



**17th September
2024**

We are all back!

All children have now started school - our newest Reception children came in yesterday and were absolutely delightful. I saw them at lunchtime, enjoying their lunch and playing so nicely with the other children in Steps 1 and 2.

The Step webpages are starting to fill up with important information about your child's learning. The links to these are easily accessed from the school website but are also later on in this newsletter.

There are 3 meetings for parents coming up...

Wednesday 18th September @ 6pm - 7pm Longtown Parents Meeting

Find out about our residential trip for children in Years 4, 5 and 6. There may be financial help available for some families, please ask us if you would like your child to go but might struggle with the cost. It is always my aim that every child who wishes to go is able to, regardless of financial situation at home. The residential trip happens just once per year and is the most wonderful, life changing and life affirming learning experience for everyone who attends.



Wednesday 25th September @ 3.15pm - 4.15pm Step Curriculum Talks

Find out about what has been planned so far for your children's learning this term. All parents are welcome to attend to see the classrooms and then come into the school hall for a short presentation.

Monday 30th September - individual meetings

You will be able to book to see your child's class teacher for an individual appointment. The aim of this meeting is to discuss how your child has settled into the new academic year and to discuss (where appropriate) their progress on targets set during the end of year school report from last academic year. Look out for the booking page texts sent for each year group, they are also on the Step Web Pages.



A couple of things we have noticed since returning to school:

- **Lunches need to be booked but not paid for on Parent Pay.** It is extraordinarily difficult to organise reimbursements from the Local Authority. It's a shame the app we have to use is called Parent Pay, we recognise how confusing the app name is, we use it for a number of things, including as a way to give permission for certain trips, to book meals and to be able to pay for school badges (only £2 each) or fruit snack (£1 per week per child).
- **Some school bags are enormous** - sometimes larger than a child's entire back. We have limited space in our cloakrooms and coats are often falling onto the floor getting dirty and wet. If your child's bag is large but actually empty, please leave it at home.
- **The school day actually starts at 8.55am.** All children should be actually on their way into class at this time ready for the register.



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....

Available during school holidays
Available Mon - Fri
8.30am - 4.30pm

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

ChatHealth
GIG
NHS
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.

[For important health messages from our School Nursing team - please click here.](#)

4 little things all parents can do which help us in school

1. **Name everything** - jumpers, bags, water bottles, coats... if you'd be upset if it didn't come home, please name it to save everyone's tears/frustration
2. Ensure your child has a freshly filled **water bottle each day**
3. Bring **PE kit in to keep in school**, we promise to send it home when it's dirty/wet/smelly
4. **Select any meals** your child wants to eat that week on the Sunday night, but at least a day before, as the system often won't let you choose on the day

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

See X (Twitter) @stmonicasw1 for lovely pictures and videos of us at work!

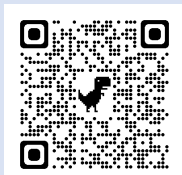
Links to the School Website

For up to date information about:

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

You can also book appointment slots to see your child's class teacher on 30/9/24 using the links on the web pages

Step 1 Web Pages



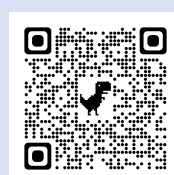
Reception / Year 1

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.

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 & Mrs Meakins mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk
mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk

Step 3 Year 4 = Mr Wycherley mrwycherley@stmonicasschool.co.uk
Year 5 = Mr Thomas mrrthomas@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.

[Click this link to possibly get help with school costs - if you do, we also get more money to support your child in school!](#)



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

| | Tuesday 17th September | Wednesday 18th September | Thursday 19th September | Friday 20th September |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| | Worship - Mr Akrill New Reception 8.55-2.15 | Worship - Rev. Caroline New Reception 8.55-3.15 | Y6 leading worship 4pm Full Governing Body meeting | 9am Tea & Tissues at The Table - Helping Hands and |

