

8th September 2023

Welcome Back

I do hope that you had a wonderful time this Summer with your families. The children have come back to school beautifully, thank you for preparing them so well.

Staff had a very productive series of INSET days on Monday and Tuesday this week (before the children came back), which included training in Makaton, a communication system often used by young children. The whole school will be using some Makaton signs which will complement our Languages, Literacy and Communication curriculum. A really helpful video was shown to us by Mrs Meakins, which you may find helpful too <https://youtu.be/tRiW0s7wWic>.

Last year the children were actively involved in helping to design a new school logo – the final votes were made on Wednesday and we have a winner:



The current school uniform logo is perfectly acceptable and we will gradually phase in this one. Every child will be given a fabric badge which could be handsewn onto uniform (it is large enough to fit over the existing logo). It will also be possible to buy additional badges via Parent Pay. I am currently waiting on prices. YC Sports and KoolSkools who are our official school uniform suppliers know about the change but will not be stocking uniform with the new logo until next year.

As you know, I have never insisted on logo'd school uniform. Children can be smart in red and grey/black whether or not it has an official logo on it. I am hoping that by enabling badges to be sewn onto uniform it will make logo'd school uniform available to everyone who wants it.

In other news, our new school website is currently with the web developers, I am hoping you will find it easier to navigate. The current website is still available and should answer nearly all questions about the day-to-day running of the school, however, please do contact us if you can't find anything you are looking for!

Classes this September 2023

Step 1		Step 2		Step 3		
Reception	Year 1	Year 2 + some Y1	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
1V		2T	2H	3I		3T
Mrs Vaughan + Miss Watts		Mr Wycherley	Miss Hampson	Mrs Irwin		Mr Thomas
Mrs Van Rijn (0.8) Mrs Jamil Mrs Bartlett		Mrs Azad Miss Javed (0.8) Miss Meyer		Miss Driscoll Miss Downs Miss Miller		
<p>Class cover = Miss Phillips Literacy support = Mrs Roberts</p> <p>Senior Leadership Team Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator = Mrs O’Gorman Acting Deputy Head = Mrs Meakins Head Teacher = Mrs Cuthbert</p>						

Pupil Voice – Pupil Jobs

We have wonderful children who are always so helpful and kind. All children in Steps 2 and 3 are now voting for their School Council and Eco Committee representatives. There are also other roles in school that children can either apply for or can be nominated for by their teachers.



All children in Year 6 have been asked to become ‘Guardian Angels’, they will be working closely with the children in Step 1, and I am sure they will be working hard with their Makaton and British Sign Language (BSL) skills as they learn lots of new ways to communicate.



As Head Teacher I always reserve the right to choose the Head Boy and Head Girl – this is something I enjoy immensely as I look out for possible candidates months before they even get into Year 6. Two Year 6 children have really stood out this year for their compassion towards others and diligence to their studies.

I am certain **Winston** and **Nia** will be wonderful ambassadors for the school as Head Boy and Head Girl and will lead the Year 6 Guardian Angels with thought and care.

I look forward to making more announcements next week as interviews take place for other key roles in the school.



Booking Lunches



Please could parents **book lunch for their child the day before they need it** – it takes up a huge amount of time each day for teachers to ask each child what they would like. Parents are able to book lunches and make menu choices a week in advance. **Please do this using Parent Pay.**

<https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/#/login>

As more children are now able to have universal free school meals (every child from Reception, Years 1,2 and 3) it is becoming more and more difficult to check every child's bag to see if they have food with them or not.



If we think your child does not have lunch with them will try to contact you, however, if your child says they are having a school lunch **we believe them** and book a meal on their behalf.

We hate to see children go hungry and our school cook needs to know in advance, cooking meals for almost 100 children every day is quite some task for only 2 people in our tiny kitchen.

Booking your child's meal is essential!

PE days and what to bring in school each day

Please could your child bring their PE kit (trainers, spare socks, shorts and a clean T-Shirt) in and leave it on their peg in school. We promise that if it is dirty (or becomes smelly) we will send it home! All clothing needs to be named, if we know it belongs to your child and it is not named we will write on the label. **Anything not named may be lost forever.**



Please could you make sure that your child **ALWAYS** brings a named water bottle which has fresh water in it each day. We have a water fountain in school, so children can refill it if needed.



The weather in Wales can be very unpredictable, we can often have 4 seasons in 1 day! If there is even the smallest chance of rain, please make sure your child brings a coat, we do go outside in all weathers.

Snack Money

We provide a daily fruit snack for each child in the school for £1 per week, this is subsidised by the school. Please can any payments be made via Parent Pay. Payment can be made either weekly or half termly and a reminder text goes to all parents each week – if you have already paid please do not be offended. If you do not wish for your child to have a fruit snack please let us know.

