



## Newsletter January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

Happy New Year - I hope you had a wonderful time over the Christmas break connecting with family and friends. There is a very impactful poem by Howard Thurman who was a preacher and civil activist in the 1960s. This poem has been skillfully crafted into an ethereal captivating song.

### Work of Christmas ~ Dan Forrest

Performed by  
Bangalore Conservatory Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taFtii1s1AM>

As we end this Christmas season, this song for me is a call to action. If we have allowed Jesus to be born in our hearts do we just keep him there as the baby in the manger? Or do we allow his whole life and teaching to inspire us to be better people, and to inspire us to treat all with respect and love?

With my kindest regards, Abi Cuthbert (Head Teacher)

#### **Your new Parent Governor**

Many thanks to Mrs Elinor Dixon, Ms Anju Sivasankara Kurup and Mr Nawfal Salamut for so kindly offering to stand for Parent Governor elections. Their commitment to not only their children's education but also the education of all of the children in St Monica's shows what wonderful people they are! I am pleased to inform you that **Elinor was successfully elected** as your new Parent Governor. She will be attending her first meeting later this half term.

## **Bishop Mary Stallard's Blessing of the School**

We were thrilled to welcome Bishop Mary Stallard (Bishop of Llandaff) to the our school on Wednesday this week. She had a full tour, ably led by our older School Council members Max, Alex, Arlo and Grace and then gave a talk to all of the children in the hall about her role, showing some of the accoutrements of her office. Hannah made for a very convincing bishop and Max was a super bishop's chaplain.

The children's singing was wonderful, they were respectful and made a fantastic impression on all of our invited guests from the Llandaff Diocese, including the Llandaff Diocesan Director for Education and Director of Missions for the Diocese too.



Ms Prosser (St Monica's Chair of Governors), Rev Caroline (a very regular visitor to the school and former Ex Officio Governor of St Monica's), Max (Y6), Bishop Mary, Hannah (Y6), Clare Werrett (Diocesan Director of Education), Abi Cuthbert (Head Teacher)

Every year group had a photo taken with Bishop Mary, we will keep these and compare them with the photo that is taken during each Year 6 Leaver's Celebration held every July in Llandaff Cathedral. To see the [class photos, please use this link](#) or take a look at the gallery on the school website.

## **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 12th 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**

**Crochet Club** (Years 4, 5 & 6) Mrs Cuthbert - all materials provided - you are welcome to join the waiting list for this club

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYiyp6h0J2BE2mumio8tz06aWb4shRxIOSqHQTHW GJkonrew/viewform?usp=header>

**Book Club** (Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6) Mrs Irwin

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetctberbY863ohDc-LRPBCY\\_NwR97vmat-EEe8r8Z40C63xw/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=100416810986271662961](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetctberbY863ohDc-LRPBCY_NwR97vmat-EEe8r8Z40C63xw/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=100416810986271662961)

**Tabletop Games Club** (Years 4, 5 & 6) Mr Wycherley

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

## **Thursdays**

**Earth Science** (Years 4, 5 & 6) Mr T - you are welcome to join the waiting list for this club

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfB9IhHA1A9a6\\_WZJa\\_wsDRGaCPou916Gd7PCej4SheCcZErw/viewform?usp=publish-editor](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfB9IhHA1A9a6_WZJa_wsDRGaCPou916Gd7PCej4SheCcZErw/viewform?usp=publish-editor)

**Film Club** (Years 1, 2 & 3) Mr Thomas

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfD6wccetvEC\\_t5mRYs4h-NcTzwIPkzGK8ZwJV-nYZ3YvIwcw/viewform?usp=publish-editor](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfD6wccetvEC_t5mRYs4h-NcTzwIPkzGK8ZwJV-nYZ3YvIwcw/viewform?usp=publish-editor)

**Dance** (Years 1, 2 & 3) Mrs Meakins + Mrs Vaughan

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2aPoWaXN2X69bJbIy1Am8sg2OoS\\_Q\\_1EOjHQpanwh2Q4PEw/viewform?usp=publish-editor](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2aPoWaXN2X69bJbIy1Am8sg2OoS_Q_1EOjHQpanwh2Q4PEw/viewform?usp=publish-editor)

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

[Nursery Web Pages](#)

[Step 1 Web Pages](#)

