



# 11th November 2024



### How we commemorate Remembrance Day in St Monica's

At a time when peace in our world can seem so far away, when big events across the world have ripples into everyday life, I thought it fitting to start this newsletter with how we mark acts of remembrance with the children. Below is an excerpt of the assembly all children in school took part in this morning.

*At 11 o'clock, on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, World War 1 came to an end and that is a good thing. Every year on the 11th of November and the nearest Sunday to the 11th, people commemorate the end of the war. The word commemorate means that we remember and respect something. People are often quiet for 2 minutes at 11 o'clock on these two days. They may remember a family member who may be in the army or other armed services. They may think about some of the horrible things that happen in war to remind them that it is not a good thing and that we should do everything we can to avoid it.*

*One reason we have 'Remembrance Day' is to try and stop the bad things from happening again and again. By remembering the past, whether it is good or bad, it can help us to make good choices in the future. We have a special plaque in school to help us remember all of the people who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, in the pursuit of peace.*

Here are some of the names of former pupils and choristers of St Monica's who died in the Great War 1914-1918

William Chamberlain	Robert Edwards	Joseph Faulkener	Arthur Francis
Marshall Gillett	Arthur Gronow	Thomas J John	David J John
John Jenkins	William Morgan	Robert Mayne	Bert Napper
Percy Purnell			

Here are some of the names of people who died in the Second World War 1939 - 1945

Norman Alderman	Austen Brown	Clifford Lewis	John Evans
Howard Weston			

### Parent Workshop Wednesday 13th November 3.20-4.20pm Sleep & Smartphones

(We are definitely not telling you what to do, we struggle just as much as the next person!)

**All very welcome to attend**

### Do you know a family who would like their children to come to St Monica's?

We have spaces in most year groups as a few families have taken up housing or job opportunities outside of Cardiff. [This link takes you to our flyer, advertising a little bit about our school.](#) Please feel free to share it with your friends or church congregation.

It is easy to apply to our school, [this application form is for any Nursery or in-year applications/school transfers.](#) We are accepting applications for Nursery places for a September 2025 start. These applications are for children born no earlier than 01/09/2021. We have opened our application window

earlier than the Local Authority as we start our Nursery provision for the first time as soon as we move school buildings.

For any applications to join the school in Reception for a September 2025 start, please apply using the [Cardiff Citizen Portal](#). The application window for all Reception places opens today and closes on 13th January 2025.

All Year 6 pupils should apply for their secondary school places by 18th November, only a week away. If you need any help to make your application, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. All church high schools need two separate applications - one on the [Cardiff Citizen Portal](#), the other with the actual school. Both applications must be submitted for your child's application to be considered.

### **Extra Curricular Sporting Activities**

**Sports Xtra** provide an after school club for our children each Wednesday after school:

- Each session is from 3.20 - 4.20pm
- Sessions are booked in blocks
- Block 2 has just started and costs £49

**Booking Link:** <https://campscui.active.com/orgs/SportsXtraCardiff?season=3499546&session=63963941>

### **Extra Curricular Music Lessons**

**Rock Steady Music** are offering extra music sessions for children to learn rock instruments/singing during the school day. This is suitable for children from all age groups. If you are interested in these sessions for your child/children please sign up with them directly. They deal with all bookings. There is a concert, where all of the children who have had lessons will be performing. Parents are most welcome to attend this too, it is on **Friday 13th December at 9.30am**, in our school hall.

[www.rocksteadymusicschool.com](http://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com)

### **71st Cardiff Brownies**

**Some spaces are now available for Girls aged 7-9 to join after Christmas!  
They meet weekly on Tuesdays 6pm-7:30pm, in the Roath area.**

Girls come from a wide range of local schools, and do different activities every week. Girls get the chance to learn new skills, earn badges, have fun, play games and attend residential. Brownies are incredibly friendly and welcoming, and new girls will be added to a small group of existing Brownies called a six, who they will work with in most meetings. They'll be assigned a buddy to help them get to know how it works, new girls always settle in quickly.

