



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

St Monica's University St Monica's University - SMU

After a considerable planning period, we started our St Monica's University last Friday afternoon as a 4 week pilot project! The SMU has a core focus on wider maths skills (from Big Maths) where the gaps each child currently has in their knowledge and understanding are taught. Children are in small mixed age groups and taught by teachers in very focused sessions. Children selected from a menu of electives, which all have either a Health & Wellbeing or Expressive Arts focus. These are taught by Teaching Assistants and/or (carefully selected, DBS checked) volunteers, again in mixed age groups.

SMU CORE	ELECTIVES
Shape explore & draw / 2D shapes / 3D shapes / position & direction	Singing with Mrs Bartlett Sewing with Miss Downs
Amounts of things distance / mass / money / space / temperature / time / turn	Art & Nature with Mrs Meakins PBuzz with Mrs Azad
Fractions of a whole / a set / counting / learn its / it's nothing new / calculation / percentages / ratio	Yoga & Mindfulness with Miss Driscoll 5 a-side Football with Miss Phillips
Explaining Data diagrams & tables / bar charts / averages / line graphs / pie charts / probability	Cooking with Mrs Roberts Dungeons & Dragons with Mr Rogan
Dangerous Maths pattern spotting / algebra / prove it!	Dog Mentoring with Mr Cuthbert, Bella & Buddy

I look forward to seeing how this pilot progresses and the (hopefully) positive impact it has on children's wider maths skills and their enjoyment and engagement with their learning. The early signs (from last Friday) are extremely encouraging. We all had the most fabulous afternoon - **please do check out our X(Twitter) feed to see photos of our 1st day.**

If you would like to support the SMU in June, and can commit to all 4 Friday afternoons, and have ideas of an elective that you think children would enjoy, please do get in touch. It can take a little time for a DBS check to come back, so now would be the best time to apply for one - it doesn't cost us any money but is essential if you would like to help/volunteer in the school. The DBS is the Disclosure and Barring Service check, sometimes known as a Police check. This ensures that anyone coming into the school has had checks made into their background which gives us some reassurance that only the safest people come into contact with our children.

Clubs and Activities After School

	In school	Other providers - children NOT supervised by St Monica's staff
Monday	<p>Summer Sports Club with Mr Spencer 3.15 - 4.20pm Years 1, 2 & 3 only</p> <p>This club is now full - to be added to the waiting list please use the booking form https://forms.gle/MzwVAJdJx8v7r81q6</p>	<p>Children's Art Club Cathays Library 3pm-5pm it is a drop in so anyone can join in at any time in those 2 hours. The group is also disability and SEN friendly - they have a disability pride arts exhibition running at Central Library in July and are hoping to feature some of this group's artwork if anyone would like theirs displayed.</p>
Tuesday	<p>Summer Film Club with Mrs Cuthbert & Mrs Vaughan 3.15 - 4.20pm Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 only This club is now full - to be added to the waiting list please use the booking form https://forms.gle/8GCBvtjWSrtbwXaF8</p>	
Wednesday	<p>Summer Book Club with Mrs Meakins 3.15 - 4.20pm Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 only This club is now full - to be added to the waiting list please use the booking form https://forms.gle/foTYtGvfsvekjUmB7</p>	
Thursday		<p>Y6 Youth Club Cathays Community Centre - see Mrs Meakins for details</p>

MMR Vaccinations

We supported Public Health Wales by opening up as a vaccination centre for all children (and staff) in St Monica's who were not currently vaccinated against Measles, Mumps or Rubella. This was extremely well attended - they even had to send out for more vaccines!

There is a 2nd clinic (for those who haven't had their first vaccine and those who need their second dose) on THURSDAY 6th June 3-5pm.

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. 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 MUST be present**.

If you would like your child to receive the vaccination, please click the link to the electronic consent form for you to complete and submit. <https://forms.office.com/e/cB1aBysuPM>

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

School Essentials Grant

Children of families on lower incomes who **receive certain benefits**, those seeking asylum and children in care can claim £125 per year to help with school costs. Because of the extra cost families might face when their children start secondary school, £200 is available for eligible pupils going into year 7. It could also mean extra funding for your school.

There's still time to **check eligibility and apply for this year's funding** now before applications close on 31 May.

You can apply every year for each of your children. Pupils from all kinds of education settings are eligible as long as they are aged 4 (in Reception) to 16. This applies to pupils in all schools and settings, including special schools and pupil referral units.

Headteacher of Ysgol Gymunedol Trimsaran, Steffan Jones, explained how the grant helps pupils at his school:

You want every child to be treated the same, and you want every child to have the same experiences. These grants do help, so that all children can get involved and enjoy their time at school, not just those who can afford it.

