



Newsletter

December 2025



CRAFT
SONG

All
welcome!

STORY
FOOD

Saturday
20 December
10.30am - 12.30pm

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
GELLIGAER STREET, CARDIFF

Christmas Services at St Michael's, Cathays

St Michael & All Angels Church, Gelligaer St

Wednesday 17TH December, 2.00pm
QUIET SERVICE, preparing for Christmas
Come away from the frantic bustle for an hour of peace, with music, readings, and a chance to relax.

Sunday 21st December, 6.00pm
FESTIVE CAROLS & READINGS
All the favourites and seasonal readings followed by free refreshments and fellowship.

Wednesday 24TH December, 5.00pm
CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE
A joyful 40-minute service for adults and children, telling the Christmas story.
Optional: Come along in a costume if you wish!



Thursday 25TH at 10.00am
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
Christmas Morning communion service with carols for adults and children.



**ALL are
welcome**

parishofcathays.org

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

We are now nearing the end of our first half term in our new building. It feels as if we have always been here, everyone has settled in so well. It has been especially heartwarming to be welcomed so well into our new community, taking part in the Canada Road Advent Calendar and helping to raise money for Cardiff Food Bank at the same time. Some staff in school are forgoing sending Christmas cards this year and donating money instead to Cardiff Food Bank. Here is a link to more information all about it:
<https://www.cardiffandvalescouts.org.uk/2025/11/canada-road-advent-calendar-project/>

The Christmas concerts all went very well. Much hard work went into rehearsing, making costumes and props, learning lines and songs as well as different stage and screen layouts. The productions were a wonderful way for children to showcase their singing and acting talents. Every year the children surprise us with their growing confidence, especially in front of an audience!

I do understand that for the small minority of parents who were late, it was disappointing to miss their child's concert. The policy of not admitting latecomers has been in place for just over a year and is for the benefit of (and in fairness to) all of the children who are performing. As always, any disagreement with a school policy should be brought to my attention and I will listen and (if appropriate) reassess the policy or explain why it is in place. All members of staff should be able to carry out their roles free from abuse and any form of aggression. We do understand that

matters relating to your own child can elevate emotions, however, everyone has the right to respect. Children learn what they see and experience. St Monica's children are nearly always very respectful and can listen to and debate alternative viewpoints. This is something we should all be proud of.

Clubs After School

We are now able to offer places for clubs after school. Each club runs from 3.20 - 4.20pm. There are some age restrictions on some clubs. Please request a space using the Google Forms link. If a club is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be in operation. **If you need help to access any of these links, please ask in the School Office.**

Mondays

(starting on Monday 5th January)

Football (Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Sports Xtra - 16 spaces - **there is a fee** for this club as it is run by an outside provider.

[ACTIVE | Sports Xtra - South Wales](#)

Tuesdays

(starting on Tuesday 6th January)

Crochet Club (Years 4, 5 & 6) Mrs Cuthbert - all materials provided - 10 spaces

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYiyp6h0J2BE2mumio8tz06aWb4shRxIOSqHQTHTWGJkonrew/viewform?usp=header>

Book Club (Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6) Mrs Irwin - 16 spaces

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetctberbY863ohDc-LRPBCY_NwR97vmat-EEe8r8Z40C63xw/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=100416810986271662961

Tabletop Games Club (Years 4, 5 & 6) Mr Wycherley - 16 spaces

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXJvCLWy36fRInOi6Hs4ULwtV6YWGiskYqAT1mCCOrh2YEzA/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=100416810986271662961>

Thursdays

(starting on Thursday 8th January)

Earth Science (Years 4, 5 & 6) Mr T - 16 spaces

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfB9IhHA1A9a6_WZJa_wsDRGaCPou916Gd7PCej4Sh eCcZErw/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Film Club (Years 2 & 3) Mr Thomas - 16 spaces

