

15th October 2021

Dear Parents

Harvest Festival

Apologies to Ms Phillips for completely forgetting to include the highlight of the Harvest Festival celebrations last Friday, which was hearing the children's beautiful singing! Ms Phillips prepared songs with the Infants and Juniors and it was a joy to hear them singing praises for all the food we have and for them to pray their thanks for the harvest. Thanks also to Ms Phillips for coming in on her day off to make this happen!

Inset day

Last Wednesday, school was closed for an Inset day. This is "in-service training" when the staff get the chance to "go back to school" for some of their own learning.

We had a very interesting morning with Karen Brooke from Oshun Training & Curriculum Development. She spoke to us about "decolonising our minds" so that we could "decolonise our curriculum". We had very interesting conversations about race, unconscious bias and how to ensure all children and families feel valued in our school, whatever their race or background.

I found an interesting article online trying to explain white privilege, written by a white person. Click on the link if you would like to read more.

<https://medium.com/@daniellejoanhealy/understanding-privilege-in-a-language-we-can-all-understand-mario-kart-8370fd01cb62>

In the afternoon, we had an Apple instructor who trained the teachers in how to use various apps. We learnt about "Showbie", "Poplet", "Stop motion studio" and "iMovie". It was a fun afternoon where we learnt some new skills and showed off our own creativity using green screen! We hope to be sharing these things with the children over the coming year.

Assemblies

Mrs Roper led an assembly with the Junior children about dyslexia, click to see more

http://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=11r7CFIK2sc&ab_channel=BritishDyslexiaAssociation She also led an assembly with the Juniors about developmental language disorder (DLD), click the link to see more

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQ-s02HWLb0>

Mrs Roper also explained to the Infant children that sometimes we need resources to help us with our learning and she shared what some of those things are. We appreciate how we are all different and have our own unique successes and challenges and we must be respectful of each other and support one another.

On Monday I spoke to all the children about October being the month of the Holy Rosary. Before school, Years 5 & 6 have prayed a decade of the Rosary at the front of the school. On Monday we invite Year 4, Tuesday – Year 3, Wednesday – Year 2, Thursday – Year 1 and Friday – Reception. Through praying the Rosary we find out about Jesus' life and we can also learn from the example Jesus' Mother, Mary set. She said yes to God. I encouraged the children to say "yes" when they were asked to do something by a teacher/parent/guardian – let's hope they do!

Oakfield Road

A concerned resident has contacted the school to say she witnessed an adult driving on Oakfield Road. Her rear car door was open and it smashed the tail light of a parked car. Although the driver did get out to look at the damage along with another driver, one of the adults was heard to say, "leave it" and drive away. The adult had apparently dropped off at St Monica's. I hope that this resident was mistaken and a note was left to the damaged car.

Cross Country Competition at Forty Hall

A special "congratulations" to Jagna who came first in the girls' cross country race last week!

Mrs Warrington & Mrs Duffy – PE Leaders

Parent Governor

The last day for returning signed ballot papers for the Parent Governor role is today. However, if your child has been isolating due to Covid and you have not been able to return a ballot paper, an extension has been given until Monday 18th. You could also email your vote in confidence to office@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk Votes will be counted on Tuesday 19th October.

Dates to note for your diary:

Sunday 17th October - refreshments will be served after 9am and 10.30am Mass in the hall – all proceeds will go to The Friends of St Monica's School – thank you to all the volunteers who will be helping – see flier.

Wednesday 20th October 7pm – Literacy meeting for Reception parents via zoom

Friday 22nd October – show racism the red card – children are invited to wear anything red this day as a sign that we are anti-racist at St Monica's.

Monday 25th – Friday 29th October – School closed for the half term holiday

Monday 1st November – school open as normal

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. I am currently in bed with covid and not feeling that well so will not be seeing you now until after half term. I am doing some emails each day when I'm able and hoping to feel much better soon.

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste

Headteacher