

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents

On Wednesday, all the staff spent the day learning about the importance of play. 20% of the children's day is spent in the playground and yet it's the least planned for area. We heard some really good ideas about what playtime could be like and will be holding an audit and planning meeting next week to make a start on improving our play offer. Thanks very much to the 123 parents who took the time to complete the survey. The vast majority of you feel play is also an important part of the day. I have seen a couple of concerning responses; one in particular which was about racism. As the survey was anonymous, I would urge you to please contact me directly about this on [headteacher@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk) as this is not something I will tolerate at school.

You can watch a short video of another OPAL school (taken over one 45 minute lunch period on one day) here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=cm7IfAEsjql&t=2s>

**Assembly** – On Monday I spoke to the children about the inspirational people who have entered this year's Guinness Book of Records. Children may also be inspired by St Therese of Lisieux whose Feast day was on Sunday.

**Harvest Festival** – Thank you very much for your generous donations to the St Monica's Food Bank. Over £300 was raised which we really appreciate. More money was still coming in today, so I'll give you a final total next week. At the assembly, the children reflected on how many KEY words they could make from the word HARVEST. Some examples are "have", "eat" and most importantly "share". Fr David blessed all the children and thanked them for their generosity. The children loved singing "Harvest Samba" and another song about gratitude.

**Thank you!** – A big thank you to The Friends for their donation to us of £3,000 which will be used to repair the section of the Infant climbing equipment which is broken.

**The Friends' Quiz Night** – There are no more tables available for the quiz night – SOLD OUT! However, if you'd like one or two spaces, you may be able to join a team. Email [thefriendsofstmonicas@gmail.com](mailto:thefriendsofstmonicas@gmail.com) and spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you haven't paid for your ticket, please do so asap – please add your name as a reference, so the committee know where the money is coming from. Thank you!

**Year 6 football league** – On Monday Miss Dalton took a group of Year 6 boys to play in league matches. Thanks very much to Mr Pizzi-Njada who supported Miss Dalton with the coaching as that is not her area of expertise! If any other parents are keen to help, please let her know. The boys won one match against Wolfson Hillel 4-2 and lost one to Hazelwood 3-0. Well done to them all for their good sportsmanship.

**Cross Country** – A group of boys and girls from Years 5 and 6 children took part in a Borough Cross Country competition this afternoon. 115 children took part in the boys' race and 115 in the girls. In the girls' team we had Florence, Dearbhla, Aoibéánn, Lucja and Rose. The boys' team consisted of Theo, Henry, Dylan, Oscar and Freddie. Congratulations to all the children who took part and a particular very well done to Florence Graeme who came 6<sup>th</sup> overall!

**Flu vaccines today** – Lots of children had their flu vaccine today. The nurses will be back in the afternoon of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October for any children who were absent or wouldn't have it today. If you didn't get around to consenting, your child could also be included on this date. See website for the consent form <https://www.st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk/parents/letters-to-parents/>

**Usborne Books – seeking help** – If you would be interested in working for Anne Croxford at Usborne Books, please see the attached flier.

**Creation Competition** – The deadline for submissions to this competition is today! For more information click the link <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:eu:17397a16-cd2d-4ee4-a614-764cbdda9654> *Winners announced at Mass of Creation 10.30am on Sunday 8th October*

#### **Diary Dates**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.30am** - winner of the Creation competition will be announced at Mass

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm** – Friends Quiz Night – please see above

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 1pm** – Nurses return to give remaining children their flu nasal spray vaccine

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 7pm** – Literacy meeting for Reception parents

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 9.15am** – repeat of Literacy meeting for Reception parents

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards  
Kate Baptiste  
Headteacher