



22nd March 2024

Happy Easter - Pasg Hapus

The **Appointments Button** is live - to make an appointment to see me, you can now book online. Thank you for your support. Abi Cuthbert, Head Teacher

Our X Feed (Twitter) has photos & videos of many of the important learning events in your child's school life. This week we have been focusing on the Easter story.

Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. It celebrates Jesus rising from the dead, three days after he was executed. Easter Sunday is on 31 March. The week leading up to Easter is called Holy Week. The date of Easter Sunday varies from year to year. It is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon, on or after 21 March.



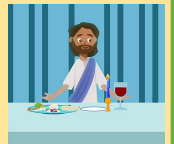
Holy Week: Palm Sunday (24/3/24)

This is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. It is the first day of Holy Week and celebrates Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Crowds of people came out of the city to greet him, throwing down palm branches on the road. Anglican and Roman Catholic churches give out small crosses made from palm leaves, as a reminder of Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem and his death on the cross. Some Christians keep these in their homes all year as a symbol of their faith.



Holy Week: Maundy Thursday (28/3/24)

This is the Thursday before Easter Day. On Maundy Thursday Christians remember when Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples, breaking bread and drinking wine. Christians refer to this meal as the Last Supper. Many Christians remember the Last Supper by sharing bread and wine together in a church service called Holy Communion, Eucharist or Mass. It is a reminder that Jesus sacrificed his life for mankind.



Holy Week: Good Friday (29/3/24)

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday. It commemorates the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. Good Friday is a day of mourning in church. During special Good Friday services Christians remember Jesus's suffering and death on the cross, and what this means for their faith. In some countries, there are special Good Friday processions, or re-enactments of the Crucifixion.



Holy Week: Easter Sunday (31/3/24)

Easter Sunday marks Jesus's resurrection. After Jesus was crucified on the Friday his body was taken down from the cross and buried in a cave tomb. The tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers and an enormous stone was put over the entrance. On Sunday Mary Magdalene and some of Jesus's disciples visited the tomb. They found the stone had been moved and that Jesus's body had gone. Jesus was seen later that day by Mary and the disciples, and for forty days afterwards by many people. His followers realised that God had raised Jesus from the dead. Christians call this the resurrection.



Easter eggs

An egg is a symbol of new life. For Christians, Easter eggs are used as a symbol for the resurrection of Jesus. Christians believe that, through his resurrection, Jesus overcame death and sin. This offers people the promise of eternal life if they follow his teachings. Nowadays, most Easter eggs are made from chocolate and covered in coloured foil. Traditionally though, chicken eggs would be hard boiled and then decorated by hand. Traditional Easter egg hunts remain popular with both Christian and non-Christian children.

MMR Vaccinations

We are supporting Public Health Wales by opening up as a vaccination centre for all children (and staff) in St Monica's who are not currently vaccinated against Measles, Mumps or Rubella. This is on **THURSDAY 11th April 3-5.30pm**.

It is very important that your child is vaccinated, measles in particular is a very dangerous and contagious illness. It is particularly dangerous for children. Anyone unvaccinated who comes into contact with **an infected person has to isolate for 30 days** - this is much longer than we previously had to do for COVID-19. The risk of measles is higher for pupils in our school as so many children are either unvaccinated or have not had any overseas vaccinations recorded with their GP. This means that any 'herd immunity' that might have been present a few years ago, is no longer sufficient to protect them.

Children have already been so severely affected by isolation and control measures from the pandemic, it would be awful to return to a similar, if not worse, situation.

If you are **unsure** about your child's vaccination status, please **contact your GP** surgery. If you know your child has had only 1 vaccination, or not had any MMR vaccinations then they can receive the vaccination in school on Thursday 11th April. I have been told that it isn't a problem if someone ends up having 3 vaccinations.

Your child will **not be vaccinated unless full parental permission** has been given, the session is for after school so parents can also be present. We will be directly phoning all families of children identified as not having had the vaccination so they are able to make a fully informed decision about taking up the offer of vaccination.

If you have not had a phone call but know your child has not had their MMR vaccinations, or has had them in another country and you are not sure if they are of the right variety, please contact us in school.

If you would like your child to receive the vaccination, please click the link or scan the QR code below to the electronic consent form for you to complete and submit.

