



# ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Strive to succeed in the presence of God*

4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents

It's been another busy week at school with two saints' Feast days, Harvest Festival and staff training regarding Trauma Informed Practice. Following the training day, we have been allocated a specialist to work with us over the next two years. She is going to support us as we explore why children behave the way they do and how we can support those who sometimes struggle to behave well in school.

Yesterday I went to St Michael at Bowes Primary School to complete a peer review. It's always interesting to see another school in action and although the focus was maths, they are also an OPAL school, so I pinched a few ideas from them!

**Assemblies** – On Monday, I spoke to the children about all the events we had to look forward to this week. Tuesday was the Feast of St Theresa of Lisieux. St Theresa said, "Do small things with great love." So on Tuesday afternoon the children reflected on themes of kindness, mental health and well-being. Today it has been the Feast of St Francis and this afternoon, the children have reflected on how we can take greater care of our planet. October is also Month of the Holy Rosary. Rosary beads are used to pray as we reflect on the life of Jesus from the point of view of His mother Mary. During October, we pray a decade of the Rosary every morning at 8.50am – all welcome to join us in this devotion and thank you to Mrs Morruzzi for leading it – see the class rota below.

**Harvest Festival** – Our Harvest Festival celebration took place on Thursday and a staggering £667.23 was donated. Thank you all very much for such generosity! Fr David has taken the money to give directly to St Monica's Church foodbank (Stonard Road). The volunteers there work tirelessly to feed hundreds of families in our parish and they give food freely every Monday. If you know of a family in need, please let them know they are welcome to come. The children sang beautifully at our Harvest Service – thanks to Mr Charles-Nelson for preparing the children to sing and to Fr David for coming in to lead this special service.

**Best Football** – It was the second tournament of the year on Monday, where some children represented the school at the 'Best Football Tournament'. Congratulations to Mikey, Joseph, Charlie, Oliver, Dylan, Harry, Lucas, River, Theo and Edward who took part in this tournament. It was a challenging first match, losing 7-1 to Wolfson Hillel. Miss Anderson and Terry were very proud of all the children scoring this goal, as we are the only school who have been able to score against them! In our second match, the children kept their heads held high and played very well against Our Lady of Lourdes winning 3-0. Massive congratulations to them all!



**Artist for 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary** – On Tuesday Michelle Meola, a local mural artist came to visit. She asked the children to write, draw or paint images inspired by our four House Saints. On Friday she returned to collect all their ideas and there were so many wonderful designs and creations! We're very much looking forward to the next stage where Michelle will come up with a design and children will help her with painting!

**TT Rockstars** - If your child is in KS2 (ie Years 3, 4, 5 or 6), please ensure that they log on to TT Rockstars and play the games to help improve their times tables. Teachers set battles as part of the homework, but not all children are playing. This is a useful resource that we pay for as a school, so please encourage your child to use it to support their maths learning. Did you know that quick recall of times tables ensures children can complete maths tests quickly and accurately – a good foundation for secondary school and GCSEs. **If your child does not know their login details please send a message via the school office for the attention of Mrs Hindle.**



## Diary Dates

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October – see the rota for which class leads the Rosary prayer
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Bishop John Sherrington visiting us to celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Mass
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 7pm – Literacy meeting for Reception parents in school
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 9.15am – Literacy meeting for Reception parents in school (repeat of Thurs night) – book by clicking [here](#)
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm – Quiz night (for adults only)

## Month of the Holy Rosary

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Class 6G to lead the Rosary prayer at 8.50am
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Class 6Y leads
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Class 5G
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> – Class 5Y
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> – Class 4G
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Class 4Y
- Tuesday 15 – Class 3G
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Class 3Y
- Thursday – 17<sup>th</sup> – Class 2G
- Friday – 18<sup>th</sup> – Class 2Y
- Monday – 19<sup>th</sup> – Class 1G
- Tuesday – 20<sup>th</sup> – Class 1Y
- Wednesday – 21<sup>st</sup> – Class RG
- Thursday – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Class RY
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – everyone welcome

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. It's 'World Teachers' Day' tomorrow I'm pleased all our hardworking teachers have a day off for this!

Kate Baptiste  
Headteacher