

27th October 2023

Links to the School Website – for up to date information about what your child is learning in school, PE days and ANY homework they may have

Step 1 Web Pages



Reception / Year 1

Step 2 Web Pages



Year 2 / Year 3

Step 3 Web Pages

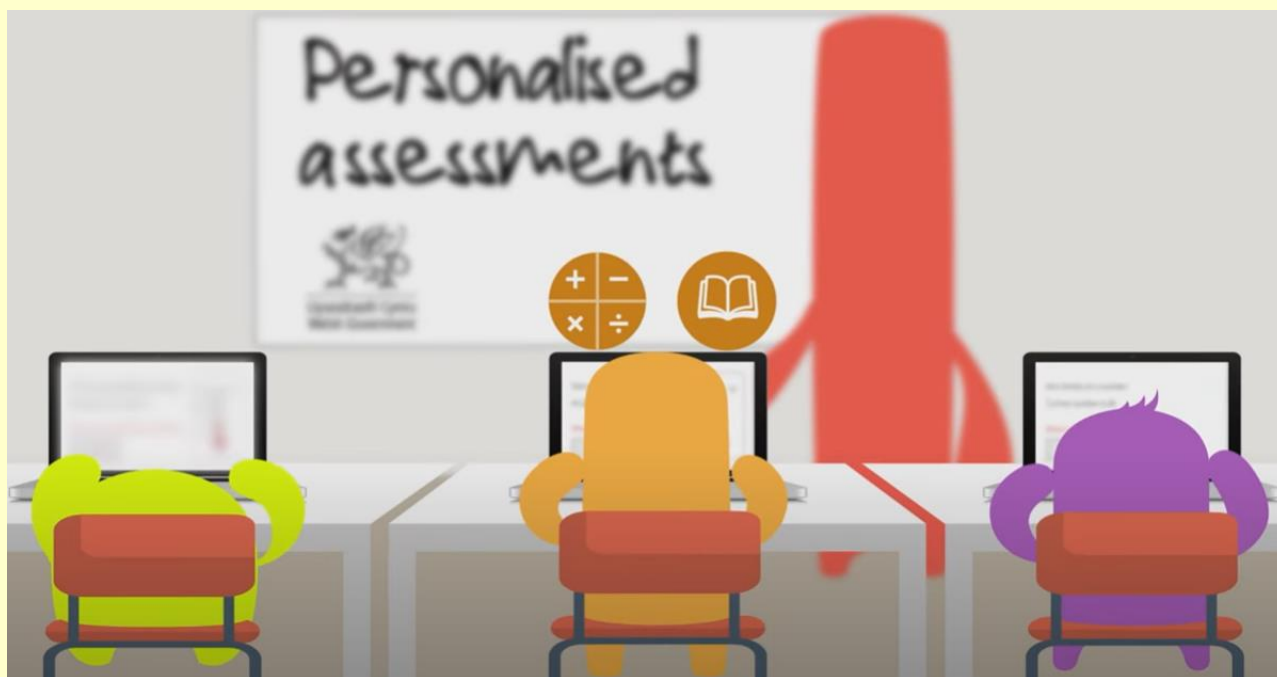


Year 4 / Year 5 / Year 6

Well done to all children in Steps 2 and 3

All children in Steps 2 and 3 have been doing their Personalised Assessments in reading, numeracy and reasoning this week. They have worked extremely hard and we are looking forward to seeing their results, looking for ways we can help them further in school. This short YouTube film helps to explain a little bit more about the assessments and how we use the information in school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4imAgxjz64&t=7s>



Parent Workshop

Wednesday 8th November 3.30 - 4.30pm

If you would like to find out more about Mathematical Development and **how we teach maths in school**, please come along. We will be showing you what a CLIC session is and how we work with children on their wider maths skills through SAFE.



VOTE FOR US!!!