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfD6wccetvEC_t5mRYs4h-NcTwzIPkzGK8ZwJV-nYZ3Yvlwcv/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Dance (Years 2 & 3) Mrs Meakins + Mrs Vaughan - 16 spaces

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2aPoWaXN2X69bJbIy1Am8sg2OoS_Q_1EOjHQpanwh2Q4PEw/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Vote for Your Parent Governor

The last date for voting is 9.30am on Friday 19th December - if you need help to access this link, please ask in the School Office

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdaPsZIH1uYFczi-fEgme_JKLIJ5rhp7jB1xl oW58942_N0EQ/viewform?usp=header

Step Web Pages and Home Learning Tasks

The Step web pages are updated frequently, please take a look (and keep checking back) as specific home learning tasks and ways you can support your child are signposted on there. These are open access pages and can also be found on the school website www.stmonicasschool.co.uk

[Nursery Web Pages](#)

[Step 1 Web Pages](#)

[Step 2 Web Pages](#)

[Step 3 Web Pages](#)

Staff Contacts

Head - Abi Cuthbert abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.uk

Deputy Head - Richard Thomas (Mr T) thomasr293@hwbcymru.net

Additional Learning Needs Co-Ordinator - Kelly O'Gorman ogormank@hwbcymru.net

Wellbeing Lead - Tanya Meakins meakinst@Hwbcymru.net

Acting Office Manager - Jozefina Fedorova jozefina.fedorova@cardiff.gov.uk

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child, please contact either Mrs Cuthbert, Mrs O'Gorman or Mrs Meakins. We are the Designated Safeguarding People for the school.

Parent Pay, Lunches and Snacks

Please use Parent Pay to book your child's meals, you can do this up to 3 weeks in advance. If you are struggling to get into your account, please see Mrs Fedorova in the School Office, she will be able to help you. Pre-booking meals is essential for our food ordering and meal preparation.

If you do not pre-book a meal there is no guarantee that we will be able to provide food for your child and you may be called to come into school to bring them their lunch.

A number of children are regularly coming into school with large chocolate bars, sweets and other high fat/high sugar food items. This is becoming a significant issue as children are not eating the food provided, refusing to eat their school lunch or healthier options from their homemade lunches. Childhood obesity and avoidable childhood illnesses are becoming increasingly common in the UK. School lunches are nutritious, delicious and free, they do not need supplementing with any additional food. Any additional non-fruit/vegetable snacks will be respectfully removed if seen and parents will be contacted to come and collect them from my office at the end of the day. This does not include packed lunch items that are snack-sized (small) and part of a balanced diet. **We have made such wonderful progress with the smartphone free childhood policy in school, providing healthy lunches is another area of family life we are able to support you with.**

If your child has a fruit snack in school, we ask for a £1 donation per week to go towards the cost. We try to keep the cost of school trips to the absolute minimum but occasionally will need to ask for a donation to help. The school budget is currently in a deficit and as prices rise, we are struggling to reduce it without negatively impacting learning experiences. Your support in this is gratefully received.

Health Messages

There is still time to get your child vaccinated against flu - speak to your Medical Practice or click here:

[https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/#:~:text=The%20children's%20flu%20vaccine%20is,children%20\(Reception%20to%20Year%2011\)](https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/#:~:text=The%20children's%20flu%20vaccine%20is,children%20(Reception%20to%20Year%2011))

A local dentist (Clifton Dental Care - 112 Newport Road, CF24 1DG) has been in touch to say they have 300 NHS places available and wish to prioritise these places to children in need of a dentist. If your child needs an NHS dentist you can contact the clinic via email admin@cliftdental.co.uk

Financial Support for Families

Some parents may be entitled to School Essentials Grants from the Welsh Government. Please click in the boxes below for more information:

School Essentials Grants

Eligible families can apply for a grant of £125 per child per year. Families with children entering year 7 can apply for £200 to help with increased costs associated with starting secondary school. All looked after children qualify for the grant. Schools also receive additional funding as a result of claiming this grant.

