



Newsletter

Edition 99

Friday 15th September 2023

Catholic Social Teaching: **Dignity**

Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.

Every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. This is a gift that we all share as fellow human beings; we are all infinitely loved by our Creator. God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation or economic standing. Each one of us is unique and beautiful. We are called to treat every person and every creature with loving respect.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Newsletter

Welcome back!

We are certainly enjoying the late bloom of summer sunshine but it has been so lovely hearing everyone's news and stories about the summer holidays. I hope that you had a good break with your loved ones and that you all managed to relax, have fun and enjoy the time off school. We start the term positively, with a busy year ahead. The staff in St. Monica's are very much looking forward to working with you.

As our schools continue to work together and our partnership evolves, we are planning more opportunities for the children to share experiences and enjoy learning together. Mrs Jallow, Head of School will be sharing a number of important information for your diaries in our Autumn Newsletter. Please do make a note of the important dates.

As we continue to grow and learn, let us remember Psalm 25:4, "Show me your ways Lord, teach me your paths." May God, Our Loving Father, continue to bless and guide us always.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Ruthven

Executive Headteacher

A warm welcome to everyone. I hope that you had a good break and that you managed to relax, have fun and enjoy the time off school. We started the term positively, with a busy year ahead. We are looking forward to getting to know our new friends, their talents and skills, so that they can be full participants of school life. As part of our Vision Assembly on Friday, we reflected on the importance of our school Vision and Mission and how we can all work together in order to achieve this in our day to day lives.

Staffing We are delighted to welcome new staff to the St Monica's team this year:

- Our new teacher, Mr Pieter Oberholzer in Year 6 and Ms Christine Hodge, our new Office Manager.

St Monica's is a place to grow and staff move into new roles as they develop. This year, Ms Rodrigues and Mrs. Jenny Vaughan join the Senior Management Team, bringing their skills to the team, and Mrs. Vaughan is now a qualified Assistant SENCo.

Free School Meals - Starting from September, the Mayor of London is offering free meals to all pupils from Reception to Year 6. **To help all parents with the cost of living crisis, we will also provide free meals to all Nursery and Pre-School pupils.** We will continue to provide healthy, nutritious and balanced menu to all our pupils. Please check the school website for the termly menu. The Mayor's free meals is **different** to the national free school meal program. If you are on an income-related benefit, you may qualify for additional support, including supermarket vouchers during holidays. Please see Page 4 for information on this scheme.

Let's do 2023-2024! School starts at 8.55am for all pupils, with the playground open and supervised from 8.40am. Toddlers finish school at 3pm and Rec-Y6 at 3.20pm. Good punctuality and an attendance of at least 96% are minimum expectations.

At St Monica's, our pupils meet the high expectations we set for them, such as taking responsibility for being prepared for their learning. This includes:

- correct and labelled uniform - both full school uniform and PE uniform
- healthy snacks and packed lunches (if you decide not to take the free school meal).

Communication—We use Class Dojo as our main tool for communication. We do kindly ask that you allow up to 5 working days for staff to respond to individual queries. We do our best to answer sooner, however sometimes that is not possible. If there is an urgent issue, please contact us via the School Office on 02077395824.

We are looking forward to working with you to uphold the values and traditions which make our school community such a special and nurturing place to be.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Lenka Jallow

Head of School

Message for the pupils

Welcome back children! I am so proud of how well you have settled back into school and our routines. It is going to be an exciting year ahead and let us continue with the way we have started. **Keep it up!**

Parent Curriculum Consultation Meetings

Parents'/Carers are invited in to school on **Tuesday 17th October 2023**. The session will run from 3:30—4:30pm. Class teachers will discuss the upcoming year with you. For those parents who can't make it on Tuesday 17th October 2023; we will upload the curriculum expectations on **Wednesday 18th October** onto Class Dojo. Please add these dates to your diary and we look forward to meeting with you. If a parent wishes to speak to a teacher individually, please book an appointment via Class Dojo .

SEND Introduction by Mrs. Vaughan

Welcome back to all of our students and parents. Remember to check out the Hackney Local Offer information for general support for SEND and information on what the local authority can provide:

<https://www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/kb5/hackney/localoffer/home.page>

Also our SEN Policy and Information Report is on our website. More information our SEND will be on our special edition Newsletter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Some assemblies will be held virtually on Class Dojo. We will also upload a YouTube link so that you can enjoy them any time! Please keep an eye for parents watching assemblies.