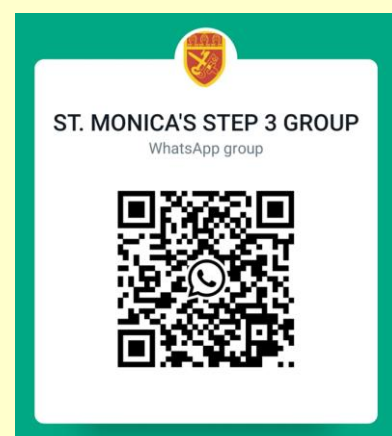
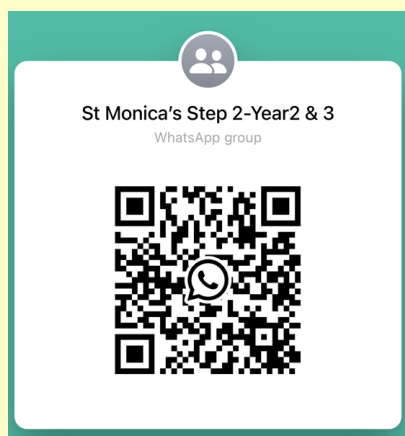


Helping Hands



All minutes of meetings are available on the school website or following [**THIS LINK**](#)

New parent WhatsApp groups have been set up, one for each Step in readiness for September... THANK YOU to the parents who have agreed to be group admins for these groups, please join them to be able to keep informed and help answer any questions you may have – there is no such thing as a daft question on these WhatsApp groups – we've all been there with last minute queries that need an urgent answer!



Tea and Tissues

Our next 3 events are for all parents, as we welcome any new families we have to St Monica's. Please join us for a tea/coffee and some delicious biscuits at The Table straight after you have dropped off your child/ren at school. We wait outside school and walk together to The Table which is on Pentyrch Street.

Wednesday 13th September 9am Tea and Tissues at The Table

Wednesday 20th September 9am Tea and Tissues at The Table

Friday 29th September 9am Helping Hands (our special version of a PTA) at The Table

Fundraising Bake Sales

As part of our drive to help raise money for the school, we will be holding 3 bake sales, one from each Step. The first bake sale will be run by the children and parents from Step 3.

Please could any **Step 3 cake/cookie donations come into school on the morning of Friday 15th September**. They will then be sold on the playground at the end of the day.

School Essentials Grant

Children whose families are on lower incomes and **qualify for certain benefits** can apply for a grant of:

- £125 per learner
- £200 for learners entering year 7 (to help with increased costs associated with starting secondary school)

All compulsory school years from reception to year 11 are now eligible.

All looked after children qualify for the grant, whether they receive free school meals or not. Learners who receive free school meals due to transitional protection arrangements do not qualify.

Families are only entitled to claim once per child, per school year.

The 2023 to 2024 scheme is now open and will close on 31 May 2024.

<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Financial-support/School-Essentials-Grant/Pages/default.aspx>

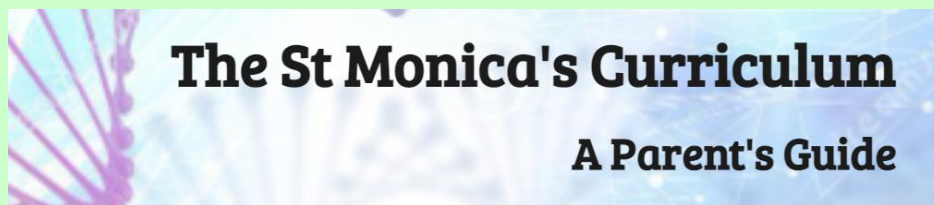
LONGTOWN RESIDENTIAL TRIP

This trip is for children who are currently in Years 3, 4 and 5. Information is on Parent Pay about this important school trip/life event which will be taking place in February 2024. The school website has pictures from previous trips, if you would like your child to go on the trip, please **pay the deposit of £20**. A meeting for parents will be on Tuesday 19th September at 5pm.

<https://longtownoutdoorlearning.co.uk/>



Weblinks to important parts of the school website – click on the pictures



St Monica's Pupil Voice

Contact details for staff

We MUCH prefer a face-to-face chat rather than an email, however, we know that for some parents, getting hold of us at the right time can be tricky.

