

NEWSLETTER

10th September 2018 – 14th September 2018

THE LITURGICAL LIFE OF ST MONICA'S SCHOOL



Back to School Prayer

*We thank you for the fragrance of a new box of crayons, Lord,
The rainbow in each perfect row;
Thank you for each bundle of snowy white notebook paper,
Awaiting fresh possibilities.
May they remind us that you make all things new and bless us with abundance.
Thank you for this ruler; for every eraser that tops every pencil.
May they help us remember to measure our blessings,
But never your boundless love for us;
To allow for the making of mistakes as a normal part of human learning.
As we lay out our new clothes for these first days of school,
Help us remember to put on Christ each day, too,
And to "clothe the naked" as He asked us.
But mostly, God, help us remember
that Jesus is always our best and most devoted teacher—
That we never outgrow all his lessons on how you want us to live and to love.*

By HomeFaith editor Mary Lynn Hendrickson

SCHOOL GATEWAY

From time to time, we send information to parents via text message to your mobile phone. A new, free, smart-phone app for parents is now available for download called 'school gateway' for most devices. If you haven't already done so please could you download this new app to your phone. Please read the attached letter regarding the app and how to download.

ASSEMBLIES

The assembly pattern for this year is, Monday –Year 8, Tuesday – Year 9, Wednesday –Year 7, Thursday –Year 11, Friday – Year 10.

MOBILES

Please ensure pupils are aware the use of mobile phones is not allowed during the school day including if students are using the LRC after school, For Health and Safety reasons, pupils may hand their mobile phones into the main office at the start of the day and collect them at the end.

Pupils caught using their mobile phones in school will have their phones confiscated and placed in the office for them to collect at the end of the day. If this happens a second time, in a half term, parents/carers will have to collect them from the school office in person, the next day. The third time, in a half term, a mobile phone is confiscated it will be kept to the end of the half term.

UNIFORM CONSULTATION

The school is currently working to upload an online survey to gather parent/carers views on uniform. Once this is up and running we will let you know. Thank you for your support.



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Bury Old Road, Prestwich
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0161 773 6436

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a concern for the safety of a child at the school you can contact Mrs. Walker, the designated Child Protection Officer on 0161 773 6436 or g.walker@stmonicas.co.uk
You can also contact Bury Social Services directly on 0161 253 5678.

UNIFORM

All uniform should be of the highest standard and in line with school policy. The uniform guidelines are on the school website.



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YEAR 7 CAT TESTING

CAT (Cognitive Ability Tests) testing will begin for year 7 students on Wednesday 12th September. This is not something that students should be worried about, it is a test that you cannot revise for. It is used to help teachers learn more about your child's strengths and challenges in learning. The tests are administered digitally in our LRC and will be taken in test conditions, supervised by class teachers. Please remind your child of the need for high standards. The only equipment they will need are a pair of headphones. School will provide these; but if your child wishes to bring their own they may do so. Thank you for support and please can I emphasise, NO preparation is needed for these tests! Have a lovely weekend after a very busy first week.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----|
| Wednesday 12 th September | P1,2,3 | 7B |
| Thursday 13 th September | P2,3,4 | 7W |
| Friday 14 th September | P2,3,4 | 7G |
| Monday 17 th September | P1,2,3 | 7F |
| Wednesday 19 th September | P1,2,5 | 7K |
| Friday 21 st September | P1, 3, 4 | 7R |
| Monday 24 th September | P2,3,4 | 7L |
| Wednesday 26 th September | P1,2,5 | 7C |

TRAVEL SAFE

Travelling on public transport is safe, however the police offer this advice to avoid putting yourself at risk from crime:

- Use timetables to plan your journey in advance to minimise the time you spend waiting at bus stops and stations, especially at night.
- Avoid poorly lit areas such as footpaths, subways and alleyways.
- Try to appear confident that you know your surroundings at all times.
- If you are travelling alone let someone know how and where you are travelling and contact them to let them know you have arrived safely.
- Choose a seat in busy areas of the train, tram or bus, if there are not many passengers sit close to the driver or train guard. Don't be too proud to change seats if you feel uncomfortable.
- Keep your valuables out of sight, especially jewellery. Keep your belongings close at hand.
- Be aware of the people around you, where they are sitting and standing and what they are doing.
- In the unlikely event that you are threatened or attacked, don't fight back. Make as much noise as possible and run away, your possessions can be replaced, your health and well-being is much more important. Report the attack to the police as quickly as possible.
- If you are threatened on a bus, tell the driver. On trains tell the guide or use the emergency handle. On Metrolink trams use the emergency intercom.
- If you use taxis, only use reputable companies. Before getting in the taxi ask the driver to tell you the name of the company and check the licence plate on the vehicle. Always sit in the back seat. If you have any doubt don't get in.

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CATERING TEAM Year 7 – 10

The catering team would like to welcome back all pupils to school for this new term. The catering team would like to ask all parents/carers to ensure their son/daughter's account is topped up with funds as the team would never like to refuse a pupil at lunchtime. Credit cannot be given for lunches unless parents/carers have arranged this with the catering team or main school office in advance. If your child forgets their dinner money they must see the office staff who will liaise with parents and the canteen to ensure a meal is provided.