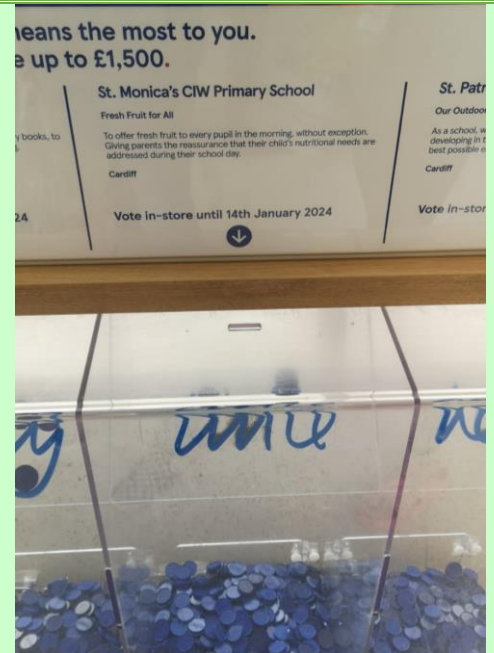
We are delighted say that our application to the Tesco Stronger Starts as been successful and our project will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco

stores. **Vote now until Mid January 2024.**

St. Monica's CIW Primary School - Fresh Fruit for All

To offer fresh fruit to every pupil in the morning, without exception. Giving parents the reassurance that their child's nutritional needs are addressed during their school day.

All you need to do is pick up a blue voting token – in any Tesco store in Cardiff, and drop it into the St Monica's slot in the plastic voting station which is usually by the entrance of each store.



If you don't shop in TESCO...

There is quite a bit of hard work going into collecting blue TESCO tokens, however, there is a way to help St Monica's if you don't shop there...

Lidl now have an app called Lidl Plus. You get discount coupons, special offers and draws each time you scan your digital card at the till. I have been told that if you spend over £200 in a month, you then get £10 cashback. Helping Hands have made a great suggestion – **why not consider donating your cashback to St Monica's???**



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...



Thank You Miss Meyer!!!

If you would like to also help Miss Meyer meet her fundraising target for St Monica's please click on the link to her GoFundMe page – **she's raised a whopping £1,280 already!!!**
Her race is on the last Sunday of the half term break – we look forward to hearing all about it when she comes into school.

Supporting St Monicas!



Emma Meyer is organising this fundraiser.

Hi, I'm Emma (Miss Meyer) and I will be taking part in the Nice half marathon on Sunday 5th November. I will be running to help raise money for St Monica's CIW Primary School. I recently joined St Monica's in September and it is where I will be undertaking my placement for the academic year.

Since joining the school I have been able to see how much all the amazing staff care about all of the wonderful children who attend St Monica's. The teachers put so much effort into making the school amazing and this does not stop with just the lessons they deliver, teachers spend their money on resources for the children to make the most of their learning. I would love to be able to help the teachers and the children out, by raising some money in order to provide some extra/ necessary resources, be it equipment for after school clubs or general class resources.

Please help me in supporting this wonderful school & help me raise some money to be spent on some resources to give the children.

Thank you!!

How to help your child to do really well in school

Your child really succeeds in school when we are able to work in partnership with home, to celebrate your child's achievements as well as give our professional guidance on where they need to focus their efforts next. We held our teacher/parent consultations earlier this term and I am disappointed by how many missed appointments there were.

We know that there are some very rare occasions when it is not possible to make an appointment, for example if you have been admitted into hospital or have been arrested by the Police – otherwise the expectation is for you to support your child's education so that they can thrive and do God's work in the world.

Percentage of appointments missed	
1V	57%
2W	45%
2H	50%
3T	39%
3I	31%

Many children were disappointed that their parents didn't come and see their work. It can give a very poor message about the value some parents place on their child's education, I find this very surprising given how well educated and accomplished many of our parents are.

Teachers were understandably disappointed, having prepared all of the children's books and digital work, ensured all of the personalised progress records for each child were ready and any specific letters/permissions were ready to be signed for interventions etc. They were also dismayed at the looming scale of the additional workload to try to rearrange appointments in their own time. I am not able to release staff again for another whole day to catch up on appointments which were missed and will not allow staff to use their planning time (or intrude on their family time) either.

I sent out a calendar of essential dates earlier this term – a link to the document is here:

<https://www.stmonicasschool.co.uk/news/detail/diary-of-events-for-2023-2024/>

Please come into the school office if you would like another hard copy of this. The calendar at the bottom of every newsletter also has the **essential dates for the term for parents** highlighted in yellow.

I will be working with Helping Hands, Governors and Teachers to look at how clearly we communicate our expectations in St Monica's to help support the learning and wellbeing of everyone.



