



# 24th January 2024

## Moving swiftly through the ½ term!

It always amazes me how quickly the term moves along after our Christmas break! I have added some important updates in this newsletter, along with a few reminders about dates. You should be able to find nearly everything you need on our new school website [www.stmonicasschool.co.uk](http://www.stmonicasschool.co.uk) and if you are a user of X (Twitter) then follow us @stmonicascw1 to see pictures and videos of the children in school.

I have made available regular slots in my diary (generally Monday and Tuesday mornings, Thursday and Friday afternoons) to meet with parents and/or prospective parents and members of our community. These can be booked via the school office, just give the office a little clue about what you'd like to discuss, so I can prepare information beforehand if needed.

Thank you for your support. Abi Cuthbert (Head Teacher)

### Upcoming events

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 31<sup>st</sup> January 3.30-4.30**

There is no need to book for this event, 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. The Safer Internet talk will be a bit of a discussion forum, the sound quality may not be great so we may not post the recording of the session.

**Topics will include: screen time - age appropriate apps - mobile phones - online bullying**

### Prayer Spaces Day

We wish to celebrate the coming down of the scaffolding, and the unveiling of our wonderful building and our overwhelming feelings of grateful abundance, by holding a **Prayer Spaces Day on Friday 23rd February**. If you would like to help on that day, either with the set up beforehand on the Thursday evening (making lovely cosy spaces for reflection across the school) or by helping out on the day (by supporting an activity) or by participating (joining in with some of the activities), please let either Helping Hands or the school office know. We will be having a whole school picnic that day too - the school kitchen will be serving packed lunches on Friday 23rd, bookable on Parent Pay, or children can bring their own from home.



**OUR NEXT INSET DAY IS MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY  
THIS MEANS THERE IS NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN ON THIS DAY**

All staff will be taking part in training linked to the Curriculum for Wales, Additional Learning Needs and Safeguarding (Child Protection)

**The last INSET day after this we have is on 22nd July 2024,  
therefore children will break up for the Summer break on Friday 19th July.**

## The decision has now been made by the Local Authority and St Monica's Governing Body to allow St Monica's to grow, by giving permission for us to have our own nursery and move to a larger building.

Any changes will take place in September 2025, affecting all children currently in Reception, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4. There will be a lot of work happening in the background in the interim period as we start to plan for these changes.

The school website has a link to a current consultation we have open about a new admissions policy, which was written in the hopes that the decision would be for us to have a nursery and be able to increase our intake number a little. This consultation closes on Friday 9th Feb at 9am. I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to it so far. [www.stmonicasschool.co.uk](http://www.stmonicasschool.co.uk)

We do have some places available in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 but all other year groups are now full with waiting lists. The ability to grow and meet the demand from parents for places in our school in the future will be a blessing!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Governing Body for their patience and willingness to attend additional Governing Body meetings over the last couple of terms. The consultation process and consequent statutory proceedings can be onerous with many, many documents to read through and make decisions on. I thank them wholeheartedly for their desire to see the long term future of faith based education ensured for many future pupils of St Monica's.

### School Development Plan Progress 2023-2024

1 Building leadership skills in staff, pupils and governors	2 Improving provision for all children nurturing them to thrive	3 Developing learning environments that reflect our values
 <p>We will do this by ensuring...</p>	 <p>We will do this by ensuring...</p>	 <p>We will do this by ensuring...</p>
<p><b>We are successful learners,</b> developing the leadership of Mathematics and Numeracy (Big Maths)</p>	<p><b>We are inclusive learners,</b> developing our understanding of ALN (Dyslexia Bronze Award, ALN Self-Evaluation Tool &amp; Step Learning Plans)</p>	<p><b>We are evolving learners,</b> staff and pupils across the school will focus on improving learning environments (SLT self evaluation)</p>
<p><b>We are happy learners,</b> developing the leadership of Languages Literacy and Communication (reading &amp; BSL/Makaton)</p>	<p><b>We are nurturing learners,</b> using the Pupil Development Grant to support Emotional Health and Wellbeing (The Club House &amp; Boromi Bags)</p>	<p><b>We are spiritual learners,</b> staff, governors &amp; pupils will develop their understanding of RVE (Worship Team, Prayer Spaces &amp; Religion, Values &amp; Ethics curriculum development)</p>
<p>We will link this with our cluster action plan - ensuring progression in the Curriculum for Wales</p>	<p>We will link this with our cluster action plans - Additional Learning Needs &amp; Looked After Children</p>	<p>We will link this with our self evaluation of the GWELLA framework</p>

We are making very good progress towards our School Development Plan targets. The recent (8th January) INSET day enabled us to focus on Literacy, Numeracy, digital skills and health and wellbeing across the cluster. Our view of what good standards look like in all of those areas was confirmed by other teachers and staff in Cathays High, Gladstone Primary, Allensbank Primary and Albany Primary.

