



28th November 2024

**Getting the school
ready for Christmas**



Our next **Helping Hands** meeting is **TOMORROW - 9am at The Table**

Come and see how you can help make our school even better. There are many ways you can help with suggestions, ideas and practical support (if you can).

For those with creative skills, and/or you happen to be strong or tall - we are decorating the school ready for Christmas from 10 - 11.30 or 2.30 - 3.15 tomorrow. Please come to the Main Office and we'll put you to great use!

Christmas Events in St Monica's

Please take a close look at the school diary pages at the end - all children have concerts and events they are taking part in. We NEVER charge for you to see your child perform during the school day. There are enough seats available for everyone to come, with any other family/friends very welcome too!

Each Step production takes place twice, on the same day. Please **don't be late** for your child's performance, the **doors will close and won't reopen again** until after the performance has ended. This stops interruptions during each concert and makes sure that every child's voice can be heard properly. The Hall doors will open 15 minutes before each performance is due to start for you to take your seats in plenty of time.

Step 1 Tuesday 10th December 10am AND 2pm

Merchandise is available to buy after each performance

Step 2 Thursday 12th December 10am AND 2pm

Merchandise is available to buy after each performance

Step 3 Wednesday 11th December 10am AND 2pm

Merchandise is available to buy after each performance

Our fundraising this term is to support the buying of resources for class activities. We are not asking parents to buy tickets for performances, there will be a donation bucket instead. We are, however, selling items the children have made in support of their concerts - merchandising! This has been part of all children's financial literacy education this half term. Please bring some coins (cash) with you, nothing is too expensive, but they will be calculating profit (hopefully not loss) linked to the cost of their materials. They have also been producing advertising materials for their stalls, to try to persuade you to buy their products. This is a wonderful, real-life example of the Curriculum for Wales in action.

Carol Singing

There is nothing better than singing carols to help get you in the true Christmas Spirit. We have a number of different Carol Concerts which you are most welcome to attend, some during the school day and a very special Candlelit Carol Service in St Michael's in the evening. Please come with family and friends to celebrate such a special time of year in our Christian calendar.

Friday 13th December - starting at 11am Groups of children from Years 5 and 6 will be singing carols at The Table to entertain all who use the cafe during the day. Children will return to school by 1.30pm

Tuesday 17th December - 11.30 until 12.30 All of the children in Years 3 and 4 will be singing in a special Community Carol Concert at The Table. Please come and join in.

Wednesday 18th December - 6pm-7pm - a whole school Candlelit Carol Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Gelligaer Street. Please join us with Rev. Caroline for a really special service, telling the Christmas story through song and short Bible readings. If you (parent, friend of the school or child) would like to read a short passage, please let me know and I'll send the reading to you beforehand. Battery powered candles will be provided but if you have your own (battery powered) candle to bring, please do to help stretch what we do have.



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.

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

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](#)



New Study Centre Now Open

at home | in centre | online

Kumon's **maths** and **English** study programmes deliver **proven academic success**

Give your child the tools they need to enjoy learning and to thrive academically

Kumon's **maths** and **English** study programmes work to build your child's confidence and inspire a passion for learning.

Cardiff Heath Study Centre
07846 886467

Heath Park Community Halls, Heath Park,
Opposite, 183 King George V Dr E, Cardiff, CF14 4EP

Class Times:
Monday 3:45 - 5:45
Thursday 3:45 - 5:45
Friday 3:45 - 5:45

Book a free assessment today

Next in the newsletter - our usual information

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

[**Step 2 Web Pages**](#)

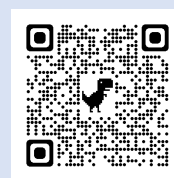
[**Step 3 Web Pages**](#)



Reception / Year 1



Years 2 & 3



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

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: abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.uk

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 Reception = Mrs Vaughan mrsvaughan@stmonicasschool.co.uk
Year 1 = Mrs Irwin mrsirwin@stmonicasschool.co.uk

Step 2 Year 2 = Mrs Knight mrsknight@stmonicasschool.co.uk
Year 3 = Mrs O’Gorman & Mrs Meakins mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk
mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk

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

			Thursday 28th November	Friday 29th November
			4pm Full GB meeting	9am Helping Hands at The Table

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) 9pm Parent Space Meeting - online https://meet.google.com/xrf-gxfx-ett	Y6 VR project	Parish Eucharist - Step 3	2.30pm Praise and Celebration
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) Christmas Performances Step 1 10am & 2pm	Christmas Performances Step 3 10am & 2pm	Christmas Performances Step 2 10am & 2pm	9.30am Rock Steady Music Concert for parents & the school Groups of children from Y5 & 6 singing Carols at the Table 11am until 1.30pm
Monday 16th December	Tuesday 17th December	Wednesday 18th December	Thursday 19th December	Friday 20th December
10.35 Pupil Voice meetings	11.30am Carols at The Table	10.30 Step 3 Christmas Carol at The Sherman Theatre 1.30 Steps 1 & 2 Little Red Riding Hood at The Sherman Theatre 6pm Carols at St Michael's		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
Children return to school 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. You can get to the link by clicking anywhere in this text or by visiting the school website...

www.stmonicasschool.co.uk

