



20th March 2025

Learning Contexts across the School

We started the term learning all about **Wales**, celebrating Welsh culture and customs. Our Eisteddfod was held on Friday 7th, where many certificates were given out to reward achievements in Welsh language, creative writing and handwriting. Children learned Welsh folk dancing and made lots and lots of Welsh cakes!

Children across the school are currently learning all about **Nigeria**. There's dancing, storytelling and creative activities in every class. Many, many thanks to all of the parents who have been able to come in and support activities, sharing stories and memories and bringing in special things from Nigeria and even bringing in some Nigerian currency!

As the term draws closer to **Easter**, all children will be studying through Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) mini-contexts. They will be trying to answer some of the following questions:

- What is the good news Jesus brings?
- What kind of world did Jesus want?
- What would Jesus do?



The poster features a central graphic with the text 'sustrans BIG WALK AND WHEEL' in large, bold, colorful letters. Below this, it says '24 March–4 April 2025'. The background is light blue with various icons: a balloon, a lightbulb, a speech bubble, a cloud, a hand holding a heart, a globe, a person on a scooter, a person on a bicycle, a person in a wheelchair, an apple, a person walking, a person on a skateboard, and a person on a kickboard. The text 'We're taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2025 challenge.' is written in a mix of pink and black. Below this, it says 'Join in by walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to school between 24 March–4 April.' and lists three benefits: 'Be active and feel more energised', 'Help the environment by replacing a car journey', and 'Help us win some fantastic prizes'. At the bottom, it says 'www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk' and 'Headline sponsor: SCHWALBE'. The Sustrans logo is in the bottom right corner.

sustrans
BIG WALK AND WHEEL
24 March–4 April 2025

We're taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2025 challenge.

Join in by walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to school between 24 March–4 April.

- ✓ Be active and feel more energised
- ✓ Help the environment by replacing a car journey
- ✓ Help us win some fantastic prizes

www.BigWalkAndWheel.org.uk

Headline sponsor:
SCHWALBE

sustrans
JOIN THE MOVEMENT

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It's up to all of us to keep children safe. That's why the NSPCC are encouraging every adult in the UK to "Listen up, Speak up." The campaign offers simple tips and advice on:

- **signs a child might be at risk and steps you can take to help**
- **how to approach difficult conversations to help keep children safe**
- **who you can contact if you're ever concerned about a child or their family.**

Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/listen-up-speak-up/>

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. You may be entitled to the grant, even if you have a visa and it says 'no recourse to public funds' on it.

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

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.

Free Swimming

Maindy Leisure Centre has free swimming sessions for children & teenagers (aged 16 and under) every Sunday (12-1pm). There are 50 spaces. Adults cost £4.50.

Children under 8 years old (and any children over 8 who can't swim) must be accompanied by a person who can swim and is aged +16. They can take a maximum of 2 children with them.

Over 8 year olds who can swim can go in the water on their own.

A swimmer is someone who can swim 25m on their own (without any flotation device)

The free swimming offer is greatly extended during all school holidays - this Easter Holiday free sessions are available Monday - Friday 1.30-3pm.

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.

www.rocksteadymusicschool.com

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

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 & mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk
 Mrs Meakins 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

Monday 24th March	Tuesday 25th March	Wednesday 26th March	Thursday 27th March	Friday 28th March
9 - 11.30 CookStars workshops Step 3 visit Cardiff Literature Festival	Step 3 Glamorgan Cricket Worship - Rev. Caroline		Y6 Bumbles of Honeywood 4pm Premises, Finance and H&S Committee Meeting	Year 1 & Step 2 visit Cardiff Literature Festival 2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 31st March	Tuesday 1st April	Wednesday 2nd April	Thursday 3rd April	Friday 4th April
9 - 11.30 CookStars workshops	Worship - Rev. Caroline		4pm Full Governing Body Meeting	2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 7th April	Tuesday 8th April	Wednesday 9th April	Thursday 10th April	Friday 11th April
	Worship - Rev. Caroline		Worship - Rev Palmer	9am Helping hands - in school 9.30 Rock Steady Concert 2.35pm Praise & Celebration