Tomorrow, Governors will be completing a Learning Walk as they develop their understanding of the Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) curriculum across the school. Following the removal of the scaffolding and the hard work of Helping Hands and Mr Wood, the Step 2 outdoor learning environment has been developed beautifully.

### Our recycling competition!

There is a new law coming into force across Wales regarding the disposal of waste. To help us prepare, and stop any more fines from Cardiff Waste Management, we have a competition in

school to help us all learn which bin we should use for which waste. There are 4 bins to choose from, food waste, general waste, metal & plastic and paper & card... Mrs Cuthbert will buy Easter Eggs for the winning team by the end of the Spring term. Here are the results so far... **well done to the School Office and Step 3**, the staffroom score is a bit embarrassing...

	19/1/24	26/1/24	2/2/24	9/2/24	23/2/24
School Office	<b>10</b>				
Staffroom	9.25				
Step 1	9.5				
Step 2	9.4				
Step 3	<b>9.7</b>				

As a school we take this very seriously - perhaps a little too seriously as last week I was stopped by some Step 2 girls from putting a weed I had pulled up from the path (which is only 1 step away from being salad) into their food waste bin. I was impressed by their determination that no one, not even their head teacher, could contaminate their bin. I hope that your children have been just as vocal at home about the importance of proper waste management!

### Next in the newsletter - our usual information

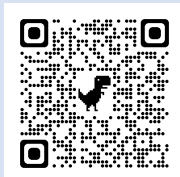
Links to Step webpages                      Contact details for staff  
 Dates for the diary - **if it is highlighted yellow - family can attend too**  
 Parent Pay links                                  Donation button

### Links to the School Website

For up to date information about:

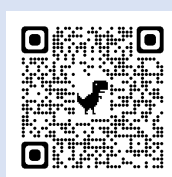
**what your child is learning in school, PE days & home learning tasks**

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:Debra.williams@cardiff.gov.uk)

To email the Head Teacher: [Mrs Cuthbert](mailto:Mrs.Cuthbert@stmonicasschool.co.uk)

To email the Deputy Head Teacher: [mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk)

To email the Additional Needs Co-ordinator: [mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk)

To email any teacher:

- Step 1 Mrs Vaughan: [mrsvaughan@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsvaughan@stmonicasschool.co.uk)
- Step 2 Mr Wycherley: [mrwycherley@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrwycherley@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
Miss Hampson: [misshampson@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:misshampson@stmonicasschool.co.uk)
- Step 3 Mr Thomas: [mrthomas@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrthomas@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
Mrs Irwin: [mrsirwin@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto: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>

			Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan
			11am Vision & Values GB meeting 4pm Standards GB meeting	2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb
		CAW – Rev Caroline 3.30 – 4.30 SAFER INTERNET USE TALK		2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb
LONGTOWN RESIDENTIAL TRIP MON-WED (Y4/5/6) MON – FRI (Y5/6)		CAW – Rev Caroline		9am Deadline for Admissions consultation 2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
<b>HALF TERM BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR 1 WEEK</b> Half Term Home Learning Task linked to St David's Day Competitions				
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb
INSET DAY - no school for children	CAW - Becky Harris	CAW – Rev Caroline Step 3 - Fire Service	Prayer Spaces set up from 3.20pm	Prayer Spaces Day - all welcome
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March
Parent Consultations		CAW – Rev Caroline	4pm Full Governing Body meeting	St David's Day Celebrations Hoffi Coffi - pop up cafe after school
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March
		CAW – Rev Caroline		2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March
	9.30 Y3 Bumbles of Honeywood	CAW – Rev Caroline		2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March
	am Y3 - All Nations Church - PBuzz	CAW – Rev Caroline evening Y3 - Cathays High Spring Concert - PBuzz	4pm Finance, Premises & H+S GB meeting	2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome

**EASTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR 2 WEEKS**  
Children return on Monday 8th April

## 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...