<https://forms.office.com/e/cB1aBysuPM>



MMR Vaccination

- MMR vaccine is safe and highly effective
- millions of doses of the vaccine have been given worldwide for over 30 years
- having the vaccine is the best way to protect your child and others around them
- a version of the vaccine that does not contain gelatine is available

For further information please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles> and <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/vaccination-information1/mmr/>

All school clubs held after school will start the week commencing 15/4/24
There are some new clubs, more details will be sent home on Monday 8th April,
along with new booking forms - if you wish for your child to take part in ANY
club after school, you MUST complete the new booking form in April.

Universal Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 are now entitled to Universal Free School Meals. You must book meals using Parent Pay. Universal Free School Meals will start for all children in **Year 5 from Monday 8th April. Year 6 will be included from Monday 3rd June.** There has been a 10p price increase in school meals which will only affect Y6 pupils (and those in High School).

Year 6 Celebration

On Friday 19th April, at 2.30pm there will be a celebration/presentation for all children in Year 6, related to their successes in the Flourish Project with Mrs Meakins and Kate from The Table. <https://protonfoundation.com/flourish-project/> You will hear from Mrs Meakins and Kate about how the children have developed their confidence as they further develop a growth mindset and have learned about creating helpful thinking patterns. Our Year 6's have started to understand their potential, how they can realise future aspirations and set goals for the future. This celebration is always a joyous event and I hope as many Year 6 parents as possible are able to come.

Our recycling competition!

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

1st Place = School Office 2nd Place = Step 3

School Office	Staffroom	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
9.95	9.81	9.71	9.78	9.9



LOST & FOUND

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB
THE SEARCH IS ON!



LOST & FOUND

Primary School Children (4+ - 11)
Tuesday 26th - Thursday 28th March
10am - 12noon

Heath Evangelical Church, 122 Whitchurch Road

Further information and to request a registration form,
contact rj.akrill@ntlworld.com or scan the QR code
All helpers will have a current DBS check



CRAFT
SONG

All
welcome!

STORY
FOOD

Good Friday 29 March
10.30am – 12.30pm



ST MICHAEL AND ALL
ANGELS
WHITCHURCH ROAD,
CARDIFF



Next in the newsletter - our usual information

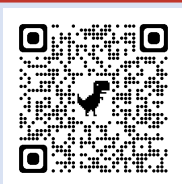
Links to Step webpages Contact details for staff
Dates for the diary - **if it is highlighted yellow - family can attend too**
Parent Pay links Donation button

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



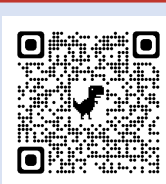
Reception / Year 1

Step 2 Web Pages



Years 1, 2 & 3

Step 3 Web Pages



Years 4, 5 & 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

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>

EASTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR 2 WEEKS

MESSY EASTER FRIDAY 29TH MARCH - 10.30 AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, FOOD PROVIDED

Children return on Monday 8th April

Monday 8 th April	Tuesday 9 th April	Wednesday 10 th April	Thursday 11 th April	Friday 12 th April
Universal Free School Meals start for Year 5		CAW – Rev Caroline Albany Primary to visit Digital Leaders	3pm - 5.30pm MMR Vaccination Clinic in school	9am Helping Hands at The Table 2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 15 th April	Tuesday 16 th April	Wednesday 17 th April	Thursday 18 th April	Friday 19 th April
		CAW – Rev Caroline 3.20pm Step curriculum talks	4pm Full GB meeting	2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome Y6 Flourish Celebration

Monday 22nd April	Tuesday 23rd April	Wednesday 24 th April	Thursday 25 th April	Friday 26 th April
	CAW - Mr Akrill	CAW – Rev Caroline		2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 29 th April	Tuesday 30 th April	Wednesday 1st May	Thursday 2nd May	Friday 3rd May
	CAW - Becky Harris	CAW – Rev Caroline 3.20pm Emotional Health & Wellbeing talk for parents	4pm Full GB meeting	2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 6th May	Tuesday 7 th May	Wednesday 8 th May	Thursday 9 th May	Friday 10th May
BANK HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL		CAW – Rev Caroline		9am Helping Hands at The Table 2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 13 th May	Tuesday 14 th May	Wednesday 15 th May	Thursday 16 th May	Friday 17 th May
		CAW – Rev Caroline		2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 20 th May	Tuesday 21st May	Wednesday 22nd May	Thursday 23rd May	Friday 24 th May
	evening - Talent Show at The Table	CAW – Rev Caroline evening - Talent Show at The Table		2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
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...

