



Christmas 2024

Links to videos and pictures all of the Christmas Performances and Rock Steady Concert are available on the school website - [gallery section](#)

Carol Singing

There is nothing better than singing carols to help get you in the true Christmas Spirit. We have a number of different Carol Concerts which you are most welcome to attend, some during the school day and a very special Candlelit Carol Service in St Michael's in the evening. Please come with family and friends to celebrate such a special time of year in our Christian calendar.

Tuesday 17th December - 11.30 until 12.15 All of the children in Years 3 and 4 will be singing in a special Community Carol Concert at The Table. Please come and join in.

Wednesday 18th December - 6pm-7pm - a whole school Candlelit Carol Service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Gelligaer Street. Please join us with Rev. Caroline for a really special service, telling the Christmas story through song and short Bible readings. If you (parent, friend of the school or child) would like to read a short passage, please let me know and I'll send the reading to you beforehand. Battery powered candles will be provided but if you have your own (battery powered) candle to bring, please do to help stretch what we do have.

MESSY CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS !
St. Michael's, Gelligaer St, Cathays
Saturday, December 21st
10.30am – 12.30pm

Free Activities, Music, Stories & Food!

Do you know a family who would like their children to come to St Monica's?

We have spaces in most year groups as a few families have taken up housing or job opportunities outside of Cardiff. [This link takes you to our flyer, advertising a little bit about our school.](#) Please feel free to share it with your friends or church congregation.

It is easy to apply to our school, [this application form is for any Nursery or in-year applications/school transfers.](#) We are accepting applications for Nursery places for a September 2025 start. These applications are for children born no earlier than 01/09/2021. We have opened our application window earlier than the Local Authority as we start our Nursery provision for the first time as soon as we move school buildings.

For any applications to join the school in Reception for a September 2025 start, please apply using the [Cardiff Citizen Portal.](#) The application window for all Reception places is open and closes on 13th January 2025.

Governing Body Annual Report to Parents

Please see below the link to this important statutory document. It is written for parents by the Governing Body. This report covers the period from September 2023 to July 2024. The Governing Body Annual General Meeting for Parents will be held on Thursday 20th February at 6pm to which all parents are warmly invited.

 **GB Annual Report to Parents 2024.pdf**

Extra Curricular Music Lessons

Rock Steady Music are offering extra music sessions for children to learn rock instruments/singing during the school day. This is suitable for children from all age groups. If you are interested in these sessions for your child/children please sign up with them directly. They deal with all bookings.

www.rocksteadymusicschool.com

Support with the costs of education

We do know how expensive supporting your child's education can be. There is additional money and support families can have but this has to be applied for with the Local Authority. Although all primary aged children are automatically eligible for free school meals, if families are able to apply for this the school receives more money in its budget each year. There is also a School Essentials Grant, this money is paid directly to families.

[Apply for Free School Meals : Cardiff Council Forms](#)

[School Essentials Grant - Cardiff Council Forms](#)

Helping you to access healthy and affordable food in Cardiff

Where Can I Access Food?

Food Cardiff

Food Cardiff connects people across the city working with food. Visit the link for a list of food support available across the city - <https://foodcardiff.com/about-food-cardiff/>

Scan the QR code to access a map showing all the different food support available across South Wales, including food banks and community initiatives, where you can access affordable food.



Move More Eat Well

The local Public Health Team have worked alongside partners to develop a platform of food support available. Visit the link to see what is available and videos showcasing volunteers and projects: <https://movemoreeatwell.co.uk/food-related-benefits/>



Where Can I Get Advice?

Cardiff Money Advice Service

To find out what support is near you, click the link to access a map where you can search for advice hubs, community fridges, community groups, food banks, pantries and other cost of living support: www.cardiffmoneyadvice.co.uk - 029 2087 1071



C3SC

Visit the link to access a free directory of support services including warm spaces, cost of living support and help with wellbeing - <https://c3sc.org.uk/>



Where Can I Learn About Food?

Public Health Dietetic Team

Find out about free community cooking and nutrition courses if you want to improve your cooking skills and if you want to make healthier choices for your family.

<https://nutritionskillsforlife.com/>

<https://keepingmewell.com/living-well-leading-a-healthy-lifestyle/eating-well/>



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro
Tim Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Public Health Team



Cardiff & Vale
Nutrition and Dietetics
Maeth a Dieteg
Caerdydd a'r Fro



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board



Cardiff Third Sector Council
Cynghor Trydydd Sector Caerdydd



Darul Isra mosque invites you to...



Everyone welcome!

The Muslim Nativity Story

Join us for an evening to learn about the inspirational stories of:

- Jesus PBUH - the Islamic point of view
- Mary and the miracle birth
- The three wise men
- King Herod
- Star of Bethlehem

Refreshments provided!

Thursday 19th December

Darul Isra Mosque,
Cathays, CF24 4BG

7.30PM - 9PM



Delivered by
Sheikh Dr Masur Ali
Cardiff University

Register here



@cardiffmuslims

interfaith@darulisra.org.uk

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:

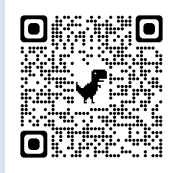
what your child is learning in school, PE days & home learning tasks

Step 1 Web Pages



Reception / Year 1

Step 2 Web Pages



Years 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.

**IF YOU VISIT THE SCHOOL AT ANY POINT IN THE DAY
PLEASE ENSURE THE GATE IS ALWAYS CLOSED BEHIND YOU**

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

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

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

Monday 16th December	Tuesday 17th December	Wednesday 18th December	Thursday 19th December	Friday 20th December
10.35 Pupil Voice meetings	Worship - Mr Akrill 11.30am Carols at The Table	10.30 Step 3 Christmas Carol at The Sherman Theatre Christmas Lunch in School 1.30 Steps 1 & 2 Little Red Riding Hood at The Sherman Theatre 6pm Carols at St Michael's		Last day of term

Christmas Break - no school for 2 weeks

Monday 6th January	Tuesday 7th January	Wednesday 8th January	Thursday 9th January	Friday 10th January
Children return to school Breakfast Club reopens at 8.10am	Worship - Rev. Caroline		Super Humans at St Monica's	2.30pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 13th January	Tuesday 14th January	Wednesday 15th January	Thursday 16th January	Friday 17th January
	Y1 Dental Survey Worship - Rev. Caroline			2.30pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 20th January	Tuesday 21st January	Wednesday 22nd January	Thursday 23rd January	Friday 24th January
	Reception Hearing Screening Worship - Rev. Caroline		4pm Premises, Finance and H&S Committee Meeting	2.30pm Praise & Celebration
Monday 27th January	Tuesday 28th January	Wednesday 29th January	Thursday 30th January	Friday 31st January
	Worship - Rev. Caroline		11am Vision & Values Committee Meeting 4pm Standards Committee Meeting	2.30pm Praise & Celebration

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)
- **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. You can get to the link by clicking anywhere in this text or by visiting the school website...

www.stmonicasschool.co.uk

