



# Newsletter March 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

We have had a very successful **Eisteddfod**, celebrating all things Welsh. Thank you for supporting your child so well with their home learning. We have seen some wonderful creations in school and lots of children have had hot chocolate in my office to discuss their home learning projects with me. We took part in an collaborative online Eisteddfod too, with other schools from across Wales. **Year 5 and 6 won the group work competition** and the **whole school came first with the most points overall**. Huge congratulations to all of the children and staff who worked so hard to ensure entries were submitted in advance and managed the technical and logistical aspects throughout the day.

It is possible to view clips from the day of some of the children's performances and photos of some of their entries [St David's Day - E-steddfod! - Google Drive](#) As you are aware, it was live-streamed on Facebook too - awards should also be given to any parents/family members who watched, I have been told some watched every minute - da iawn pawb!

Our **World Book Day** celebrations were held today, children have been sharing their favourite books with each other and enjoyed reading some newly bought books by their very favourite authors - 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' and 'Isadora Moon' are particular favourites amongst all ages in the school - reading for enjoyment is so important, I hope it is something our children will take with them throughout their lives.

Today has also been the last day for one of our Teaching Assistants, **Mrs Azad**. She is leaving us to work with older people in Lakeside Care Home as an activities organiser. We know she will be just as great there as she has been in St Monica's and we are very much hoping that we can continue working with her in some intergenerational projects - watch this space!

We have some exciting news - **Please pass the message along to anyone you know with children who are not yet in school - Birth to 3 years old**. We shall be having our first 'Stay and Play' sessions for young children each Friday afternoon 1.30pm - 3pm. Parents with children in our school are very welcome to stay until the end of the school day or join us for the fortnightly Praise and Celebration sessions too! A poster to advertise this is below, it will be shared around the community too.

**Parent Consultations are on Monday 16th March**. Booking links for each teacher are later on in this newsletter. This will be your best opportunity to see and discuss your child's learning and progress with their teacher.

Years 4 & 5 are part of an exciting project called '**What We Share**' with Llandaff Cathedral and Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary School culminating in a celebration of readings and songs on **Wednesday 18th March at 1pm in Llandaff Cathedral**. All parents and Governors are warmly invited to join in the celebrations!

With my kindest regards, Abi Cuthbert (Head Teacher)



# St Monica's CW Primary School

## Stay & Play

Birth - 3 years old

free play - art - music

Fridays - term time

1.30pm - 3pm

No need to book - just come  
along, we are on the corner of  
New Zealand Road and  
Whitchurch Road

### Parent Consultation Booking Links - Monday 16th March

Please check that your time zone setting is for the UK, you can book a slot as a 'guest' you do not need a Microsoft 365 account. Nursery parents may speak directly with Miss Watts to discuss their child's progress at any time on a Monday or Friday after the morning session ends.

[Bookings with Mrs Vaughan - Reception & Year 1](#)

[Bookings with Mr Thomas - Year 2](#)

[Bookings with Mrs Irwin - Year 3](#)

[Bookings with Mr Wycherley - Year 4](#)

[Bookings with Mr Thomas \(Mr T\) - Year 5](#)

[Bookings with Miss Hampson - Year 6](#)

## Some quick reminders

### Medication

We are happy to give your child medication that has been prescribed by a doctor, if it needs to be taken 4 times a day (3 times a day if they attend Blue Door Out of Hours Provision).

### Booking Lunches

The system closes by 8am each morning, it is best to book in advance, you can do 3 weeks at a time. Many staff who have children in primary school set a reminder on their phone to say when the 3 weeks are 'up'. It's amazing how quickly time goes!

### Lost Property

We have some very full lost property bins full of clothing and other personal items that are un-named. They will be disposed of at the end of next week if they are not claimed. The Lost Property bins are put outside very regularly but parents can request to have a rummage at any time first thing in the morning or at pick up time at the end of the day.

### Coming to School by Car

I have had some concerns raised by residents about cars parking inconsiderately or travelling too fast, particularly along Canada Road. Canada Road is a no-through road, meaning cars have to turn around or reverse a considerable distance to be able to exit. I have been (and will continue to) monitor the situation and will discuss my findings with the Local Authority and residents in Canada Road. The parking bays with dotted lines around them are for residents only. I would urge you to **avoid Canada Road** as it is where all of our children leave at the end of each day. It would be devastating for everyone if a child were to be knocked over by a vehicle.

Should the situation become too dangerous, I will apply for the street to be closed to all except for those living in the street with a permit. This would be very disruptive to everyone but our **children's safety must come first** - certainly before the convenience of getting a car a little closer to the school gate.

## 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](#)

## Financial Support for Families

Some parents may be entitled to School Essentials Grants from the Welsh Government. Please click in the box 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.