Easter Break - no school for 2 weeks

Monday 28th April	Tuesday 29th April	Wednesday 30th April	Thursday 1st May	Friday 2nd May
1.30 Y6 Swimming lessons	Worship - Rev. Caroline 1.30 Y6 Swimming lessons	1.30 Y6 Swimming lessons	1.30 Y6 Swimming lessons	1.30 Y6 Swimming lessons 2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 5th May	Tuesday 6th May	Wednesday 7th May	Thursday 8th May	Friday 9th May
BANK HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL	Worship - Rev. Caroline 1.30 Y6 Swimming lessons	1.30 Y6 Swimming lessons	1.30 Y6 Swimming lessons	1.30 Y6 Swimming lessons 2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 12th May	Tuesday 13th May	Wednesday 14th May	Thursday 15th May	Friday 16th May
1.30 Y6 Swimming lessons	Worship - Rev. Caroline			2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 19th May	Tuesday 20th May	Wednesday 21st May	Thursday 22nd May	Friday 23rd May
	Worship - Rev. Caroline Talent Show 6pm	Talent Show 6pm	4pm Finance, Premises and H&S Committee Meeting	2.35pm Praise & Celebration

½ Term Break - no school for 1 week

Monday 2nd June	Tuesday 3rd June	Wednesday 4th June	Thursday 5th June	Friday 6th June
INSET DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN	9.30 - Getting Ready for School (New Reception)	Worship - Rev. Caroline		2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 9th June	Tuesday 10th June	Wednesday 11th June	Thursday 12th June	Friday 13th June
	9.30 - Getting Ready for School (New Reception)	Worship - Rev. Caroline	11am Vision & Values Committee Meeting 4pm Standards Committee Meeting	2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 16th June	Tuesday 17th June	Wednesday 18th June	Thursday 19th June	Friday 20th June
		Worship - Rev. Caroline	9.30 - Getting Ready for School (New Reception) Reports go home to parents	2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 23rd June	Tuesday 24th June	Wednesday 25th June	Thursday 26th June	Friday 27th June
Parent Consultations Booking Link will be sent home closer to the time	Colorfoto - individual and Y6 Leavers photos 9.30 - Getting Ready for School (New Reception)	Worship - Rev. Caroline	4pm Full Governing Body Meeting	2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 30th June	Tuesday 1st July	Wednesday 2nd July	Thursday 3rd July	Friday 4th July
Possible date for Sports Day		Worship - Rev. Caroline		2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 7th July	Tuesday 8th July	Wednesday 9th July	Thursday 10th July	Friday 11th July
Y6 Leavers Service at Llandaff Cathedral		Worship - Rev. Caroline		2.35pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 14th July	Tuesday 15th July	Wednesday 16th July	Thursday 17th July	Friday 18th July
Y6 Leavers Celebration Day - Parents & Friends invited for 6pm Y6 Evening Celebration	Last Day of Term for Children	School is closed to pupils as staff are packing the school up ready for the big move		

Summer Break - no school for 6 weeks - during this time the school will relocate further along Whitchurch Road - look out for the banners for our grand opening!

Monday 1st September	Tuesday 2nd September	Wednesday 3rd September	Thursday 4th September	Friday 5th September
School is closed to pupils as staff are unpacking the school and getting all classrooms and outside areas ready				
Monday 8th September	Tuesday 9th September	Wednesday 10th September	Thursday 11th September	Friday 12th September
INSET DAY no school for children H&S Briefings for staff	Children return to school Reception Siblings start Breakfast Club reopens at 8.10am	Worship - Rev. Caroline		2.35pm Praise & Celebration

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)
- **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

