



13th March 2024

Reading, The Arts & Musical Interludes

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Our X Feed (Twitter) has photos & videos of many of these events

World Book Day had many highlights for the children in St Monica's, some stand out moments include seeing:

- children in Step 1 so engaged (totally engrossed) in the stories being read to them by the Year 6 Guardian Angels,
- children in Step 2 reading in the outdoors, wrapped up and snuggling in with a good book,
- children in Step 3 with their favourite books, and talking about their favourite books with me, hot chocolate and biscuits too.
- the pictures and videos of the school reading on X (Twitter), they say it all!

Children in Steps 2 and 3 have had a number of music and arts experiences over the last few weeks, with more to come next week!

- Workshops at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for Step 3
- Cinema trip for Step 3 is tomorrow - to see The Inseparables
- African Drumming for children in 2W
- Pbuzz lessons for children in 2H - there are 2 performances coming up, 1 on Tuesday morning, just for the children, the other performance is during the Cathays High School Spring Concert - tickets are only £1 each, the performance is at 6pm on Wednesday 20th March (children need to arrive at Cathays High for 5.30pm)

The Longtown trip videos can be accessed here:

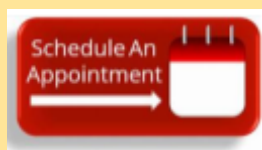
[Monday](#) [Tuesday](#) [Wednesday](#) [Thursday](#) [Friday](#)

Short Town trip photos can be accessed here:

[Barry Island Trip 06.02.24](#)

The Awards for Longtown & Short Town will be given during Praise & Celebration THIS FRIDAY - all welcome!!!

Please do not share any of these images on social media. Thank you



The new **Appointments Button** is now live - if you wish to make an appointment to see me, you can book online as the appointments schedule has been synchronised with my diary - it's worked well so far (that may be a statement I regret the first time it goes wrong!)

Thank you for your support.
Abi Cuthbert, Head Teacher

Intentional Actions to Sustain High Achievement in St Monica's

Over the last few years, we have worked hard to gain accreditations and awards in a number of important areas regarding learning and teaching (pedagogy), child development and supporting children's awareness of the world around them. This is all linked to the 4 main purposes of the curriculum, for children to become:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

The accreditations we have are all linked to at least 1 of the four purposes, often several. Each of the accreditations has ongoing commitments for us to sustain, and improve upon wherever possible. This leads us to some of our intentional actions, commitments we have made for our children. Just some examples of these include:

- walking to destinations wherever possible - we are an **Active Travel School**, with the **Healthy Schools National Quality Award**,
- taking public transport if the distance is too far to walk - this links with the awards mentioned above but is also a strong commitment to sustain our **Green Flag** as an **Eco School**,
- ensuring all children have opportunities for good quality play experiences in 'green' and natural environments - linked to our **Healthy Schools NQA**, **Thrive Embraced** status and **Rights Respecting School Silver Award** (we are going for Gold next academic year!) and **Caring for God's Acre** work,
- litter picking when we visit Gelligaer Street Park or Cathays Cemetery - linked to our **Green Flag** and feeling connected to our community as part of our **Schools of Sanctuary** award,
- commitment to providing children with a free breakfast and fruit at breaktime - breakfast club is supported by funding from Welsh Government and money directly from the school budget, snack at breaktime is supported by parent voluntary contributions and a newly awarded Tesco grant to pay for fruit - these actions are linked to our **Healthy Schools NQA**, **Thrive Embraced** status and **Rights Respecting School Silver Award**,
- supporting all children to be able to give 'acts of service' to their community, in school and outside school through work experience (e.g. at The Table or in the School Office) or through working in various committees and groups in school - children start to have these opportunities in Year 2 (e.g. School Council, Eco Committee, Criw Cymraeg, Active Travel, Peace Club, Guardian Angels, Young Interpreters, Digital Leaders, Librarians...) - linked to all of the above accreditations plus **Siarter Iaith** (Welsh Language Charter)!

As you can see - your children are working so hard to support essential actions in our extremely busy little school!

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.**

Homework Helpers

I am often asked by parents if there are things they can do to support their child at home, the first port of call should be the Step Web Pages - links are later on in this newsletter. Other things parents or family members could do with their children (of all ages) include:

- giving your child some focused 'screen time' on either **TTRS** (Times Tables Rock Stars) or **Numbots** to improve their number fluency - log in details have been shared with parents, if you have misplaced them for your child please contact your child's class teacher,
- looking at the **Picture News** section on the Step Web Pages for whole family reflections and discussions about current affairs and elements of spirituality to improve speaking and (possibly more importantly) listening skills,
- consider a subscription to a reputable magazine or children's newspaper - we are not on commission but subscriptions we like include **First News** and **Aquila**

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 - it is getting soooo close!**

	Last half term	23/2/24	1/3/24	8/3/24	15/3/24
School Office	9.97	10	9.8	10	
Staffroom	9.77	9.85	9.75	9.9	
Step 1	9.82	9.9	9.85	9.5	
Step 2	9.77	9.75	9.8	9.9	
Step 3	9.88	10	9.9	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:

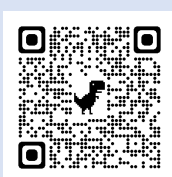
what your child is learning in school, PE days & home learning tasks

Step 1 Web Pages



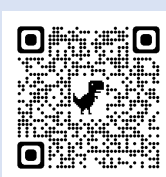
Reception / Year 1

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>

			Thursday 14 th March	Friday 15 th March
			10am Step 3 - Vue Cinema	2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 18 th March	Tuesday 19 th March	Wednesday 20 th Mar	Thursday 21 st March	Friday 22 nd March
pm Y3 to Cathays High - practice PBuzz	am Y3 - All Nations Church - PBuzz	CAW – Rev Caroline 6pm Y3 - Cathays High Spring Concert - PBuzz (children to arrive at 5.30pm)	4pm Finance, Premises & H+S GB meeting	2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome

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 Finance, Premises & H+S GB meeting	2.30pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 22 nd April	Tuesday 23 rd 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 1 st May	Thursday 2 nd May	Friday 3 rd 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 6 th May	Tuesday 7 th May	Wednesday 8 th May	Thursday 9 th May	Friday 10 th 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 21 st May	Wednesday 22 nd May	Thursday 23 rd 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...