The grant can be used to pay for:

- school uniform, including coats and shoes
- school activities, like learning a musical instrument, sports kit and equipment for after school activities
- classroom essentials, like pens, pencils and bags

Even if your child already receives a Free School Meal, you still need to check eligibility to access the School Essentials Grant and extra funding for your school. To find out more about the Schools Essentials Grant and to check eligibility, visit [Get help with school costs | GOV.WALES](#).

**AS A SCHOOL WE ALSO HAVE MORE MONEY GIVEN TO US IN OUR BUDGET
FOR EVERY CHILD WHO SUCCESSFULLY RECEIVES THIS GRANT**

- THIS HELPS TO SUPPORT THE WORK WE DO IN SCHOOL -

<https://www.gov.wales/dont-miss-out-help-school-essentials>



Nursio Ysgol | School Nursing
BIP Caerdydd a'r Fro | Cardiff & Vale UHB

parent line

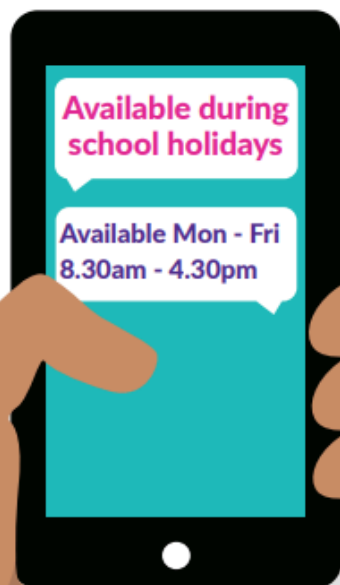
If you're a parent or carer of a 5-16 Year Old

Text your school nurse on

07312 263178

For confidential advice and support

This will be a text in service for parent to access their school nurse to help with a wide range of health problems. This won't be a diagnostic service but we can give advice on....



emotional wellbeing
sleep day and
healthy night time
eating wetting
soiling substance misuse
relationships
behaviour bullying
online safety puberty



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we received your text. Texts will not be seen outside normal working hours. If you need help before you hear back from us, contact your GP, nearest walk in centre or dial 111. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To prevent the health professional from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number. Messages are charged at your usual rates.

BOOK YOUR PLACE MAY 2024!

OUR AWARD WINING MULTI SPORTS AND
CRAZY ACTIVITIES CAMPS AVAILABLE AT
CARDIFF HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE VALE RESORT
BETWEEN MONDAY 28TH AND FRIDAY 31ST
MAY



£27.50*
PER DAY
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USING CODE:
EARLYCAMPDAY

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AGES 5-12, CAMPS RUN FROM 8AM-5PM
EACH DAY LED BY QUALIFIED, ENHANCED
DBS CHECKED STAFF
*3RD PARTY BOOKING SITE FEES APPLY

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VALE RESORT, CARDIFF HIGH, LLANISHEN HIGH,
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£27.50*
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AT EASTERN LEISURE CENTRE

LLANRUMNEY AVENUE, CF3 4DN.

FRIDAY EVENINGS ONGOING DURING SCHOOL TERM TIMES

(NEW PLAYERS CAN JOIN AT ANYTIME DURING THE YEAR(PROVIDING PLACES ARE AVAILABLE)



Tony Capaldi



Group 1	4:30pm – 5:30pm	Ages 4 - 6
Group 2	5:30pm – 6:30pm	Ages 7 - 8
Group 3	6:30pm – 7:30pm	Ages 9 - 12

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to inform you that following the success of previous year's courses we are expanding the football coaching programme for the season. The course will run on a weekly basis **EVERY FRIDAY** during school term times.

All of our courses are run by F.A. QUALIFIED COACHES INCLUDING FORMER CARDIFF CITY & INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALLER TONY CAPALDI. All of our coaches have been DBS/CRB police checked. The course is open to boys and girls aged between 4 and 12. All abilities are catered for with total beginners introduced through fun and confidence building practices. The course is tightly structured to ensure all aspects of football skills are developed.

At the end of the term(usually 10-15 weeks) every child will receive a merit trophy and course certificate, with chances to win extra trophies including penalty shoot out, american shoot out and champions league competitions.

