




9th January 2024

Welcome back to school

I do hope that you have had a lovely, rejuvenating time with your families over the last two weeks. The Christmas period always gives me a lovely period for reflection, about the school term already completed, and the work of the school yet to come. Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader, said it so well in his litany:

"The Work of Christmas"

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.



I firmly believe that the success of our work in St Monica's, where we ensure everyone SHINES, comes from the sense of community and belonging that we all feel together. Our fellowship transcends all potential barriers that may arise from language, culture, ethnicity and faith. This is something I do not take for granted – when there is so much conflict and uncertainty in the world, knowing and feeling that St Monica's is truly a School of Sanctuary brings a much needed sense of mission and peace to my soul!

If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please email me, Mrs Cuthbert, and I will do my best to help. Thank you for your support. abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.uk

Upcoming events

To find out what your child is learning this term, and how you could support them at home, please come to the **Step Curriculum Talk on Wednesday 17th January 3.30-4.30**

For an informative discussion about how to keep your child safe online and using mobile technology, including our advice and how often children should be online and which sites are safe for them to access, please come to the **Safer Internet Use Talk on Wednesday 31st January 3.30-4.30**

There is no need to book for either of these events, just come along at the end of the school day. As there are no children performing, you are very welcome to attend even if you are going to be late, the office will be able to let you in up until 4pm. Both talks will be recorded and the materials will be posted onto the Step webpages which can be easily accessed via the school website www.stmonicasschool.co.uk or via the links mentioned further on in this newsletter.

Clubs in St Monica's

There are a wide range of clubs children can join each lunchtime, class teachers maintain the registers (and waiting lists) for these clubs. If your child would like to take part in any clubs which take place after school, you must book using one of the links provided below, EVEN if you your child has taken part in the club previously. **There are a limited number of places available for each club, and as promised in September, the age ranges and what is on offer for some of the clubs has changed.**

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Step 2 Lunch | BSL Mrs O'Gorman | Art/Craft Mrs Roberts | Choir Mrs Meakins | Lego/Boromi Mrs Roberts | Just Dance Mrs Roberts |
| Step 3 Lunch | Choir Mrs Meakins | Craft Club Mrs Roberts | No clubs | BSL Cafe Miss Driscoll | Crochet/Craft Mrs Irwin & Miss Downs |
| After School Until 4.20pm | Sports Club Step 2 Mr Spencer | Film Club Steps 2 + 3 Mrs Cuthbert | TT Rockstars/ Homework Club Mrs Meakins | Strategy Games Club Mr Wycherley | No clubs |

I'd like to respectfully remind parents that any clubs after school are not a free childminding service. These are clubs which staff and children are interested in, developing skills and interests which may well develop into a lifelong hobby. It is not possible for us to extend either the age range or capacity of each club as it would detrimentally impact the experience for the children it was intended for. It is expected that children are collected promptly at 4.20pm by a responsible adult known to the school and identified on the booking form.

Step 2 Sports Club – Mondays – Mr Spencer – maximum of 20 places

<https://forms.gle/CHWWQ4ZA7MGkizaZ9>

Step 2 & Step 3 Film Club – Tuesdays – Mrs Cuthbert – maximum of 20 places *(it may be possible to increase capacity of this club if a parent or a volunteer is able to support the running of the club)*

<https://forms.gle/v1b5FSqbXi3hbmqi7>

Step 3 TT Rockstars / Homework Club – Wednesdays – Mrs Meakins – maximum of 20 places

<https://forms.gle/P4RBqJ6BLw3U4D9r6>

Step 3 Strategy Games Club – Thursdays – Mr Wycherley – maximum of 20 places

<https://forms.gle/bZYgoXzUiDNoX8gp7>

There will be a waiting list in operation for any applications over 20 places. Should a child change their mind about taking part in the club or fail to attend for more than 2 sessions, their place will be offered to the next child on the waiting list.

Links to the School Website

For up to date information about what your child is **learning in school**, **PE days** and **homework**

Step 1 Web Pages



Reception / Year 1

Step 2 Web Pages



Year 2 / Year 3

Step 3 Web Pages



Year 4 / Year 5 / Year 6

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](mailto: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.

Dates for your diary

I am not able to 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 8 th Jan | Tuesday 9 th Jan | Wednesday 10 th Jan | Thursday 11 th Jan | Friday 12 th Jan |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| INSET DAY no school for children | Children return to school | CAW – Rev Caroline | | HELPING HANDS AT THE TABLE |
| Monday 15 th Jan | Tuesday 16 th Jan | Wednesday 17 th Jan | Thursday 18 th Jan | Friday 19 th Jan |
| AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS START THIS WEEK | | CAW – Rev Caroline 3.30-4.30 STEP CURRICULUM TALKS | 4pm Finance, Premises & H+S Governing Body meeting 5.30pm Governing Body Determining Meeting | |

| Monday 22 nd Jan | Tuesday 23 rd Jan | Wednesday 24 th Jan | Thursday 25 th Jan | Friday 26 th Jan |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| | CAW – Mr Akrill (Heath Evangelical Church) | CAW – Rev Caroline | 11am Vision & Values Governing Body meeting 4pm Standards Governing Body meeting | |
| Monday 29 th Jan | Tuesday 30 th Jan | Wednesday 31 st Jan | Thursday 1 st Feb | Friday 2 nd Feb |
| | | CAW – Rev Caroline 3.30 – 4.30 SAFER INTERNET USE TALK | | |
| Monday 5 th Feb | Tuesday 6 th Feb | Wednesday 7 th Feb | Thursday 8 th Feb | Friday 9 th Feb |
| LONGTOWN RESIDENTIAL TRIP MON-WED (Y4/5/6) MON – FRI (Y5/6) | | | | 9am Deadline for Admissions consultation |
| HALF TERM BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR 1 WEEK | | | | |

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>



Booking your child's meal is essential!

How to donate to St Monica's

There are many ways you could help in school, the first step is to either:

- come to the monthly Helping Hands meetings at The Table, or
- join the Helping Hands WhatsApp group, or
- join the online Parent Space meetings held at 9pm once per month

We welcome any donations, whether they be:

- **donations of time** (become a regular walker for trips to the park, listen to children read, help with fundraising events)
- **donations of resources** (Step webpages will have resource lists of things they may need to help with a particular learning context or with things needed for Christmas plays)
- **donations of money** (to help support trips or special events in school)

If you would like to donate money – you can do this in several ways, either in an envelope into the school office, via our donate button on Parent Pay or by doing a sponsored event – just like Miss Meyer...

Donations Greatly Received!!!

Our donation button is active on Parent Pay – thank you to those people who have found it. Our new target is to ensure that every child can access educational trips. You can get to the link by clicking on the picture below, or by visiting the school website...

