a St Brigid cross in your home it protected it from fire. Did you know that from this year, St Brigid's Day is a public holiday in Ireland, the first to be named after a woman? This took place on Monday 6th February.

You will be aware of the impact of the teachers strike that is taking place next month. The school will continue to keep a close eye on the guidance and information from the teaching unions, the Department for Education and Hackney Education; and keep you updated.

Children's Mental Health Week takes place this year from Monday 6th To Friday 10th February. The theme this year is 'Let's Connect'. This is of course a very important aspect of our children's development as we know that happy children learn better and make better progress. We will be working closely with WHAMS and our team to ensure we continue the good work we already do in supporting our children's mental health.

All the best for a lovely weekend and a great half-term.

Mrs. Amanda Ruthven
Headteacher

Best Attendance and Punctuality

Congratulations to:

**Reception Class for achieving 98.9%
(Foundation)**

BEST ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY THIS WEEK

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!

Wednesday's Word

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

TEACHER

“Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.”

Pope Francis

SAFEGUARDING

The wellbeing of our children is of paramount importance to all staff. If any parent has a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Ruthven. We also have three Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Jallow, Mr Antonis and Mrs Bart-Williams. In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a statutory duty to discuss the issue with one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads to seek further advice. Please be mindful of social media platforms such as WhatsApp regarding the sharing of photographic imagery.

School Pet

I know many of you have asked about Florabella. She is doing very well and is looking forward to returning to school life now that the academic year is in full swing!

PUPIL LEADERSHIP

The pupil leadership teams are working well, and are all taking their roles seriously. Details of the pupil leaders are proudly displayed in the school foyer.

Mrs. Kim Smith

SEAL

We pray for great things this year and may God continue to guide and protect us. We kick-started the New Year by setting goals for the year ahead (SEAL - **Going for goals**). This closely ties in with our Growth Mindset, showing resilience in all that we do. We must remember that sometimes it is easy to fall off the wagon and not follow our goals. But what is important is that we get back on the wagon. For Aspiration week, we focused on the medical sector (dentist and nursing) as we have to get them to starting thinking of what they want to be while they are young.

The next SEAL topic is '**Good to be me**' and will focus be on the qualities we have as individuals -our strengths and weakness - as we must first learn to love ourselves before we can love others. What are the qualities we would like to change about ourselves and how do we go about it?

QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

“Life offers so many great choices, all you have to do is to see them.”

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Assemblies will be held every last Friday of the Month

22/02—Ash Wednesday

02- /03—World Book Day

12/03 —British Science Week

15/03—Celebration Booklets

19/03—Shakespeare Week

21/03—World Poetry Day

**13th to 17th February
Half Term**

School re-opens 20th February

Children doing the Candy Dance



Year 6 children had a lovely time at the Science Museum



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - SPRING TERM

COME AND SEE AT HOME

Dear Families and Friends of St Monica's

This term we shall be studying the three themes of Local Church: Community, Eucharist [Relating] and Lent/Easter [Giving]. Each class will approach the themes through different topics.

Please refer to the suggested activities for things you can do together as a family.

With kind regards,

Mrs Ruthven

LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

Early Years	CELEBRATING - People celebrate in Church
Year 1	SPECIAL PEOPLE - People in the parish family
Year 2	BOOKS - The books used in Church
Year 3	JOURNEYS - Christian families' journey with Christ
Year 4	COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
Year 5	MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in the Diocese [ecumenism]
Year 6	SOURCES - The Bible, the special book for the Church

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our bishop.
Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.

EUCHARIST - RELATING

Early Years	GATHERING - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist
Year 1	MEALS - Mass, Jesus' special meal
Year 2	THANKSGIVING - Mass, a special time to thank God
Year 3	LISTENING & SHARING - Jesus gives himself to us
Year 4	GIVING & RECEIVING - Living in communion
Year 5	MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice
Year 6	UNITY - Eucharist enabling people to live in communion

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Look through the family photograph album to help the children remember important events and special people in their lives.
Discuss how we come together for special celebrations.

LENT/EASTER - GIVING

Early Year	GROWING - Looking forward to Easter
Year 1	CHANGE - Lent: a time for change
Year 2	OPPORTUNITIES - Lent: an opportunity to start anew
Year 3	GIVING ALL - Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving
Year 4	SELF DISCIPLINE - Celebrating growth to new life
Year 5	SACRIFICE - Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus
Year 6	DEATH & NEW LIFE - Celebrating Jesus' death and Resurrection

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

As a family talk about how you are going to practice self-control and self-giving for the rest of the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to a charity.
Ask your children how the school is focusing on Lent and self-giving.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

✝ = Church Mass

🏫 = School

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1st

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ✝

January 6th

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 13th

FOUNDER'S DAY ✝

January 25th

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2nd

ASH WEDNESDAY ✝

February 22nd

ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

March 19th

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

March 25th

EASTER LITURGY 🏫

March 31st Whole school

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 2nd

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6th

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7th

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9th

Safeguarding

All adults visiting or working in our school play an important part in the life of our school as part of our wider community.

Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S responsibility and we require all our visitors, volunteers and others to work with us to keep our children and staff safe.

As a school, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children. We have safeguarding policy and procedures in place, and this is based on the belief and expectation that all members of the school community have a responsibility to highlight any concerns they have about a child's wellbeing.

All visitors must report to the School Office, where they are required to sign in and be given an identification badge.

Please display the identification badge clearly throughout your stay on the school grounds.

Our Designated Safeguarding Team



Mrs. Ruthven
Headteacher
Ext. 212
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs. Jallow
Head of School
Ext. 209
Designated
Safeguarding
Officer



Mr. Antoniou
SENDCO
Ext. 214
Designated
Safeguarding
Officer



Mrs. Bart-Williams
SBM
Ext. 211
Designated
Safeguarding
Officer



**St Monica's Catholic
Primary School**
Hoxton, London

020 7739 5824

**Health, Safety and Child
Protection Guidance
for Visitors**

Health & Safety

The Health & Safety of all our school community is of the utmost importance to us at St. Monica's.

Therefore, we ask that you comply with all our safety procedures, for the protection of yourself and others.

If you have any concerns, please flag up your concerns with the member of staff overseeing your visit or any of the Designated Safeguarding Officers as listed overleaf.

Smoking is **PROHIBITED** anywhere on our school grounds – including buildings.

In the event of the **Fire Alarm** sounding continuously at any time, please leave the building swiftly and immediately. Our assembly point is the Playground and our Fire Wardens will direct the evacuation.

Likewise, the use of **Mobile Phones** and any photographic equipment on school grounds is **PROHIBITED**.

If you require first aid during your visit, please contact the School Office or notify a member of staff.

Details of all our first aiders and safeguarding officers are available all around the school.

Please follow these simple advice:

- Do not instigate physical contact with students unless it is appropriate and part of your visit.
- Do not photograph students or give them your personal details including your name, telephone number, email or address.
- Do not accept or respond to students attempting to give you their personal information.
- If any student abuses you physically or verbally, please notify a member of staff immediately. Do not respond directly to the student.

St Monica's Catholic

Primary School

If you have any concerns, please speak to any member of the DSL team. Thank you.

Together We Learn,

Together We Grow,

Together We Excel.