**Brownies do a huge variety of activities, girls get to try things they may not get to try anywhere else!**

This past term they've welcomed 7 new girls, done their network badge, celebrated Halloween and bonfire night, interviewed women in a wide range of jobs, and will be exploring different countries over the next few weeks! In the past year they've been on an upside down back to front residential holiday; celebrated Easter and the Olympics; practised cooking skills; learned to light fires; explored the local area and learned how to care for it; been on a chippy survey; done some crafts and given out lots and lots of badges! There are also badges girls can complete at home, so the fun can extend outside of meetings!

Subs are currently £35 per term (3 x per year), (+ Joining fee of £15 in their first term).

To register your daughter, please go to

<https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-member/> and select 71st Cardiff Brownies.

Girls under 7 are able to join our waiting list, and girls 10 and over are welcome to register for Guides. These can both be done via the same link.

If you've got any questions, please feel free to get in touch at [71stcardiffbrownies@googlemail.com](mailto:71stcardiffbrownies@googlemail.com)



### **Grants / Financial Support for Unpaid Carers**

The Community Connectors Team re grants/financial support for unpaid carers who might be on a low income.

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=OXHjMFxOC0unDBimbS2FzR2Khsyq\\_uVGjZGpwPa2tMVUNjdCUDkzM1IWNE5UUDNGQldQNk5GRjIINTyQIQCN0PWcu](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=OXHjMFxOC0unDBimbS2FzR2Khsyq_uVGjZGpwPa2tMVUNjdCUDkzM1IWNE5UUDNGQldQNk5GRjIINTyQIQCN0PWcu)

The Family Fund has extended its deadline for applications in Wales until 18<sup>th</sup> Nov: [Family Fund](#)

### **Support with the costs of education**

We do know how expensive supporting your child's education can be. There is additional money and support families can have but this has to be applied for with the Local Authority. Although all primary aged children are automatically eligible for free school meals, if families are able to apply for this the school receives more money in its budget each year. There is also a School Essentials Grant, this money is paid directly to families.

[Apply for Free School Meals : Cardiff Council Forms](#)  
[School Essentials Grant - Cardiff Council Forms](#)

### **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:

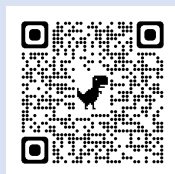
**what your child is learning in school, PE days & home learning tasks**

### Step 1 Web Pages



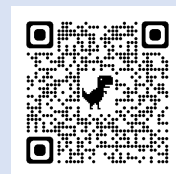
Reception / Year 1

### Step 2 Web Pages



Years 2 & 3

### Step 3 Web Pages



Years 4, 5 & 6

Keeping your child safe is our key priority - [this link](#) takes you to a poster which explains what we do if we have concerns about a child's safety. It also explains what you can do if you have concerns about a child or member of staff's conduct.

**IF YOU VISIT THE SCHOOL AT ANY POINT IN THE DAY  
PLEASE ENSURE THE GATE IS ALWAYS CLOSED BEHIND YOU**

## 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: [abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.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 Reception = Mrs Vaughan [mrsvaughan@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsvaughan@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
Year 1 = Mrs Irwin [mrsirwin@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsirwin@stmonicasschool.co.uk)

Step 2 Year 2 = Mrs Knight [mrsknight@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsknight@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
Year 3 = Mrs O'Gorman & Mrs Meakins [mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
[mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk)

Step 3 Year 4 = Mr Wycherley [mrwycherley@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrwycherley@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
Year 5 = Mr Thomas [mrthomas@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrthomas@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
Year 6 = Miss Hampson [misshampson@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:misshampson@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.

