

1st December 2023

Dear Parents

Christmas Bazaar – Tomorrow promises to be a fantastic day. Make sure you have a look at the e-brochure so you don't miss out on any stalls. <https://www.st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk/our-school/friends/>

A big thank you to everyone who brought in cakes, jars of sweets and more gifts for the Elfridges Stall today. A team of parents (& a grandparent) have done a wonderful job planting beautiful plants at the front of school; huge thanks to our parents Bonnie DeSeze and Robert Moore for their very generous donations of these plants. We are also grateful to Green Dragon Trees for their donation of two Christmas trees and Annette Rockwell and her mum who have decorated them beautifully. It is such a massive effort for everyone and as I type this there are scores of parents getting the school ready for the morning, led by our new fabulous Committee members – thank you all!

Gymnastics Festival – I have had a thoroughly enjoyable week with three groups of children who represented the school at the Enfield Gymnastics Festivals. Congratulations to Isabella, Joel, Hadassa, Sofia and Eliana who took part in the Festival for Years 1 and 2; Ethan, Lylan, Emily, Millie and Ella who took part in the Festival for Years 3 & 4; and Elizabeth, Chloe, Eirinn, Isabel and Nora who not only took part in the Festival for Years 5 & 6 but came home with the trophy for 2nd place! They had all learnt a floor routine as well as performing on a vault – well done to them all! You can view photos on the website of this and other recent events. <https://www.st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk/category/news/>

Assemblies – Our KS2 children have learnt about Cordoba in Spain and we were delighted to welcome Maria from Olé Spanish last Friday who led an assembly all about it – she is an expert as that is where she was born! It was a very interesting and engaging assembly – thanks so much to Maria!

On Tuesday Miss Galvin read "The Colour Monster" by Anna Llenas to the infant children. She talked about the zones of regulation that we use in school to help children identify their emotions. We always try to get into the green zone so we're ready for learning. There are strategies which the children have been taught if they are in the red, blue or yellow zone.

Ms Oti, one of our new teachers, led a KS2 assembly on Wednesday about her perspective of the school. She said that we should all be grateful for the many wonderful things we have at St Monica's such as the technology, our forest, teaching assistants, music opportunities and all the amazing staff. We should never take these things for granted.

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) – On Monday, Miss Bowling and Lindsey led an assembly to all the children about OPAL. Now we have begun our OPAL journey and on Wednesday morning, infants and juniors mixed in the playgrounds. The feedback from the children was very positive and we will repeat this next Monday, Wednesday and Friday in morning break. Slowly activities will be introduced which will provide a range of stimulating, fun as well as calm activities for the children to enjoy.

Year 3 trip to Westminster Cathedral – Year 3 took the underground to Westminster Cathedral for this year's Advent Carol Service. They enjoyed seeing the real-life donkey and listening to the Christmas story. I have received an email from one of our school Governors, Bob Westbury who was not at the service but knew several people who were, and they messaged him to say how impeccably behaved the children were in the Cathedral! Now that's the sort of email I like to receive!!

Year 6 trip to The Tate Modern Art Gallery – Year 6 visited this art gallery on Wednesday and saw a range of styles of art. It was an interesting day and some of the children questioned if it really was art – apparently it was!

Apologies to Lynne – I seem to have left a sentence incomplete in last Friday's newsletter! It should have read... Then on Thursday morning, Lynne's strings group performed to the school and parents. The talent of the children was exceptional and we are very grateful to our very talented strings teacher Lynne Baker. I hope the parents enjoyed it too.

Animal Charity – We raised just over £200 for The Dogs Trust Charity; and the enormous pug was won by Nicola in Year 2! It was taller than her! I hope she can find room for it at home!

Pet Photo Competition – For all you pet lovers, the new Friends committee are running a Christmas competition! Take a photo of your pet (or if you don't have a pet, draw/create one) and submit it by 12th December. Winners will be in the following categories: Most Festive Pet, Silliest Pet, Cutest Pet, Me & My Pet, My Dream Pet. All the details about where to submit your entry can be found here <https://app.goodhub.com/christmaspetphoto2023> We look forward to seeing your entries.

Diary Dates

Saturday 2nd Dec 12-4pm – Christmas Bazaar

Sunday 3rd Dec – deadline for booking music lessons for January with EMS <https://traded.enfield.gov.uk/musicstore>

Wed 6th Dec – Years 3 & 4 will be walking to church to rehearse for their Carol Service, please ensure they have a suitable coat that is warm and waterproof

Friday 8th Dec last day for children to come in early for IDL spelling programme. All accounts will be locked while reassessment takes place and opened again in Monday 8th January.

Friday 8th Dec Christmas Disco after school until 4.30pm – click the link to donate £4 per ticket

<https://app.goodhub.com/kidschristmasdisco2023>

I hope to see lots of you at the Bazaar tomorrow.

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste
Headteacher