

23rd July 2021

Dear Parents

Some of you may know I was unfortunate to be “pinged” on Monday night and have since been in isolation. It has been a very frustrating week not to be able to share in everything that has happened and say a proper goodbye to staff, children and parents, especially those in Year 6 and those families leaving us. I did manage to zoom all the classes this morning for our weekly assembly, but it’s not the same.

By all accounts, it has been a busy week with lots going on.

Year 6 leaving - It has been a different sort of end for our Year 6 children and they weren’t able to hold their usual “live” end of year productions or Leavers’ Mass. However, they did manage to record an end of year play and a Leavers’ Liturgy which was shared with parents.

Year 6 Junior Bake-off! – On Monday morning Year 6 demonstrated a wide range of baking and decorating skills. Mrs Murphy and Ms Phillips were invited to be judges due to their baking expertise. Unfortunately Ms Phillips was unwell and so thank you to Mrs Shaw for stepping in. They were very busy tasting and sharing wonderful comments about the cakes and biscuits. The results were as follows: Best Cake - Clara O’Keeffe, Runner up - Maeve McCoole. Best Biscuit - Gracie McGovern, Runner up - Honoree Wallis. Best Brownie and Scone - Alex Donouzjian, Runner up - Callaghan Starken. Most Delicious - Olivia Phillips, Runner up - Jayden Smith Koomson. Most Effort - Liam Shine, Runner up - Ronnie Hurndall. Best Looking - Ellen Normoyle, Runner up - Olivia Gallagher. Congratulations to all of the participants; there were over 25 entrants! Thank you to Mrs Koumpi for presenting the prizes. We wish all our Year 6 children every success and happiness with their new adventures in secondary school.

Be Dog Smart Workshops – The children had workshops on Monday from the Dogs Trust. These were to encourage children to know what is safe and appropriate behaviour around the dogs they have in their homes, as well as those belonging to other people.

What is Be Dog Smart?

Be Dog Smart is the Dogs Trust Education Programme offering exciting, interactive dog welfare workshops based on our key theme of **How to Behave Safely Around Dogs**. Our lessons are designed to naturally embed **PSHE**, promoting discussion around **actions and consequences** and encouraging **critical thinking**.



Knights of St Columba art competition – Year 4 children took part in an Easter card competition and I would like to congratulate the winner, Sofia G who won £20 and those who came 2nd; Daniela and Filip who both won £15!

5G’s Cake sale – Well done to the children of 5G who raised £68.60 which will go to the charity WWF.

First Holy Communion – Congratulations to all our children in Year 3, who have been making or will be making their First Holy Communion over the coming weeks. Thank you to Anna, our Parish Catechist who has prepared them so well for this important Sacrament.

Advance notice

PE kit – Please ensure you have a pair of dark green shorts and dark green PE t-shirt for PE lessons, as well as a suitable pair of trainers for running. Children will continue to come into school in their PE kits on PE days – days to be advised in September.

Uniform – Gingham dresses are fine until October half term. White shirts must be worn with a tie. School shoes will be expected from September.

Pencil Cases – Please get a pencil case prepared for your child for September (from Yr1 upwards)

After school clubs – In September, we hope to resume Year 6 football and netball, choir, strings group & football coaching for younger years. Days will be advised as soon as I have confirmation from coaches.

Thank you – A huge thank you for all the very generous gifts you have sent in for all staff; they really are very much appreciated. I hope you all have a good rest over the summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming the children from Reception to Year 5 back in September.

To all those families leaving us this summer, I wish you every success and happiness for the future. I hope you will always remember the time you enjoyed in St Monica's.

Kind regards,
Kate Baptiste
Headteacher