

8th September 2023

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the start of a new school year and a special welcome to all our Reception children who started with us this week as well as our new staff members. We also welcomed Fr David, our new assistant Priest from St Monica's Church and look forward to seeing him regularly at school.

It has been stifflingly hot this week and we hope the temperatures will have dropped by Monday. Wearing a school tie will be optional until the following week.

Reception settling in – Both Reception classes were in school this week and will be full-time from Monday (9am drop off at the same gate you have been using this week but pick up at 3.15pm from the Infant playground). They seem to be settling in nicely and joined us this morning for their very first whole school assembly! It was lovely to see the siblings waving to each other across the room! They sat really well and listened attentively – well done to them! Reception parents should all have received a login for SchoolGrid, so please make sure you choose the lunches for them for next week. Please also see the text messages that were sent regarding Tapestry.

School Dinners – Lots of children across the school have not chosen a school meal in advance which is causing quite a delay for teachers starting lessons in the morning. Please can you log on to SchoolGrid and make your choices for the next few weeks. If you can't remember your login, please email the office or phone and speak to Tracey.

Assemblies – At the whole school assembly on Monday (for Yrs 1-6) and then to infants and juniors on Tuesday and Wednesday, I reminded the children what our mission statement is.

We "**strive to succeed in the presence of God**", which means we are all working really hard to be the best we can be in as many ways and areas as possible. We can be especially successful in our aims if we work as a TEAM.

Together – as a Catholic community

Everyone - children, staff, parents, carers and parish

Achieves – in their unique way and tries to be

More – like Jesus

After School Clubs – Externally run after school clubs will provide all their dates directly to parents. Please ensure you check with the club when it starts and when it ends – lots of them didn't start this week and we had a lot of phone calls to make! As far as I know they all start next week.

Seeking child-care – A St Monica's family are looking for an afterschool nanny/ childminder on Wednesday and Thursday to collect three children from the school and bring home to N21. If anyone knows someone who may be interested and available please contact Angela (07930148033).

Education Sunday 10th September – Fr Mehall has invited all families of the school to Mass at 10.30am at St Monica's Church, Stonard Road on Sunday. The children will start Mass singing "Here I Am to Worship, Here I am to Bow Down", some children will also be doing the Offertory procession and reading Bidding Prayers (they know who they are). Please can your child wear school uniform (green summer dress or short and tie). The song can be practised here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03G52K9X2hQ>

Save the date! (A full list of dates for the year will be emailed next week)

Sunday 10th Sept 10.30am – Mass at St Monica's Church – arrive 10.25am children wear school uniform

Friday 29th Sept 9am – Macmillan coffee morning in school hall – volunteers needed - to serve and also make cakes/biscuits

Friday 13th October 7pm – Quiz Night for all parents – details to follow

Friday 10th November – Happy bag collection – save unwanted clothes to recycle – details to follow

Friday 8th December – Parents social at The Kings Head – details to follow

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste, Headteacher