[School term dates](#)

Monday 11th November	Tuesday 12th November	Wednesday 13th November	Thursday 14th November	Friday 15th November
Nurse to visit Step 1 'People who help us'  Cardiff Central Fire Station Officers come to school to see Y2 & Y5	Anti Bullying Week - live lessons  Y6 - Filming Project with Sherman Theatre  <b>9pm Parent Space Meeting - online</b> <a href="https://meet.google.com/xrf-gxfx-ett">https://meet.google.com/xrf-gxfx-ett</a>	Worship - Rev. Caroline  <b>3.20 - 4.20 Parent Workshop Sleep &amp; Smartphones</b>	2pm Step 3 - Parish Eucharist	The Table is closed for staff training - no work experience
Monday 18th November	Tuesday 19th November	Wednesday 20th November	Thursday 21st November	Friday 22nd November
10.35 Pupil Voice meetings	Y5 NFL Flag Football at Cardiff Met Uni (PE kit needed)  <b>Y6 Crucial Crew in Llandaff - back late in school (3.30ish)</b>  Worship - Rev. Caroline	<b>1-3pm Y6 @ Sherman Theatre</b> Premiere of films made by our children - children to dress up in smart clothes, <b>parents invited to watch</b>	Y6 VR project  Reception leading worship	<b>2.30pm Praise and Celebration</b>
Monday 25th November	Tuesday 26th November	Wednesday 27th November	Thursday 28th November	Friday 29th November
10.35 Worship - Jo Deeley (Highfields Church)	Y5 NFL Flag Football at Cardiff Met Uni (PE kit needed)	Y6 VR project	4pm Full GB meeting	<b>9am Helping Hands at The Table</b>
Monday 2nd December	Tuesday 3rd December	Wednesday 4th December	Thursday 5th December	Friday 6th December
10.35 Pupil Voice meetings	Y5 NFL Flag Football at Cardiff Met Uni (PE kit needed)  Worship - Rev. Caroline (Advent Service)  <b>9pm Parent Space Meeting - online</b> <a href="https://meet.google.com/xrf-gxfx-ett">https://meet.google.com/xrf-gxfx-ett</a>	Y6 VR project	Parish Eucharist - Step 3	<b>2.30pm Praise and Celebration</b>
Monday 9th December	Tuesday 10th December	Wednesday 11th December	Thursday 12th December	Friday 13th December
	Y5 NFL Flag Football at Cardiff Met Uni (PE kit needed)  <b>Christmas Performances Step 1 10am &amp; 2pm</b>	<b>Christmas Performances Step 3 10am &amp; 2pm</b>	<b>Christmas Performances Step 2 10am &amp; 2pm</b>	<b>10.35am Rock Steady Music Concert for parents &amp; the school</b>

Monday 16th December	Tuesday 17th December	Wednesday 18th December	Thursday 19th December	Friday 20th December
10.35 Pupil Voice meetings	<b>11.30am Carols at The Table</b>	10.30 Step 3 Christmas Carol at The Sherman Theatre  1.30 Steps 1 & 2 Little Red Riding Hood at The Sherman Theatre  <b>6pm Carols at St Michael's</b>		Last day of term

### Christmas Break - no school for 2 weeks

Monday 6th January	Tuesday 7th January	Wednesday 8th January	Thursday 9th January	Friday 10th January
<b>Children return to school</b>  Breakfast Club reopens at 8.10am	Worship - Rev. Caroline		Super Humans at St Monica's	

### 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!**

### Helping Hands

The school is very well-supported by parents and the local community. There is an active Helping Hands group, who work very well together to organise fun, fundraising events and support learning in school. They have their own website where all dates for meetings and minutes are shared. [Helping Hands Web Page](#)

There are also WhatsApp groups for parents and carers for each Progression Step. **THANK YOU** to the parents who have agreed to be group admins for these groups. It is helpful for parents to join the relevant group/s to be able to keep informed and help answer any questions – there is no such thing as a daft question – we've all been there with last minute queries that need an urgent answer! The school office will pass on your details should you wish to join a group.

### 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)

### **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 anywhere in this text, or by visiting the school website...

[www.stmonicasschool.co.uk](http://www.stmonicasschool.co.uk)

## **Before you buy any expensive Christmas presents for family members... check, is it allowed to be ridden on public roads, pavements or cycle lanes...**

### **e-bikes**

An e-bike is an electrically assisted pedal cycle equipped with an electric motor to assist riders when they pedal. You need to be at least 14 years old to ride an e-bike, but you don't need a driving licence.

Some people have attempted to modify their e-bike, so it is important to check that the motor has a maximum power output of 250 watts and not able to propel the bike when it's travelling more than 15.5mph.