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|---|---|--|---|---|
| | Mrs Merriot (Cathays High) to visit Y6 | 6pm Longtown Parents Meeting - Step 3 parents | | any parents who wish to connect 2.30pm Praise and Celebration |
| Monday 23rd September | Tuesday 24th September | Wednesday 25th September | Thursday 26th September | Friday 27th September |
| | | Worship - Rev. Caroline 3.15 Step Curriculum Talks for Parents | Y5 leading worship | |
| Monday 30th September | Tuesday 1st October | Wednesday 2nd October | Thursday 3rd October | Friday 4th October |
| Parent Consultations - online booking | Rec - Y2 Designed to Smile Fluoride Varnish (Dental Team) | Worship - Rev. Caroline | Y4 leading worship | 9am Helping Hands at The Table - all welcome 2.30pm Praise and Celebration |
| Monday 7th October | Tuesday 8th October | Wednesday 9th October | Thursday 10th October | Friday 11th October |
| | CAW: Becky Harris | Harvest Festival with Rev. Caroline at St Michael's Church - collecting for FOOD BANK | Y3 leading worship 11am Vision and Values GB committee | Flu Immunisations - whole school |
| Monday 14th October | Tuesday 15th October | Wednesday 16th October | Thursday 17th October | Friday 18th October |
| | | | Y2 leading worship Colorfoto - School Photo Day 4pm Finance, Premises and H&S GB committee | 2.30pm Praise and Celebration |
| Monday 21st October | Tuesday 22nd October | Wednesday 23rd October | Thursday 24th October | Friday 25th October |
| Period Dignity Talks for Y5/6 girls | | Worship - Rev. Caroline | 4pm Standards GB committee | INSET DAY No school for children |
| Half term break - no school for 1 week | | | | |
| Monday 4th November | Tuesday 5th November | Wednesday 6th November | Thursday 7th November | Friday 8th November |
| Children return to school - breakfast club as usual | | Worship - Rev. Caroline | 2pm Step 3 - Parish Eucharist | 9am Helping Hands at The Table |

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|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| | | | | 2.30pm Praise and Celebration |
| Monday 11th November | Tuesday 12th November | Wednesday 13th November | Thursday 14th November | Friday 15th November |
| | | Worship - Rev. Caroline | Interfaith Event - 6-8pm More details to come | |
| Monday 18th November | Tuesday 19th November | Wednesday 20th November | Thursday 21st November | Friday 22nd November |
| | | Worship - Rev. Caroline | | 2.30pm Praise and Celebration |
| Monday 25th November | Tuesday 26th November | Wednesday 27th November | Thursday 28th November | Friday 29th November |
| | | Worship - Rev. Caroline | 4pm Full GB meeting | 9am Helping Hands at The Table |
| Monday 2nd December | Tuesday 3rd December | Wednesday 4th December | Thursday 5th December | Friday 6th December |
| | | Worship - Rev. Caroline | Parish Eucharist - Step 3 | 2.30pm Praise and Celebration |
| Monday 9th December | Tuesday 10th December | Wednesday 11th December | Thursday 12th December | Friday 13th December |
| | Christmas Performances Step 1 10am & 2pm | Christmas Performances Step 3 10am & 2pm | Christmas Performances Step 2 10am & 2pm | |
| Monday 16th December | Tuesday 17th December | Wednesday 18th December | Thursday 19th December | Friday 20th December |
| | 11.30am Carols at The Table | 6pm Carols at St Michael's | | Last day of term |
| Christmas Break - no school for 2 weeks | | | | |

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!

FREE ICE HOCKEY TICKETS



Matrix Group based in Pencoed are pleased to offer, families, complimentary tickets for the Cardiff Canucks Ice Hockey games for Season 24 at the Vindico Arena Cardiff Bay.

. We hope to see many faces in the crowd and would love to see families enjoying themselves. We are offering tickets for every game, we welcome all!

Book Your Tickets Here →

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/978166330827?aff=oddtcreator>

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range of new skills and
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Admin role available - please let clients know

Hi All,

We are currently looking to recruit an Administrator and are keen for the role to be brought to the attention of those with lived experience of using a foodbank. Please can you draw this vacancy to the attention of anyone you think might be interested between now and Sept 22nd (closing date)?

Information and how to apply on our website <https://cardiff.foodbank.org.uk/about/currentvacancies/>

Diolch!

Cardiff Foodbank

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)



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 anywhere in this text, or by visiting the school website...

www.stmonicasschool.co.uk