SCHOOL MEALS Year 7 – 10

Please note that all cheques for school meals must be placed in the box before 12.00 noon in order for them to be registered in time for lunch that day. All cheques must be clearly marked on the back with your child/children's name(s) and form(s). The kitchen is no longer able to take cash in envelopes to register on the system, all cash must be put on by pupils using the finger recognition machines on the main corridor, coins & notes accepted.

HOUSEKEEPING

PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Could we remind all parents who drop off/ collect children in the school day not to park in the school entrance or in the bus stops, please do not park on the opposite side of the road this compromises the Health and Safety of our pupils and carries a fine. If you are collecting pupils by car, please arrange to collect pupils at a location a little further away from the school or after 3.10pm when most pupils have left. Thank You.

YEAR 11 – DINNER MONEY USING PARENT PAY FROM SEPTEMBER 2018

Year 11 dinners should be paid for via Parent Pay as Year 11 dinners are served in the Hub. If you need to set up your parent pay account and need your activation codes to do this, please contact my colleague Mrs Firth. You can set yourself a reminder so you know when your funds are running low. Year 11 pupils should not top up their dinner monies in the main school.

PARENT PAY – General

Please remember to log onto your account regularly to check you are up to date with any payments for trips and revision guides. For pupils who receive financial support for trips parent pay has been updated with this amount. If a refund has been actioned via parent pay from school you should receive a notification on your parent pay account and be able to withdraw the money to your bank by clicking on your parent account, statement, withdrawal.

CHANGE AT SCHOOL

Please can you make sure pupils have the correct notes/ change to top up their dinner money account if they are year 7- 10. With the introduction of Parent Pay at school the finance office has limited funds so does not always have change.

SCHOOL TRIPS

SKI TRIP 2019

There are still some places available on this year's Ski trip to Italy. It is open to all year groups including our new year 7's. Please complete the attached reply slip and send in to either Mr Hughes or Mr Plunkett. Alternatively get in touch for more information. (t.hughes@stmonicas.co.uk / g.plunkett@stmonicas.co.uk)

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INCLUSION FAMILY SUPPORT & ATTENDANCE OFFICER

Please see the attached letter from Mrs Jo Davies explaining her role as the school family support & attendance officer. Should you wish to speak to Mrs Davies, her details are on the attached letter.

IS YOUR CHILD A YOUNG CARER?

A Young Carer is defined as a child under 18 who helps to look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem. Young Carers may look after one of their parents, or care for a brother or sister. They may do extra jobs in and around the home, such as cooking, cleaning, or helping someone to get dressed and move around. They may also give a lot of physical help to a brother or sister who is disabled or ill. Along with doing things to help brother's or sister's, they may be giving them and their parents emotional support too.

Please see the website below for more information and support

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/support-and-benefits-for-carers/being-a-young-carer-your-rights/>

If you think your child is a Young Carer please let us know at school so we can ensure help and support is provided. You can email Mrs Walker at g.walker@stmonicas.co.uk or ring into school to speak on the phone or arrange a meeting.

SHOW MY HOMEWORK

Please can you check your child has logged in to their SMHW accounts.

St Monica's Teacher Activity is High with 100% of staff logging in and setting Homework every half term in 2017-18.

St Monica's Student Activity is High with 95% of students logging in and checking on a regular basis in 2017-18.

Year 7 pupils received their log ins yesterday.

YEAR 10 AND 11 STUDENTS AND PARENTS – BURY CAREERS EVENT

The annual Bury Careers Event takes place on Wednesday, 26th September 2018 at Bury Town Hall. This event is a great opportunity for you to chat with colleges, apprenticeship/training providers, employers and IAG advisors. **See attached leaflet for times.**

Year 11 students and parents will have further opportunity to talk to colleges and apprenticeship/training providers at the Year 11 Next Steps Event at school in early October 2018. Details of this will be passed on to students in school and posted on our website.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Bury Music Service instrumental lessons will start up again week beginning Mon 17th Sept. Timetables will appear on the noticeboard by Room M9 in the next week. Please see Miss Bryant if you have any questions.

ORCHESTRA

Orchestra rehearsals will start on **Thurs** 13th Sept 3.00-4.00 in the school Hall. New Yr7s are not expected to attend yet but are very welcome if they want to come along. Please see Miss Bryant if you have any questions (Room M9)

INSTRUMENTAL TASTER SESSION

Bury Music service are offering a taster session where pupils can try out a musical instrument for free and be shown how to play it by an expert. This will be held on **Thursday 13th Sept 1.15-1.45pm** in Room 9&10.

Interested pupils will need a letter which can be collected from Miss Bryant in Room 9 (also attached)

Please complete the reply slip and bring it to Miss Bryant by **Tuesday 11th Sept.**

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PE NOTICES



NETBALL TRIALS

Year 10 and 11 netball trials will be on Monday lunch time in the sports hall- just bring your trainers. Everyone welcome. Good luck!

Year 9 Netball trials Monday 10th 3pm – 4pm all welcome

Year 8 Netball 2nd trials 3pm – 4pm Thursday 13th.



RUGBY TASTER SESSIONS

Monday 10th Sept 3:00 – 4:15 – **Y7 boys'** rugby taster session. Boys of all abilities welcome. Wear PE kit and boots.

Thursday 13th Sept 3:00 – 4:15 – Girls rugby. All girls welcome of all ability.