



## ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Strive to succeed in the presence of God*

### Important dates

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November- Individual/sibling photo day  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November- MC Grammar in school pm  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November- Christmas Disco after school  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Bazaar  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December- Year 1 Nativity 9.30am  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Dinner Day  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Party  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December- Break up at 1pm

### How to help at home

Our main focus is to continue practising the children's letter and number formation (these can be found on our school website). Also, addition and subtraction in maths this half term. Please use any resources to complete addition and subtraction problems (this could be as simple as pasta tubes).

Make up stories together verbally, encouraging your child's imagination. Your child may then want to write it down or create a book or comic of the story that you shared together.

Sing songs together. This will help with your child's memory. There are lots of educational songs online. Even make up your own to help them remember how to spell tricky words! Find your inner Rockstar!

Continue reading with your child when possible. Please refer to your child's reading record for ideas.

### Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families have had a relaxing and safe half term break, ready for the start of the new term.

This newsletter will give you information about some of the things that your child will be learning about during this term. We hope that you find it helpful but please do not hesitate to ask throughout the year if you ever have any concerns or questions.

**Year 1**  
**Autumn 2**

### In RE this half term...

This half term we will be exploring the Islamic faith for two lessons. Our topic is 'Prophecy and Promise'.

The focus of this branch is for pupils to develop an early understanding of the Christian belief that God showed us the full depth of his love by sending Jesus his Son. In Jesus, the invisible God becomes visible, and his love is poured out as the child in the manger at Bethlehem. Pupils learn about God's revelation through the Creation and they begin to encounter his revelation in Jesus. Pupils will then journey through the life of Jesus following the Gospel of St Luke. The focus of learning is on the narrative sequence of the story, the importance of Mary's 'Yes' to God and the presence of angels who are God's messengers and protectors and point to the divine nature of Christ.

### Useful links for Phonics

Information about the Phonics Screening Check:  
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jgcgAged/CrUrIU1U>

How to say the sounds:

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1bluklf2/paxz1hZ3>

Reading the stretchy sounds:

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/sAr0ic60/LVjOFjZT>

Reading the bouncy sounds:

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/6hGapMev/JNxWIXi5>

Reading the diagraphs:

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/lt2yRif/JlhZGSzn>

### In English...

The children will have been reassessed before half term and will now be in the correct Phonics groupings. They will be reading in class and using the books for writing. Books will be sent home when they finish in class as a 'show off' opportunity alongside an unseen book bag book of the same level. Children will be reassessed as we go along to ensure they are in the correct group throughout the year and at the end of every half term.



### In Science...

Our Science topic this half term is 'Materials'.

The children will look at exploring materials such as wood, plastic, glass, metal and rock. Children then, explore the difference between objects and the materials they are made from.

Children will continue to focus on materials and explore the simple processes of melting and freezing. The children will then explore different materials to see whether they float or sink when placed in water.

Children will carry out simple comparative tests to explore which materials are able to absorb water. They rank or sort materials based on whether they would be appropriate to clear up a water spillage.

The children will then look at seasonal changes in winter.

### In Music...

Children will have a weekly lesson with Mr Charles-Nelson. The topic this half term is "Winter celebrations." They will also be preparing for their nativity play.

### In History...

Our Topic this half term is the history of St Monica's School. Looking at changes within living memory, finding out about the past, learning about chronological order using timelines, talking to past pupils and looking at how the building has changed over time.

### In Geography...

The children have already looked at the human and physical features of St Monica's School. They have looked at key features of a map including aerial views and will learn about compass points this half term to conclude this Geography topic.

### PE ...

#### **Lesson will be on Thursday.**

**Please note there will only be one lesson of outdoor PE this half term, due to hall availability. The children will be completing the daily mile to substitute for the indoor PE session.**

#### **Games**

In games we will be looking at travelling with the ball. The children will focus on controlling the ball with their feet, avoiding obstacles, intercepting the ball as well as continuing the skills learnt last half term which included throwing and catching.

### In RHE...

Through our weekly RHE sessions the children will be looking at Emotional Well-Being. The lessons will help the children to understand and articulate their own changing feelings and how other people's feelings might differ from theirs. Children will learn how they can manage their feelings and about the consequences of their actions. Year 1 will then go on to look at Life Cycles. Showing that God created us to follow the cycle of life and He loves us at every stage. Children will learn about the specifics of the human life cycle, including the end of life. Finally, the children will start to focus on Religious Understanding. They will be looking at an adapted version of the Prodigal Son story to show children that God loves us, and nothing we can do will stop Him from loving us.

### In Maths...

This term we will be reading and writing numbers to 20 and knowing their place value. We will also be looking at number bonds within 10. The children will be working on simple addition and subtraction and learning how to record them. We will also be sharpening children's mental arithmetic skills. The children will begin to recognise and name common 2-D and 3-D shapes, including: 2-D shapes [for example, rectangles (including squares), circles and triangles]; 3-D shapes [for example, cuboids (including cubes), pyramids, cones and spheres]. They will also move onto recognising and creating repeating patterns with objects and with shapes.

### In Art...

Through this half term, the children will use the correct vocabulary to describe lines, show control when using string and chalk to draw lines. They will experiment with a range of mark-making techniques, responding appropriately to music. They will work on colouring neatly and carefully, featuring a range of different media and colours. They will be working towards producing a drawing that displays observational skill, experimenting with a range of lines and mark making.



### In ICT...

We are looking at 'Bee-Bots'  
Children will learn how to

- Recognise cause and effect when pressing buttons on a Bee-Bot.
- Discuss and demonstrate how the Bee-Bot works.
- Record video, ensuring everyone is in the shot.
- Give several clear instructions in sequence.
- Program a Bee-Bot to reach a destination.
- Identify and correct mistakes in their programming.