SCHOOLS FAMILY ADVICE SOUTH WALES

Citizens Advice Cardiff & Vale provide free, confidential and impartial advice on a range of areas including debt, benefits, housing, employment and family.

If you or your family need help, please scan the QR code and complete the referral form and one of our team will be in touch.

CONTACT US

02921 111272

moondance@cacv.org.uk

Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm



Caerdydd a
Bro Morgannwg
Cardiff & Vale



Talk to your children about Water Safety!

Flooding and ice in winter can be dangerous for children. Keep your children safe and talk to them about water safety.

STAY AWAY FROM THE EDGE



- Keep back from slippery banks.
- Never walk or play on ice.
- Stick to well-lit areas and plan your walks during daylight.
- Avoid walking or driving through floodwater.

KEEP CHILDREN AND PETS CLOSE



- Teach children to stay off the ice and avoid floodwater.
- Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.

IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE



- Keep calm and call for help.
- Float on your back until you feel calm, then try to climb out.
- If you cannot climb out, continue to float and keep your head clear of the water.

IF YOU SEE SOMEONE IN TROUBLE – CALL 999



- Do not enter cold water, ice, or flood water to rescue someone.
- Assist from a safe distance. Use rescue equipment, something that floats or something that could help such as a rope or tree branch.

ENJOY THE WINTER SAFELY!



FLOOD SAFETY UPDATES

Sign up for flood warnings on the [Natural Resources Wales website](https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/sign-up-to-receive-flood-warnings)

naturalresources.wales/flooding/sign-up-to-receive-flood-warnings

Stay informed about weather conditions and flood warnings.



Your Christmas online safety checklist

We'll help you stay safe and confident online up to and over the festive season.



Christmas checklist

- Shop carefully
- Protect devices / smart devices
- Festive emails – real or not?
- Review apps & software
- Check social media use /accounts
- Gaming
- Out & about



Thank you for taking the time to read these updates, it is a whopper of a newsletter! All past newsletters are available on the website.

I know we have another 3 days left of school this term but may I wish you and your families a lovely Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you again in January 2026!

Abi Cuthbert, Head Teacher

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

<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Schools/School-term-dates/Pages/default.aspx>

Monday 15th December	Tuesday 16th December	Wednesday 17th December	Thursday 18th December	Friday 19th December
Morning Y4 - visit Sherman Theatre	Afternoon Rec, Y1 & Step 2 - visit Sherman Theatre	Morning - Y5 - visit Sherman Theatre Rev Palmer (Woodville Baptist Church) - worship	Morning - Y6 - visit Sherman Theatre	Last day of term 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us

Christmas Break - no school for 2 weeks

Monday 5th January Children return to school - Breakfast Club doors open at 8.10am	Tuesday 6th January New Nursery children start	Wednesday 7th January Morning - Bishop Mary blesses the new school	Thursday 8th January	Friday 9th January
Monday 12th January Closing date for new Reception applications Year 6 leading worship	Tuesday 13th January	Wednesday 14th January Reception hearing screening	Thursday 15th January 11am Vision & Values GB meeting 4pm Finance, Premises + H&S GB meeting	Friday 16th January Assistant Director of Education to visit the school 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us
Monday 19th January Mr Akrill (Heath Evangelical Church) - worship Year 6 Superhumans Workshop	Tuesday 20th January Year 6 Superhumans Workshop	Wednesday 21st January	Thursday 22nd January 4pm Standards GB meeting	Friday 23rd January
Monday 26th January Year 5 leading worship	Tuesday 27th January	Wednesday 28th January	Thursday 29th January Year 3 - Cathays Library 4pm Full GB meeting	Friday 30th January 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us
Monday 2nd February Year 4 leading worship	Tuesday 3rd February RWCMD workshops - Y4	Wednesday 4th February	Thursday 5th February RWCMD workshops - Y5	Friday 6th February
Monday 9th February Longtown Residential Trip	Tuesday 10th February Longtown Residential Trip	Wednesday 11th February Longtown Residential Trip	Thursday 12th February Longtown Residential Trip	Friday 13th February Longtown Residential Trip 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us

