

10th November 2023

Dear Parents

It has been yet another busy week at St Monica's. I hope you enjoyed reading the newsletter from our new Friends committee – we have lots to look forward to. They said, "Our ethos, much like St Monica's, is to ensure that we are an inclusive community by organising family-friendly events that celebrate the diverse cultures and backgrounds of our students and their families."

Simultaneously, one of our parent governors is keen to celebrate our diverse community and find ways of everyone being fully included in all aspects of school. She sends this message:

Coffee Morning Invitation! – *Amongst the children at Saint Monica's school there is a wealth of diversity. As their parents/carers, let's build on the community, celebrate it and learn from each other how we can best ensure that our children feel well represented and included so they really thrive.*

Join me - I'm Kiki, (the member of the school governing body who oversees equality) for a meet and greet coffee morning on Tuesday 21st November at 9.10 - 10.10. Let's start those conversations, share thoughts and ideas in an informal welcoming environment. I look forward to meeting you then.

Parents Evening – Most parents met with their child's class teacher this week. If you didn't get a chance to do this, please email the office to make an appointment. It is so important that you take an interest in how your child is getting on at school.

Usborne Books – Anne Croxford was in school on Wednesday selling books. We earned £530 in commission we can spend on buying books for our class libraries – thank you Anne and special thanks to all the parents for your purchases!

2nd hand Uniform – I hope some of you were able to take advantage of the second-hand uniform that was available on Wednesday. There will be a stall at the Christmas Bazaar to buy more uniform at rock-bottom prices! Let's get re-using and recycling.

School Council – In class this week there has been a fair amount of excitement with writing and listening to manifestos and then casting a democratic vote for school councillors. We'll be announcing the new team on Monday's assembly.

Assemblies – On Monday we had an awards assembly and I congratulated Class 6Y for being brilliant ambassadors for the school last Friday when they led tours around the school for prospective parents. It will be 6G's turn in a few weeks. On Tuesday and Wednesday I spoke to the Infants and then the Juniors about why we wear poppies. We prayed for peace in our world. Today, the children held a two minute silence to remember the deceased from war. A Remembrance Day themed lunch was also served today.

Thank you! - £480.32 was raised at the tea and coffee morning at church last Sunday – an incredible amount! Thank you to all those who donated cakes, served teas and coffees and helped to make the occasion such a special and enjoyable one for everyone.

Happy Bag collection – Thanks to everyone for your bags of unwanted clothing etc. An incredible £919.60 was raised which goes to The Friends account, to be used for the school! Money for nothing! 5Y brought in the most bags and so win a non-uniform day (next Friday 17th Nov).

Is your child Year 4 or above and do they like to sing? – Christine Dench runs a choir at St Monica's church and they sing at a Saturday evening Mass once/month. If you'd like more information or to find out when they are next singing, contact Christine on callenN4@aol.com or 07966 140 508.

Diary Dates

Monday 13th Nov – Odd socks day – children can wear odd socks as we mark anti-bullying week

Friday 17th Nov – Deadline for submitting your entry for the front cover of the Christmas Bazaar brochure (design must be A4 portrait on white paper and state St Monica's School Bazaar, Saturday December 2nd 12-4pm) Also, 5Y non-uniform day for bringing the most bags today.

Saturday 18th Nov 11.15-12.30 – Chance to try and learn to play the drums (flier sent last week)

Monday 20th Nov 7pm – Choir concert – please complete the form so we know how many chairs we need <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdra1otEEcY5xe4f4B0y24JTjcAzaTprkIT7B9CHWyXQ7nPKA/viewform>

Tuesday 21st Nov 9.15am – Coffee morning for parents in school – see Kiki's message above - all welcome

I hope you all have a lovely weekend

Kind regards, Kate Baptiste, Headteacher