

25th November 2022

Dear Parents

Today has been a very busy day, starting with hundreds of bottles being donated for the Christmas Bazaar – thank you all! The children were very excited for the disco all day and then singing and dancing around the school, having a great time after school! Thanks to members of The Friends committee: Dani, Peachy and Eorann for organising the snacks. I hope we have raised a lot of funds for The Friends which will be spent on resources for the children that our school budget cannot stretch to. Events like this would not be possible without the staff volunteering their time so freely - thanks to them all and especially those who came in to do the disco when they don't normally work!!

St Cecilia Music Concert – On Tuesday it was the Feast of St Cecilia, patron saint of music and in the evening Ms Phillips held a music concert in our school hall. Children from the choir and orchestra delighted their families with songs they had been learning over these last seven weeks. Children in the choir will be performing at the 02 in January which we are all looking forward to. We are very grateful to our peripatetic teachers from Enfield Music Service who come into school to teach the children. A particular thanks to Lynn who leads the orchestra group after school on Thursdays with Ms Phillips. We are extremely fortunate to have a music specialist, Ms Phillips, to arrange such wonderful opportunities for the children – a big thanks to her. As well as thanking Ms Phillips, I would also like to thank Mrs Shaw and Mrs Wilks who help her run the choir every Monday after school.

Assemblies – We are having fewer whole school assemblies now, as children are spending more time rehearsing for their Christmas nativities and Carol Services. Children are however, doing their own acts of worship in class. We did gather as a whole school on Thursday though, to enjoy listening to the choir and orchestra perform pieces from Tuesday evening's concert. It was so uplifting to hear them sing and play.

Year 6 trip to Wolfson Hillel – On Tuesday, Year 6 took a trip to Wolfson Hillel Primary School in Southgate. This is a Jewish school and our children enjoyed meeting them and hearing about some of their religious practices, such as washing in silence before eating. They had a really fun day of activities, starting the day singing songs from musicals, playing “speed dating” to get to know each other and writing “I am” poems. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and we look forward to welcoming the children from Wolfson Hillel to St Monica's after Christmas.

Mosaic artist in school – We have had a mosaic artist, Tamara Froud in school all week with her team Jen French and Alex McHallam. They led twenty eight separate workshops so that the children could learn how to make a mosaic piece and make their own tile. These tiles have been painstakingly put together to create a huge mosaic which is now hanging in the entrance to the school. Huge thanks Tamara, Jen and Alex for inspiring the children with their talent and for their patience and enthusiasm. Another enormous thanks to “The Friends” who paid for Tamara to lead these workshops! A big thanks also goes to Anna Chaturvedi and Lucia McNicholas, the two mums who volunteered their time to help out – it is much appreciated.

Open Afternoon for Reception class admissions – We were delighted to welcome lots of visitors to the school on Thursday afternoon. Prospective parents thoroughly enjoyed meeting the children from Class 6G. The children were enthusiastic in showing everyone around the school and spoke confidently and articulately to our guests. Well done to them for being great ambassadors for the school. If you know of any families whose child was born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019, remind them that they will need to apply for a Reception class place by 15th January. The deadline for the St Monica's paperwork is Friday 13th January. All details can be found on our website <https://www.st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk/admissions/>

Diary Dates

- **Monday 28th November** – bring cash for the hamper appeal for families in need – suggested donation of £1 per child, but more if you can afford it. The details were emailed to parents last week. We have a lot of families in our local community who are in great need, so please support this.
- **Monday 28th November** – Years 3 and 4 walking to St Monica's church for a Carol Service rehearsal – make sure they all have a coat.
- **Wednesday 30th November** - Year 3 children are going to Westminster Cathedral for a Nativity Service. Don't forget to bring a packed lunch
- **Friday 2nd December** – non-uniform day in exchange for cakes/gifts/jars of sweets for hoopla for the bazaar
- **Saturday 3rd December** – Christmas Bazaar in school 12-4pm!
- **Wednesday 7th December** – Christmas dinner day
- **Friday 9th December** – Years 5 and 6 walking to St Monica's church for a Carol Service rehearsal – make sure they all have a coat
- **Friday 9th December 9am** – Coffee morning in school for parents who have a child with a special educational need - all welcome

Sunday is the first Sunday of the Season of Advent when we start the countdown to Christmas and light the first candle on our Advent wreath! I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,
Kate Baptiste, Headteacher