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!

Step 3 Girls: Wednesday 22nd November 2.30 - 3.20pm

Talk for Step 3 girls (parents welcome to a separate talk with Mrs Cuthbert) regarding puberty, periods and period dignity products. All girls in Years 5 and 6 will also be given period products to take home.

<https://www.gov.wales/period-proud-wales-action-plan-html>

**BALCH | PERIOD
O'R MISLIF | PROUD**

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**48% of girls in the UK
feel embarrassed by
their period***

*Plan International

#PeriodProudWales

**BALCH | PERIOD
O'R MISLIF | PROUD**

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**15% of girls in Wales
aged 14-21 have been
unable to afford period
products***

*Plan International

#PeriodProudWales

**BALCH | PERIOD
O'R MISLIF | PROUD**

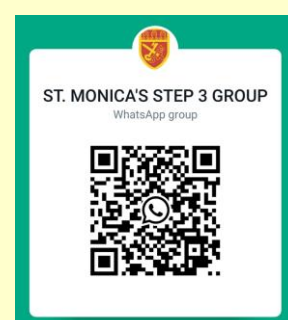
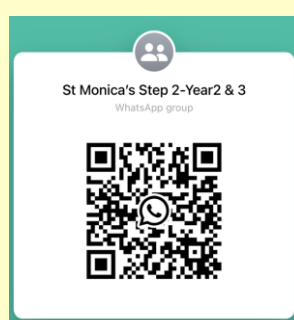
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**A big-brand pack of 14
menstrual pads can contain
the same amount of plastic
as five carrier bags***

*Natracare

#PeriodProudWales

WhatsApp Groups for Parents





YMCA HALLOWEEN EVENT



Tuesday 31st October



2pm - 4pm (ages 5-11) - Halloween themed
disco with games and activities.



6pm – 8pm (ages 11-14) – DJ, Halloween games
and activities

Free food and fancy dress prizes



£1 entry fee for young people not on YMCA
projects.

2 Shakespeare St, Cardiff CF24 3ES





2023 Children's October Half Term Activities Llanover Hall Arts Centre



Monday 30th October

- 10am-12pm Little Artists: Pets, Family and Friends Autumn Walks Painting (5-8yrs)
- 10am-12pm Little Potters: Witches and Wizards (5-8yrs)
- 10am-12pm "Fireworks" Tie Dying (8yrs+) Please bring a t shirt or light clothing
- 10am-12pm Drawing: Autumn Wreaths and Spooky Characters (8yrs+)
- 1pm-3pm Clay Club: Autumn Wildlife Animals (8yrs+)
- 1pm-3pm Block Printed Wall Art (5-8yrs)
- 1pm-3pm Halloween Papercrafts (8yrs+)



Tuesday 31st October

- 10am-12pm Little Artists Halloween Magic -Painting (5-8yrs)
- 10am-12pm Clay Club: Ceramic Halloween decorations (8yrs+)
- 10am-12pm Ghost in a Bottle (5-8yrs)
- 1pm-3pm Little Potters: Halloween Pumpkins (5-8yrs)
- 1pm-3pm Haunted Watercolour (8yrs+)
- 1pm-3pm Aboriginal Dot Pictures (5-8yrs)
- 1pm-3pm Harry Potter Inspired Drawing (8yrs+)

Wednesday 1st November

- 10am-12pm Clay Club: The Nightmare before Christmas Inspired Characters (8yrs+)
- 10am-12pm Little Artists: Bonfires, Sparkles and Fun Food- Painting (5-8yrs)
- 10am-12pm Creating Illusions (8yrs+)
- 10am-12pm Fun with Felt (5-8yrs)
- 1pm-3pm Sew Much Fun (8yrs+)
- 1pm-3pm Little Potters: Clay Cats and Dogs (5-8yrs)
- 1pm-3pm Dinosaurs & Unicorns Tissue Light Catchers (8yrs)



Let's Act Presents ...Halloween Tales!

Mon 30th October- Wed 1st November

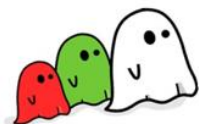
10am-3pm Ages 8yrs+

Join us this Halloween for three spooktacular days
filled playing drama games, creating new scripts
and being part of a brand new live theatre show based
around spooky Halloween stories!