[Step 2 Web Pages](#)

[Step 3 Web Pages](#)



**As a little incentive for completing home learning tasks - children who successfully complete tasks to a high standard are invited to join me (Mrs Cuthbert) for hot chocolate (or similar) in my office on a Friday for a catch up and cosy chat, it is genuinely the best part of my week!**

## Parent Pay Success

Thank you for your support with ensuring all meals are booked using Parent Pay. The benefits we have already seen include:

- We have an additional hour to teach across the week in every class, over the course of an academic year this equates to us having an **additional 7 full teaching days**
- Reducing food waste, our food bill is less and waste bin is much lighter and this is saving us money on two fronts (**fun fact: we are billed for the weight of waste we produce each week**)
- Parents being able to access and pay for fruit snack much more easily (fruit snack costs £1 per child per week)

## 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

## Staff Contacts

Head - Abi Cuthbert [abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.uk)

Deputy Head - Richard Thomas (Mr T) [thomasr293@hwbcymru.net](mailto:thomasr293@hwbcymru.net)

Additional Learning Needs Co-Ordinator - Kelly O'Gorman [ogormank@hwbcymru.net](mailto:ogormank@hwbcymru.net)

Wellbeing Lead - Tanya Meakins [meakinst@Hwbcymru.net](mailto:meakinst@Hwbcymru.net)

Acting Office Manager - Jozefina Fedorova [jozefina.fedorova@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto: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.

## 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 12th January Closing date for new Reception applications Year 6 leading worship	Tuesday 13th January Y5 & Y6 Dementia Friends training	Wednesday 14th January Reception hearing screening Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	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 <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
Monday 19th January Mr Akrill (Heath Evangelical Church) - worship Year 6 Superhumans Workshop	Tuesday 20th January Year 6 Superhumans Workshop	Wednesday 21st January Playground Leaders workshop for some Y6 Rev. Caroline (St Michael's) - worship	Thursday 22nd January 4pm Standards GB meeting	Friday 23rd January
Monday 26th January Year 5 leading worship	Tuesday 27th January	Wednesday 28th January Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	Thursday 29th January Year 3 - Cathays Library Step 3 - visit St Mark's Church 4pm Full GB meeting	Friday 30th January <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
Monday 2nd February Year 4 leading worship	Tuesday 3rd February RWCMD workshops - Y4	Wednesday 4th February Rev. Caroline (St Michael's) - worship	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 Rev. Caroline (St Michael's) - worship	Thursday 12th February Longtown Residential Trip	Friday 13th February Longtown Residential Trip <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>

## 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 Rev. Caroline (St Michael's) - worship	Thursday 26th February Step 3 - visit St Mark's Church	Friday 27th February Eisteddfod - celebrating all things Welsh - children wear red or dress up in Welsh costume <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
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Monday 2nd March	Tuesday 3rd March	Wednesday 4th March Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	Thursday 5th March Dwr Cymru - whole school assembly and workshops for Y5&6	Friday 6th March
Monday 9th March Year 2 leading worship	Tuesday 10th March	Wednesday 11th March Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	Thursday 12th March Hearing screening for Reception	Friday 13th March <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
Monday 16th March Spectrum workshops for Year 2 & Year 5	Tuesday 17th March	Wednesday 18th March Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship  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  Rev. Caroline (St Michael's) - worship	Thursday 26th March Step 3 - visit St Mark's Church  4pm Full GB meeting	Friday 27th March <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>

### 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 Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	Thursday 16th April	Friday 17th April
Monday 20th April Y6 Cycling	Tuesday 21st April Y6 Cycling	Wednesday 22nd April Y6 Cycling Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	Thursday 23rd April Y6 Cycling 4pm Full GB meeting	Friday 24th April <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
Monday 27th April	Tuesday 28th April	Wednesday 29th April	Thursday 30th April Step 3 - visit St Mark's Church	Friday 1st May
Monday 4th May <b>Bank Holiday - no school</b>	Tuesday 5th May Go Beyond trip	Wednesday 6th May Go Beyond trip	Thursday 7th May Go Beyond trip	Friday 8th May Go Beyond trip  <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
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 <b>INSET Day - no school for children</b>

### 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 <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
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 <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
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 <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
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 <b>6pm Y6 Leaver's Celebration Evening</b>	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