The cost of the course is £7.50 per week, which is payable every four weeks (£30) with the first payment due on week one. Parents are welcome to stay and watch however the club is fully supervised so children may be left in our care. **We have the use of excellent facilities including the large indoor sports hall and outdoor pitches.**

**TO BOOK A PLACE ON TO THE COURSE PLEASE TEXT
RUMNEY + CHILD'S NAME & AGE + GROUP NUMBER(1/2/3) to
07856 315 637**

Tony Capaldi (Head Coach) Steven Nugent (Course Co-ordinator)

HALF-TERM FOOTBALL FUN CAMP - TUESDAY 28TH – FRIDAY 31ST MAY

**AT ST.ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL(NEWPORT ROAD, CF3 1XQ)
10am-3pm (BOYS + GIRLS AGES 4-13)**

The course is for 4 days from 10.00am – 3.00pm and children must bring a packed lunch and drinks from home every day. On Friday at 2.00pm there is a trophy presentation when all players receive their awards. The cost of the camp is £80. We also offer **£20 DISCOUNT(£60)** for the second and subsequent children in the same family. Single days are charged at £25 for any children who cannot attend all 5 days. **ALL CHILDREN ARE GUARANTEED TO RECEIVE AT LEAST ONE TROPHY AND CERTIFICATE.**

**TO BOOK A PLACE PLEASE TEXT
'ST. ILLTYD'S HALF-TERM' + CHILD'S NAME + AGE to 07856 315 637**

YOU WILL RECEIVE CONFORMATION BY TEXT THEN REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT IS MADE ON THE FIRST MORNING OF THE COURSE

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 has now started for all children in Year 5. **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).

Next in the newsletter - our usual information

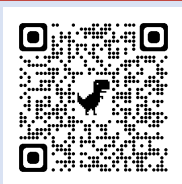
Links to Step webpages Contact details for staff
Dates for the diary **- if it is highlighted yellow - family can attend too**
Parent Pay links Donation button

Links to the School Website

For up to date information about:

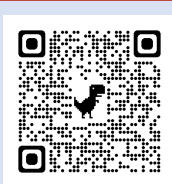
what your child is learning in school, PE days & home learning tasks

Step 1 Web Pages



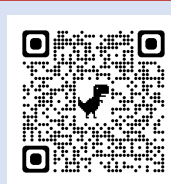
Reception / Year 1

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](mailto:Mrs.Cuthbert@stmonicasschool.co.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 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.

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.

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 25 th April	Friday 26 th April
				SMU - 2 2.40pm 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	SMU - 3 2.40pm 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		SMU - 4 9am Helping Hands at The Table 2.40pm 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
	NEW DATE: evening - Talent Show at The Table	CAW – Rev Caroline NEW DATE: evening - Talent Show at The Table	SuperHumans workshop - Step 3	SMU - evaluation 2.40pm 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
	Reception Hearing Screenings	CAW – Rev Caroline		2.40pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
HALF TERM BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR 1 WEEK				
Monday 3 rd June	Tuesday 4 th June	Wednesday 5 th June	Thursday 6 th June	Friday 7 th June
Children return to school Free Lunchtime Meals for all children	Spectrum Project - Y2 & Y6	CAW – Rev Caroline	11am Vision & Values Gov Body Committee 3pm MMR Vaccination Clinic 4pm Standards Gov Body Committee	SMU - 1 9am Helping Hands at The Table 2.40pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 10 th June	Tuesday 11 th June	Wednesday 12 th June	Thursday 13 th June	Friday 14 th June
		CAW – Rev Caroline	3.20pm Reports to Parents go home	SMU - 2 2.40pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 17 th June	Tuesday 18 th June	Wednesday 19 th June	Thursday 20 th June	Friday 21 st June
Parent Consultations - a booking link will be emailed to you	CAW - Mr Akrill	CAW – Rev Caroline	Class Photo Day	SMU - 3 2.40pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome

Monday 24th June	Tuesday 25th June	Wednesday 26th June	Thursday 27th June	Friday 28th June
		CAW – Rev Caroline	1pm Governing Body Learning Walk 4pm Full Governing Body meeting	SMU - 4 9am Helping Hands at The Table 2.40pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 1st July	Tuesday 2nd July	Wednesday 3rd July	Thursday 4th July	Friday 5th July
9.30 - 11.30 am Sports Day at Gelligaer Street Park		CAW – Rev Caroline		2.40pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Monday 8th July	Tuesday 9th July	Wednesday 10th July	Thursday 11th July	Friday 12th July
		CAW – Rev Caroline 10am Leavers Service (Y6) at Llandaff Cathedral		9am - 3pm Drummathon / Dance A Thon fundraiser for school
Monday 15th July	Tuesday 16th July	Wednesday 17th July	Thursday 18th July	Friday 19th July
		CAW – Rev Caroline	6pm Y6 Leavers Celebration - family members invited	Last day of term for all children

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)

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...

www.stmonicasschool.co.uk