By law, an e-bike cannot propel a rider unless they are pedalling as well. If you see what you think is an e-bike and the rider isn't pedalling, it is classed as an electric motorcycle and they have much stricter rules.

You wouldn't ride a motorcycle with a petrol engine when you didn't have a licence or insurance - the rules are exactly the same with an electric motorcycle!



### **e-scooters**

Some people may be considering an electric scooter (e-scooter), particularly if they have seen others riding them locally.

However, it is illegal to use a privately owned e-scooter on public roads, pavements or cycle lanes. In fact, the only place to legally ride an e-scooter in Wales is on private land with the permission of the landowner - everywhere else it is against the law.

Some people may not appreciate the effect that riding illegally has. For someone with sight or hearing loss, it could have such an effect on them that they feel unable to go out on their own, hampering their mobility options and perhaps even resulting in the loss of their independence.

Unfortunately, people have already been killed and seriously injured when riding inappropriately and illegally. Nobody wants to see other families having to cope with the aftermath of similar heartbreaking incidents.

In some parts of the UK, government trials are taking place where you can rent an e-scooter and use it on the road and in cycle lanes if you hold a full or provisional driving licence. In Wales, there are currently no trials taking place.



Please don't get caught out by riding illegally. Make sure you know the law on e-bikes and e-scooters.

# National Fire Chief's Council key fire safety messages for e-bikes and scooters

## Information shared by Fire and Rescue Services in Wales

E-bikes and e-scooters are becoming increasingly popular. Most are powered by lithium-ion batteries which can be charged in the home. The use of these batteries in a wide range of household products is becoming increasingly common.

It is important when charging e-bikes and e-scooters, you do so safely to avoid a risk of a fire starting and putting your families and homes at risk.

With an increased use of e-bikes and e-scooters, comes a corresponding fire safety concern associated with their charging and storage. The use of these products is expected to continue to rise. Some fire services and fire investigators have seen a rise in e-bike and e-scooter battery fires.

### Charging

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when charging and always unplug your charger when it has finished charging.
- Ensure you have working smoke alarms. If you charge or store your e-bike or e-scooter in a garage or kitchen, ensure you install detection; we recommend heat alarms rather than smoke detectors for these areas.
- Charge batteries while you are awake and alert so if a fire should occur you can respond quickly. Don't leave batteries to charge while you are asleep or away from the home.
- Always use the manufacturer approved charger for the product and if you spot any signs of wear and tear or damage, buy an official replacement charger for your product from a reputable seller. Do not cover chargers or battery packs when charging as this could lead to overheating or even a fire.
- Do not charge batteries or store your e-bike or e-scooter near combustible or flammable materials.
- Do not overcharge your battery - check the manufacturer's instructions for charge times.
- Do not overload socket outlets or use inappropriate extension leads - use un-coiled extensions and ensure the lead is suitably rated for what you are plugging in to it.
- In the event of an e-bike, e-scooter or lithium-ion battery fire, do not attempt to extinguish the fire. Get out, stay out, call 999.

### Storage

- Avoid storing or charging e-bikes and e-scooters on escape routes or in communal areas of a multi-occupied building. If there is a fire, it can affect people's ability to escape.
- Responsible Persons should consider the risks posed by e-bikes and e-scooters when they are charged or left in common areas such as bike stores, mobility scooter charging rooms or other means of escape. They may wish to offer advice to residents on the safe use, storage and charging of these products.
- Store e-bikes, e-scooters and their batteries in a cool place. Avoid storing them in excessively hot or cold areas.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for the storage and maintenance of lithium-ion batteries if they are not going to be used for extended periods of time.

### Damage and disposal

If you need to dispose of a damaged or end of life battery, do not dispose of it in your household waste or normal recycling. These batteries, when punctured or crushed can cause fires in bin lorries, recycling and waste centres.

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If you require more information about e-bikes or e-scooters, please contact Road Safety Wales.

Telephone: **02920 250600**

E-mail: [communication@roadsafetywales.co.uk](mailto:communication@roadsafetywales.co.uk)