04/10—Harvest Festival/assembly

17– 18/10—Parents Evening

20/10 —Black History assembly & International evening

Black History Month

Here at St Monica's it is important that our children engage with a wide range of cultures, traditions and stories; Black History Month being an excellent time to do this!

This year our theme for Black History week is **Ancient African Civilisations**. We will be exploring the impact, influence and histories of these powerful civilisations. Our Black History Week will take place from 16th to 20th October. Children are also be invited to wear the traditional dress from their families' countries or colours of the flags to celebrate the diversity here at St Monica's.

Class Dojos and Parent Communication

Please note Class Dojo is our main platform for parental communication in conjunction with text messages and email. Please ensure that your details are current and up to date. Please remember, you can always make an appointment to meet with class teachers and senior management. Please kindly allow up to 5 working days for staff to respond. If you have not signed up for Class Dojo, please do so ASAP! Achievement Celebration Books will be sent out half termly.

All emails should be sent via the office:

office@st-monicas.hackney.sch.uk

Reception Places are still available

This year, we still have some places available in our Reception class for children aged 3 and 4 i.e. those born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019.

Please fill in the application form [online](#) or pick up a hard copy from the School Office.

If you need support with this, please contact the school office on 02077395824 or by email to office@st-monicas.hackney.sch.uk

Parent Handbook

Our digital Parent Handbook has been updated. This is an informative document that will furnish you with additional information about our school. This can be found on our school website.

Uniform Policy

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and enables students to feel pride in their school. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work.

The uniform policy is available on the website for further reference.

Coat – ideally plain blue or black (no denim, leather, quilted shirts or hoodies).

School Bag – St Monica's book bag or rucksack.

Nail varnish or jewelry – This must not be worn for school. Items of jewelry which are not in line with the policy will be confiscated. If ears are already pierced, only one small, plain gold or silver-coloured stud (no jewels) may be worn in each ear lobe.

Hair – should not be outlandish in style or colours. Mohican cuts and lines are not permitted. Please do not cut these styles for your children.

PE – Please refer to the school policy – White logo shirt – Navy blue shorts or jogger bottoms.

Footwear: No boots, canvas shoes or trainer style shoes are permitted, including branded sports makes including (but not limited to) Nike, Adidas, Reebok, Converse, Stan Smiths and Vans.

As we return in September, staff will check the uniform of all pupils. Any students not in the correct uniform will receive a letter. If you have any questions about the guidance, please do not hesitate to contact school or refer to the uniform policy on the website. If you are unsure whether a piece of uniform is acceptable, please consult the school before buying. If there are any extenuating circumstances, which mean you are unable to meet the uniform requirements by Monday 19th September, please email: office@st-monicas.hackney.sch.uk.

We look forward to your support in ensuring all students are treated equally and trust the guidance above makes things much clearer for everyone.

Roald Dahl Day

It is becoming a St. Monica's tradition that we celebrate Roald Dahl's birthday each year and, in 2023, he would have been 107 years old!

On Friday 15th September, the children can come into school dressed as a character from one of Dahl's books or they are welcome to wear yellow, which was Roald Dahl's favourite colour.



Best Attendance and Punctuality

Congratulations to:
Class 5 and Class 2 for achieving 93.75%

BEST ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY THIS WEEK

Wednesday's Word

Our Wednesday Word for this week, which links in with our Sunday Gospel is:

FORGIVENESS

“Forgiveness does not come naturally. Forgiving from the heart can sometimes be heroic.”

Pope St John Paul II

First Day Back to School



Prefects and Pupil Leaders 2023/24

Swearing-in



Free School Meal Status/Vouchers

The National Free School Meals (FSM) is different from the new Mayor of London's free schools for all primary school pupils.

Schools get extra funding, known as the 'Pupil Premium', for every child registered as eligible for FSM if their parents are receiving benefits. Schools use this money for various activities to support their pupils.

Please note only children Registered as eligible for FSM are entitled to school holiday supermarket vouchers.

To be eligible, you need to be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with a taxable income of no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of Working Tax Credit
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, or Council Tax Benefit (not including second adult rebate)

If you are not sure whether you are eligible for this, you can check online through [here](#). If you would like more support, please speak to the the school office or contact Hackney Education (Pupil Benefits team) on 020 8820 7000 .