

St. Monica's School Weekly Newsletter

Issue No 1– Friday 7th September 2018

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope that you are all well rested and looking forward to the autumn term.

♥♥ ASSEMBLIES ♥♥

On Wednesday Mrs Baptiste welcomed everyone to the new school year and reminded the children about our expectations so that we can all be the best we can be. We are asking everyone to WALK ON THE LEFT to make corridors easier to travel along. Infants please check they know left from right!!

So that each class has more time in class for learning and covering the curriculum, we are only going to have ONE class assembly per year for each class from Yr 1-Yr 6. Please note the dates when they are sent out next week. This means there will not be any class assemblies on Thursdays until the Spring term.

School Budget

A sincere thanks to one of our dads, Mr Parry for his article in the Daily Mirror which highlighted the plight of school budgets across the country. His article can be read by clicking the link below:

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/thousands-children-face-shorter-week-13193641>

The Daily Mail also ran a story about it which can be read by clicking the link below:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6133759/Schools-threaten-scrap-Friday-afternoon-lessons-4-5-day-week-save-cash.html>

For the record, we are not moving to a 4 ½ day week at St Monica's but exploring all other options at the moment as we face a large deficit.

YEAR 6 MONITORS

Mrs Baptiste will start interviewing the Year 6 children who applied for monitoring positions at the school next week. The closing date for applications is Monday at 3.15pm.

School Routines

- Please ensure you get to school ready to start at 9am.
- Classroom doors will be open from 8.50am if you want to drop children off earlier.
- The side gates are locked at 9.10am so please leave the playground quickly after the bell goes.
- Please note that we have a school pond so keep an eye on all toddlers.
- The side gates are opened at 3.10pm and closed again at 3.45pm, so again please leave the playground quickly.
- If you need to come into school, you **must** sign in at the main entrance and never come in via any other door.
- If you sign in, please ensure that you also sign out.
- The office is open from 8.30am – 4pm so please keep to these hours for all your enquiries.
- If your child is sick, you must phone the school office to explain why **before 10am**.
- If you know your child is going to be absent eg for a doctor's appointment, music exam etc, you must complete a request for time off school form in advance and hand to the school office.

CONTACT FORMS

We are updating our files and today we sent home a Contact Form. Please complete 1 form per family and return to the school office. It is important we have up-to-date information in case of an emergency. Thank you!

MEDICATION

If your child needs to use an inhaler or epipen etc. please ensure that you hand in a spare one to be kept in the medical room. You will also need to fill out our medication form. A copy of this can be collected from the school office.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please note after school clubs (school run) will resume on the following dates:

Choir – Wednesday 19th September
Strings – Thursday 20th September
Football – Monday 10th September
Tiger Team – week commencing 10th September
Netball – Thursday 13th September

Diary Dates

- **Thursday 13th September – Year 5 Water Safety Workshop in school**
- **Thursday 13th September – Mass in school for pupils & staff to celebrate the start of the new academic year**
- **Thursday 13th September – New Reception Parents' Evening at 7.00pm, food tasting from 6.30pm**

School Dinner Money

Please ensure there are sufficient funds on your child's ParentPay dinner account at all times to cover school meals. The costs for school meals for the autumn term are as follows:

5th Sept – 19th Oct - £83.16
30th Oct – 21st Dec - £98.28

Year 3 parents please note that if your child is continuing with school dinners there will now be a £2.52 charge for a school meal.

Education Sunday

Midday Mass at St Monica's Church has been dedicated to "Education Sunday". If you would like to attend that Mass there will be special prayers for schools and all staff.

PRAYER

Lord, be with us as we start another school year. Give us the generosity to forget past arguments and to start new friendships. Help us to make the most of the opportunities that come our way. Give courage to those who have left us to start another episode in their lives. Life is full of stops and starts. Each new start is a chance to do something a little better. Guide us as we make our way through this new school year.

Have a lovely weekend!