



21st May 2024

Where everyone SHINES

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

An exciting end to the half term

The **Talent Shows** were such a wonderful way for children to showcase their talents in front of a really appreciative audience! We had such a variety of acts, from singing, dancing, gymnastics, drama, unpublished books, banking app web design, TTRS times tables, drawing, quiz shows, PBone, recitations, poetry, piano, to drumming, rattles and bells. We also saw (and bought) some of the children's amazing crafts and bakes. The Talent Show enables children to show and experience all aspects of SHINES - being successful, happy, inclusive, nurturing, evolving and spiritual. We all saw every aspect of this on both evenings.

In total we raised £662.66 - thank you so much!



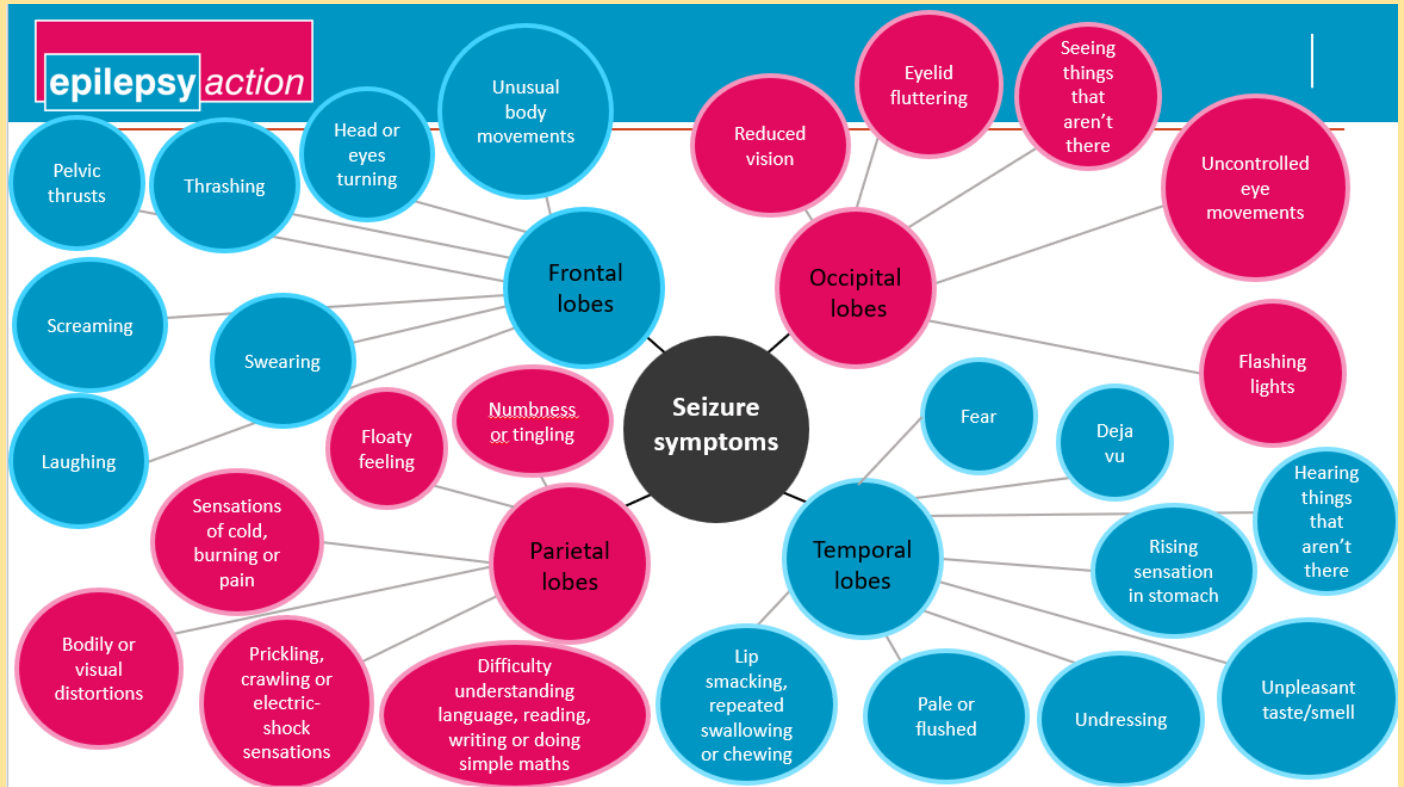
The **'Signs of Spring'** celebration in Step 1 was extremely well attended - 17 parents were able to come to Step 1 this morning (some Guardian Angels and older siblings crept in too!) to take part in a carousel of 3 different activities, including making colourful fruit and vegetable kebabs, a spring hat and making the lifecycle of a butterfly out of pasta! Photos of this very special event are available on **X (Twitter) @stmonicascw1**



Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 had a visit today from a former teacher in St Monica's - Amy Walker-Robinson. She now works for **Epilepsy Action** and she did an assembly and a series of workshops with children. Our children were extremely compassionate and supportive of each other, truly showcasing the **Inclusive in SHINES!**

Some of the resources the children used can be accessed here: [Just for kids - Epilepsy Action](https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/just-for-kids)

Epilepsy Action Helpline Freephone **0808 800 5050** helpline@epilepsy.org.uk



Call 999 for an ambulance if...