For questions about Parent Pay or music lessons contact Mrs Fedorova:

Jozefina.fedorova@cardiff.gov.uk

To make an appointment to speak directly with (or see) the Head Teacher contact Miss Williams:

Debra.williams@cardiff.gov.uk

To email the Head Teacher: Mrs Cuthbert

To email the Deputy Head Teacher: mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk

To email the Additional Needs Co-ordinator: mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk

To email any teacher:

Step 1 Mrs Vaughan: mrsvaughan@stmonicasschool.co.uk

Step 2 Mr Wycherley: mrwycherley@stmonicasschool.co.uk
Miss Hampson: misshampson@stmonicasschool.co.uk

Step 3 Mr Thomas: mrthomas@stmonicasschool.co.uk
Mrs Irwin: mrsirwin@stmonicasschool.co.uk

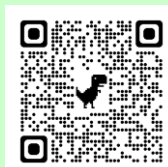
We try to answer all emails within 24 hours, if your query is really urgent please phone the school 029 2023 3925. **To help preserve the family life of teachers, I have asked them not to respond to any emails outside of the normal working day or at weekends.** Most parents find asking the parent WhatsApp group for their child's year group really helpful too.

Links to the School Website – for up to date information about what your child is learning in school, PE days and ANY homework they may have

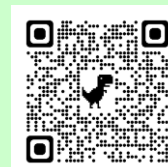
Step 1 Web Pages



Step 2 Web Pages



Step 3 Web Pages



Dates for your diary

Children have missed so much face-to-face teaching time already due to the pandemic and no one is sure of what may happen regarding future lockdowns or strike action. I will not authorise any absence for term time holiday or any extended time away from school. Please do not be tempted to take your child out of school during term time.

<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Schools/School-term-dates/Pages/default.aspx>

Monday 11th Sept New Reception Gp 1 9.30-2.15	Tuesday 12th Sept	Wednesday 13th Sept 9.15 Tea and Tissues – new parents and Helping Hands at The Table	Thursday 14th Sept	Friday 15th Sept 3.10pm Step 3 Bake Sale
Monday 18th Sept New Reception Gp 2 9.30-2.15	Tuesday 19th Sept 5pm Longtown meeting for parents	Wednesday 20th Sept 9.15 Tea and Tissues – new parents and Helping Hands at The Table	Thursday 21st Sept 4pm Full Governing Body meeting	Friday 22nd Sept Nasal Flu Immunisations – whole school 3.10pm Step 2 Bake Sale
Monday 25th Sept	Tuesday 26th Sept	Wednesday 27th Sept	Thursday 28th Sept	Friday 29th Sept 9am Helping Hands at The Table 3.10pm Step 1 Bake Sale

Music Tuition

If your child would like music lessons this year please take a look at the 2 different providers we use – both Glamorgan Music School and Cardiff and Vale Music Education have very skilled music tutors who can do individual and group lessons for a really wide range of instruments. They can even help you get a loan instrument, often free or for very little charge! Each picture has a link to their brochure or website.



A wide range of instruments available to learn! Please email for more information.

Lesson Type	£ per term	£ per half term
Group	57.00	28.50
Paired 20 mins	74.00	37.00
Individual 15 mins	110.00	55.00
Individual 30 mins	218.00	109.00

Free instrument loan available. Monthly payment plans available.

www.glamorgan-music-school.co.uk
glamorganmusicschool@gmail.com

The School Street at St Monicas CIW Primary School

St Monicas CIW Primary School is an Active Travel School and has a School Street.

A School Street is a street near a school where traffic is restricted at the beginning and end of the school day. The times that Cwmdare and Pentyrch Street will be a School Street is from **8:30am to 9:30am and 3pm to 4pm**. School Streets are operational Monday to Friday, term time only. Only vehicles with valid School Street permits, such as residents and blue badge holders, will be allowed to drive down the street.



Gladstone Primary and St Monica's Church In Wales Primary

Mae'r Stryd Ysgol hon yn gweithredu o 8.30am tan 9.30am a 3pm tan 4pm o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener. Gellir gweld dyddiadau'r tymor yn www.cardiff.gov.uk

This School Street operates during term time on weekdays between **8.30am to 9.30am and 3pm to 4pm**. Term time dates can be viewed at www.cardiff.gov.uk



Bydd hawl gan ddeiliaid trwydded 553 yrru ar y Stryd Ysgol hon
553 Permit Holders will be permitted to drive within this School Street

We encourage families, staff and visitors to travel to us as actively as possible. Not only is this safer and healthier for our pupils, this forms part of Cardiff Council's vision to change the way people travel around the city and make changes to respond to the climate emergency, for clean air and to create safe and healthy communities.

This means that we ask you to walk, cycle or scoot to us if you possibly can, or use public transport to get to us. We try to limit cars to our school, if you feel you have to travel by car then please park 10 minutes away and walk the last leg of your journey to school. This ensures all of our pupils are safe.



Ysgol Teithio Llesol

Active Travel School