Half Term Break - no school for 1 week

Monday 23rd February Children return to school - Breakfast Club doors open at 8.10am Closing date for Nursery applications (Sept 2026 start) Year 3 leading worship	Tuesday 24th February RWCMD workshops - Y6	Wednesday 25th February	Thursday 26th February	Friday 27th February Eisteddfod - celebrating all things Welsh - children wear red or dress up in Welsh costume 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us
Monday 2nd March	Tuesday 3rd March	Wednesday 4th March	Thursday 5th March	Friday 6th March
Monday 9th March Year 2 leading worship	Tuesday 10th March	Wednesday 11th March	Thursday 12th March Hearing screening for Reception	Friday 13th March 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us
Monday 16th March Spectrum workshops for Year 2 & Year 5	Tuesday 17th March	Wednesday 18th March Y4 + Y5 - Llandaff Cathedral all day	Thursday 19th March Becky Harris - worship 4pm Premises, Finance + H&S GB meeting	Friday 20th March
Monday 23rd March Reception and Year 1 leading worship	Tuesday 24th March	Wednesday 25th March	Thursday 26th March 4pm Full GB meeting	Friday 27th March 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us

Easter Break - no school for 2 weeks

Monday 13th April Children return to school - Breakfast Club doors open at 8.10am	Tuesday 14th April Nursery Summer intake start	Wednesday 15th April	Thursday 16th April	Friday 17th April
Monday 20th April Y6 Cycling	Tuesday 21st April Y6 Cycling	Wednesday 22nd April Y6 Cycling	Thursday 23rd April Y6 Cycling 4pm Full GB meeting	Friday 24th April 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us
Monday 27th April	Tuesday 28th April	Wednesday 29th April	Thursday 30th April	Friday 1st May
Monday 4th May Bank Holiday - no school	Tuesday 5th May	Wednesday 6th May	Thursday 7th May	Friday 8th May 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us
Monday 11th May	Tuesday 12th May	Wednesday 13th May	Thursday 14th May	Friday 15th May
Monday 18th May	Tuesday 19th May	Wednesday 20th May	Thursday 21st May 4pm Premises, Finance + H&S GB meeting	Friday 22nd May INSET Day - no school for children

Half Term Break - no school for 1 week

Monday 1st June Children return to school - Breakfast Club doors open at 8.10am	Tuesday 2nd June	Wednesday 3rd June	Thursday 4th June	Friday 5th June 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us
Monday 8th June	Tuesday 9th June	Wednesday 10th June	Thursday 11th June	Friday 12th June
Monday 15th June	Tuesday 16th June	Wednesday 17th June	Thursday 18th June 11am Vision & Values GB meeting	Friday 19th June 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us
Monday 22nd June	Tuesday 23rd June	Wednesday 24th June	Thursday 25th June 4pm Standards GB meeting	Friday 26th June
Monday 29th June Closing date for Nursery (Spring/Summer 2027 applications)	Tuesday 30th June	Wednesday 1st July	Thursday 2nd July	Friday 3rd July 2.30pm Praise & Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us
Monday 6th July	Tuesday 7th July	Wednesday 8th July Y6 Leaver's Service in Llandaff Cathedral	Thursday 9th July	Friday 10th July
Monday 13th July	Tuesday 14th July	Wednesday 15th July Y6 Leaver's Treat 6pm Y6 Leaver's Celebration Evening	Thursday 16th July	Friday 17th July Last day of term for children
<p>Summer Break - no school for 6 weeks Children return to school on Wednesday 3rd September 2026</p>				

Our remaining INSET days (training days where children are not in school) this academic year

- 22nd May = INSET day 5, training linked to the School Development Plan
- 20th July = INSET day 6, training linked to the School Development Plan