## 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.

## Parents WhatsApp Group:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FGVsriwcuBLB8h8WeH8aDU?mode=wwt>

## 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>

<b>Monday 9th March</b> Year 2 leading worship	<b>Tuesday 10th March</b>	<b>Wednesday 11th March</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 12th March</b> Hearing screening for Reception  Step 3 to St Michael's Church - Eucharist	<b>Friday 13th March</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>  <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
<b>Monday 16th March</b> Spectrum workshops for Year 2 & Year 5  <b>Parent Consultations</b>	<b>Tuesday 17th March</b>	<b>Wednesday 18th March</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship  <b>Y4 + Y5 - Llandaff Cathedral all day Parents/Governors Invited from 1pm</b>	<b>Thursday 19th March</b> Becky Harris - worship  4pm Premises, Finance + H&S GB meeting	<b>Friday 20th March</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>
<b>Monday 23rd March</b> Reception and Year 1 leading worship	<b>Tuesday 24th March</b> Jo Deeley (Highfields Church) - worship	<b>Wednesday 25th March</b> Rev. Caroline (St Michael's) - worship  <b>2.30pm Rainforest Afternoon with Step 3 Parents / Guardians</b>	<b>Thursday 26th March</b> Year 2 Bumbles of Honeywood workshop  Step 3 - visit St Mark's Church  4pm Full GB meeting	<b>Friday 27th March</b> <b>9am Rock Steady Music Concert - all welcome</b>  <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>  <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>

## Easter Break - no school for 2 weeks

<b>Monday 13th April</b> Children return to school - Breakfast Club doors open at 8.10am  Mr Akrill (Heath Evangelical Church) - worship	<b>Tuesday 14th April</b> Nursery Summer intake start	<b>Wednesday 15th April</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship  <b>7pm Codi Llais Performance in Utilitaria Arena for Y6</b>	<b>Thursday 16th April</b>	<b>Friday 17th April</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>
<b>Monday 20th April</b> Y6 Cycling  Y5 leading worship	<b>Tuesday 21st April</b> Y6 Cycling	<b>Wednesday 22nd April</b> Y6 Cycling  Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 23rd April</b> Y6 Cycling  4pm Full GB meeting	<b>Friday 24th April</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>  <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
<b>Monday 27th April</b>	<b>Tuesday 28th April</b>	<b>Wednesday 29th April</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 30th April</b> Step 3 - visit St Mark's Church	<b>Friday 1st May</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>

<b>Monday 4th May</b> <b>Bank Holiday - no school</b>	<b>Tuesday 5th May</b> Go Beyond trip	<b>Wednesday 6th May</b> Go Beyond trip  Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 7th May</b> Go Beyond trip	<b>Friday 8th May</b> Go Beyond trip  <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>  <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
<b>Monday 11th May</b> Year 6 leading worship	<b>Tuesday 12th May</b>	<b>Wednesday 13th May</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 14th May</b>	<b>Friday 15th May</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>
<b>Monday 18th May</b> Year 4 leading worship	<b>Tuesday 19th May</b>	<b>Wednesday 20th May</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 21st May</b> 4pm Premises, Finance + H&S GB meeting	<b>Friday 22nd May</b> <b>INSET Day - no school for children</b>

**Half Term Break - no school for 1 week**

<b>Monday 1st June</b> Children return to school - Breakfast Club doors open at 8.10am	<b>Tuesday 2nd June</b>	<b>Wednesday 3rd June</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 4th June</b>	<b>Friday 5th June</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>  <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
<b>Monday 8th June</b> Years 2 & 3 leading worship	<b>Tuesday 9th June</b>	<b>Wednesday 10th June</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 11th June</b>	<b>Friday 12th June</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>
<b>Monday 15th June</b>	<b>Tuesday 16th June</b>	<b>Wednesday 17th June</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 18th June</b> 11am Vision & Values GB meeting	<b>Friday 19th June</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>  <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
<b>Monday 22nd June</b>	<b>Tuesday 23rd June</b>	<b>Wednesday 24th June</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 25th June</b> Step 3 visit St Mark's Church  4pm Standards GB meeting	<b>Friday 26th June</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>
<b>Monday 29th June</b> Closing date for Nursery (Spring/Summer 2027 applications)	<b>Tuesday 30th June</b>	<b>Wednesday 1st July</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship	<b>Thursday 2nd July</b>	<b>Friday 3rd July</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>  <b>2.30pm Praise &amp; Celebration Assembly - all welcome to join us</b>
<b>Monday 6th July</b> Step 1 leading worship	<b>Tuesday 7th July</b>	<b>Wednesday 8th July</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship  Y6 Leaver's Service in Llandaff Cathedral	<b>Thursday 9th July</b>	<b>Friday 10th July</b> <b>1.30 - 3pm Stay &amp; Play</b>
<b>Monday 13th July</b>	<b>Tuesday 14th July</b>	<b>Wednesday 15th July</b> Y6 Leaver's Treat  <b>6pm Y6 Leaver's Celebration Evening - all welcome</b>	<b>Thursday 16th July</b>	<b>Friday 17th July</b> Last day of term for children

**Summer Break - no school for 6 weeks**  
Children return to school on Wednesday 3rd September 2026

**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