- You know it is the person's first seizure
- The seizure continues for more than five minutes
- One tonic-clonic seizure follows another without the person regaining consciousness between seizures
- The person is injured during the seizure
- They have trouble breathing after the seizure has stopped



Parent Space

Parent Space is an open forum of online meetings for parents. Sessions are moderated by parents and enable parents to get together to chat for personal support, connection and look at ways parents can work together to support our whole school community. A link will be sent from school via text message on the day of each meeting. The next meetings will be on the following dates:

May 21st

June 25th

July 9th

All at 9pm on Tuesday evenings

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/yfs-cfmh-xdz>

It's Local History Month this month, and Cathays Library are providing a 'RemPod' experience on the 23rd & 25th May at the library for a 1960's Living Room. All are very welcome.

**[Local History Month @ Cathays Library –
RemPod Experience : Cardiff Hubs](#)**

Our Half Term holiday is next week.

There will be no school for 1 week.

We return to school on Monday 3rd June.

Breakfast Club doors will open at 8.10am as usual.

Cathays Fair 2024 - Saturday 6th July 2-5pm

We host this exciting event for the whole community in Cathays, if you or an organisation you are connected with, would like to request a stall or book stage time, this is your chance to SHINE!!!



[Stall Holders
Booking Link](#)



[Stage
Booking Link](#)



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/>

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:

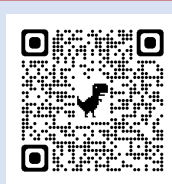
what your child is learning in school, PE days & home learning tasks

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: 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 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>

Monday 20 th May	Tuesday 21 st May	Wednesday 22 nd May	Thursday 23 rd May	Friday 24 th May
	Reception Hearing Screenings Epilepsy Awareness workshops Y3 - Y6 Parent Space - 9pm online		2pm Parish Eucharist - Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Joel James MS to visit school 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 PC Jane Woodall - Y5, then Y6	9am Family Thrive with Mrs Meakins 1/3 11am Vision & Values Gov Body Committee 3pm MMR Vaccination Clinic 4pm Full Gov Body	SMU - 1/4 9am Helping Hands at The Table
Monday 10 th June	Tuesday 11 th June	Wednesday 12 th June	Thursday 13 th June	Friday 14 th June
	Getting Ready for School - new Reception to visit 1/4	CAW – Rev Caroline	9am Family Thrive with Mrs Meakins 2/3 3.20pm Reports to Parents go home	Reception - Height & Weight check by school nurses SMU - 2/4
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	Getting Ready for School - new Reception to visit 2/4 CAW - Mr Akrill	CAW – Rev Caroline	9am Family Thrive with Mrs Meakins 3/3 Class Photo Day Evening Cricket trip to Sophia Gardens	SMU - 3/4
Monday 24 th June	Tuesday 25 th June	Wednesday 26 th June	Thursday 27 th June	Friday 28 th June
	Getting Ready for School - new Reception to visit 3/4 Parent Space - 9pm online	CAW – Rev Caroline Y5 Cycling Festiva at Maindy	1pm Governing Body Learning Walk 4pm Full Governing Body meeting	SMU - 4/4 9am Helping Hands at The Table
Monday 1 st July	Tuesday 2 nd July	Wednesday 3 rd July	Thursday 4 th July	Friday 5 th July
9.30 - 11.30 am Sports Day at Gelligaer Street Park	Getting Ready for School - new Reception to visit 4/4	CAW – Rev Caroline Y6 AI project final	Y5 App project final	11am Y5 to Cathays High 2.40pm Praise and Celebration - all welcome
Cathays Fair - Saturday 6th July 2 - 5pm				
Monday 8 th July	Tuesday 9 th July	Wednesday 10 th July	Thursday 11 th July	Friday 12 th July
	Parent Space - 9pm online	CAW – Rev Caroline 10am Leavers Service (Y6) at Llandaff Cathedral		9am - 3pm Drummathon / Dance A Thon fundraiser for school
Monday 15 th July	Tuesday 16 th July	Wednesday 17 th July	Thursday 18 th July	Friday 19 th 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