



# New Calendar Year - New Opportunities 2025

## Curriculum News

An exciting new development we have is **Big Maths at Home** - your child came home with their login details on Friday, having practised how to access their accounts whilst in school. Please don't help them with their answers, or it will give a false sense of what they are able to do and the system won't be able to give them opportunities to truly practise the things they might need to work on. Each journey through Big Maths is different, as every child is so different. To start with we have set the system so that children get to work on things they should already be fairly confident with.

The homework grids for each Step this half term are on the Step Webpages (accessed from the pictures below OR the school website)

### Step 1



## Spring Term 2025

**New Context** - Catch Me If You Can!

We will be learning all about the different types of transport on land and water and in the sky.

We will be finding out how different types of transport work before designing and making our own vehicles.

We will also be using our maths skills to record how far vehicles travel and to create graphs showing different types of transport passing our school.

### Step 2

## Our Current Context - A journey through time

Over the next 4 weeks will be finding out about Cardiff's history.

We have a number of school trips planned including a visit to Cardiff castle, the museum and the Cardiff story museum.

Week 1 - We will begin to explore Cardiff's historical timeline starting with the Romans to the present day. We will be exploring Cardiff's most well known landmarks including Cardiff Castle.

Week 2 - We will find out more about Cardiff Castle and how it has changed over the years.

Week 3 - The children will be exploring Cardiff Bay. How has it changed and how its history influenced the growth of Cardiff.

Week 4 - Using all their learning from this context, the children will be creating their own timeline. they will include important events in Cardiff's history.

### Step 3

## Super Scientists! - Spring 1 2025 This half term we are going to -

- Research a range of scientists and write non-chronological reports about them
- Look into the role of a scientist and discover that science is for everyone
- Understand a range of forces and put them into practice
- Be curious and search for answers
- Learn how to complete a science investigation
- Use our data skills to record our findings

www.cookstars.co.uk



@cookstarscardiffnorthandwest



# HAPPY HEALTHY COOK STARS

A healthy eating cookery  
enrichment programme



**BOOKING IS  
ESSENTIAL!**

Book your place NOW:  
[mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk)

## Everything included!

- all ingredients
- all kit and equipment
- an apron
- a recipe card to take home
- and a fun educational game!

## St. Monica's CIW Primary School

FREE PARENT & CHILD COOKING  
SESSIONS!

Monday 17th March  
Monday 24th March  
Monday 31st March

9.15 - 11.15am  
Attendance is required  
at all 3 sessions



### **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](http://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](http://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/>



## Next in the newsletter - our usual information

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



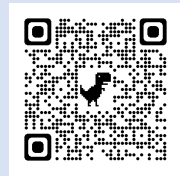
Reception / Year 1

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:Debra.williams@cardiff.gov.uk)

To email the Head Teacher: [abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.uk)

To email the Deputy Head Teacher: [mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk)

To email the Additional Needs Co-ordinator: [mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk)

To email any teacher:

Step 1 Reception = Mrs Vaughan [mrsvaughan@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsvaughan@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
Year 1 = Mrs Irwin [mrsirwin@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsirwin@stmonicasschool.co.uk)

Step 2 Year 2 = Mrs Knight [mrsknight@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsknight@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
Year 3 = Mrs O'Gorman & Mrs Meakins [mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsogorman@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
[mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsmeakins@stmonicasschool.co.uk)

Step 3 Year 4 = Mr Wycherley [mrwycherley@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrwycherley@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
Year 5 = Mr Thomas [mrthomas@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto:mrthomas@stmonicasschool.co.uk)  
Year 6 = Miss Hampson [misshampson@stmonicasschool.co.uk](mailto: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 20th January	Tuesday 21st January	Wednesday 22nd January	Thursday 23rd January	Friday 24th January
Worship - Mr Akrill (Heath Evangelical Church)	Reception Hearing Screening  Step 2 - Cardiff Museum trip		Sep 2 - Cardiff Story Museum trip  4pm Premises, Finance and H&S Committee Meeting	<b>2.35pm Praise &amp; Celebration</b>
Monday 27th January	Tuesday 28th January	Wednesday 29th January	Thursday 30th January	Friday 31st January
	Worship - Rev. Caroline	Chinese New Year presentation - Step 3	11am Vision & Values Committee Meeting  4pm Standards Committee Meeting	<b>2.35pm Praise &amp; Celebration</b>
Monday 3rd February	Tuesday 4th February	Wednesday 5th February	Thursday 6th February	Friday 7th February
	Worship - Rev. Caroline			<b>9am Helping hands @ The Table</b>  <b>2.35pm Praise &amp; Celebration</b>
Monday 10th February	Tuesday 11th February	Wednesday 12th February	Thursday 13th February	Friday 14th February
Worship - Becky Harris	Worship - Rev. Caroline  <b>9pm Parent Space meeting - online</b> Video call link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/xrf-gxfx-ett">https://meet.google.com/xrf-gxfx-ett</a>			<b>2.35pm Praise &amp; Celebration</b>
Monday 17th February	Tuesday 18th February	Wednesday 19th February	Thursday 20th February	Friday 21st February
<b>LONGTOWN</b>	<b>LONGTOWN</b> Worship - Rev. Caroline  Fluoride varnish - Rec & Y1	<b>LONGTOWN</b>	<b>LONGTOWN</b> 4pm Full Governing Body <b>6pm GB AGM for Parents</b>	<b>LONGTOWN</b>
<b>½ Term Break - no school for 1 week</b>				
<b>Monday 3rd March</b>	Tuesday 4th March	Wednesday 5th March	Thursday 6th March	Friday 7th March
<b>INSET DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN</b>	<b>Children return to school</b> Breakfast Club reopens at 8.10am Worship - Rev. Caroline			<b>9am Helping hands @ The Table</b>  <b>2.35pm Praise &amp; Celebration</b>
Monday 10th March	Tuesday 11th March	Wednesday 12th March	Thursday 13th March	Friday 14th March
<b>Parent Consultations Booking Link will be sent home closer to the time</b>	Worship - Rev. Caroline  <b>9pm Parent Space meeting - online</b> Video call link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/xrf-gxfx-ett">https://meet.google.com/xrf-gxfx-ett</a>			<b>2.35pm Praise &amp; Celebration</b>

Monday 17th March	Tuesday 18th March	Wednesday 19th March	Thursday 20th March	Friday 21st March
<b>9 - 11.30 CookStars workshops</b>	Worship - Rev. Caroline			<b>2.35pm Praise &amp; Celebration</b>
Monday 24th March	Tuesday 25th March	Wednesday 26th March	Thursday 27th March	Friday 28th March
<b>9 - 11.30 CookStars workshops</b>	Worship - Rev. Caroline		4pm Premises, Finance and H&S Committee Meeting	<b>2.35pm Praise &amp; Celebration</b>
Monday 31st March	Tuesday 1st April	Wednesday 2nd April	Thursday 3rd April	Friday 4th April
<b>9 - 11.30 CookStars workshops</b>	Worship - Rev. Caroline		4pm Full Governing Body Meeting	<b>2.35pm Praise &amp; Celebration</b>
Monday 7th April	Tuesday 8th April	Wednesday 9th April	Thursday 10th April	Friday 11th April
	Worship - Rev. Caroline	<b>Cathays High School Spring Concert 5.30 - 7.30pm</b>		<b>9am Helping hands - in school</b> <b>2.35pm Praise &amp; Celebration</b>

### 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](http://www.stmonicasschool.co.uk)