Friends and family show on the final afternoon!

Children on all 2 hour courses will require adult supervision if they stay during the lunchtime

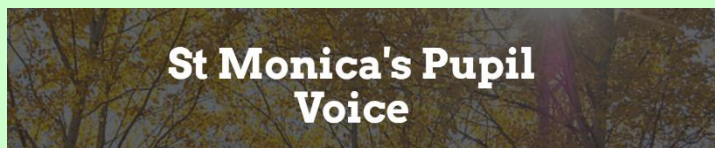
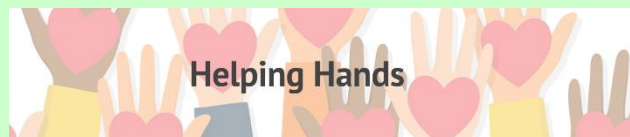
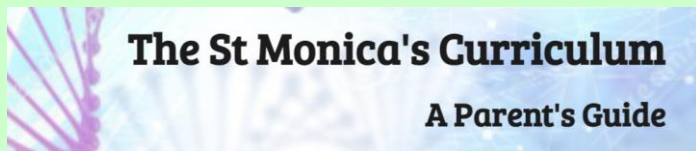
Please note we are unable to enrol any children under 5 years old.



£8.00 per 2 hour session
Let's Act Presents course £50.00
Call now to book a place
029 20872030



Weblinks to important parts of the school website – click on the pictures



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)

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

Mrs Cuthbert is 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>

Half Term Break – no school for 1 week

Monday 6 th Nov	Tuesday 7 th Nov	Wednesday 8 th Nov	Thursday 9 th Nov	Friday 10 th Nov
Breakfast Club doors open at 8.10am		Film Club & Y6 to the Film Festival 10.35 Rev. Caroline for Worship 3.30 – 4.30 Maths for Parents workshop (CLIC and SAFE)	2pm Step 3 to Parish Eucharist	
Monday 13 th Nov	Tuesday 14 th Nov	Wednesday 15 th Nov	Thursday 16 th Nov	Friday 17 th Nov
Applications for new Reception (Sept 2024) accepted		10.35 Rev. Caroline for Worship		Children in Need Day Spotty Dress Up / wear a spotty mask Suggested donation = £1, money raised to Children in Need
Monday 20 th Nov	Tuesday 21 st Nov	Wednesday 22 nd Nov	Thursday 23 rd Nov	Friday 24 th Nov
Universal Free School Meals start for children in Year 4	Y1, 2 and 3 to the Film Festival	10.35 Rev. Caroline for Worship 2.30 – 3.20 Period Dignity – Step 3 girls, parents welcome	Y6 to Crucial Crew in Llandaff 4pm Full Governing Body meeting	9am Helping Hands at The Table
Monday 27 th Nov	Tuesday 28 th Nov	Wednesday 29 th Nov	Thursday 30 th Nov	Friday 1 st Dec
	9.30 Bumbles of Honeywood Y3 10.35 Mr Akrill for Worship	10.35 Rev. Caroline for Worship		
Monday 4 th Dec	Tuesday 5 th Dec	Wednesday 6 th Dec	Thursday 7 th Dec	Friday 8 th Dec
		10.35 Rev. Caroline for Worship 4.30 Family Film Night	2pm Step 3 to Parish Eucharist	
Monday 11 th Dec	Tuesday 12 th Dec	Wednesday 13 th Dec	Thursday 14 th Dec	Friday 15 th Dec
Dress rehearsals	2pm Step 2 Christmas production	10am Step 2 Christmas Production 2pm Step 1 Christmas Production	10am Step 1 Christmas Production 2pm Step 3 Christmas Production	10am Step 3 Christmas Production

Monday 18 th Dec	Tuesday 19 th Dec	Wednesday 20 th Dec	Thursday 21 st Dec	Friday 22 nd Dec
		1.30 Community Carols at The Table 6pm School Carol Concert at St Michael's Church	10.30 Step 3 to Sherman Theatre to see Peter Pan 11am Steps 1 & 2 to Sherman Theatre to see Hansel & Gretel	Last day of term – no school for 2 weeks
<p style="text-align: center;">Christmas Break – no school for 2 weeks Children return to school on TUESDAY 9th January</p>				