



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE**

Last week saw some of the hottest weather we have ever had in the UK. I thank you for your patience as I made the decision to close the school. I understand that there may be another spell of extremely hot weather, possibly towards the end of next week. To try to reduce temperatures, especially in the school kitchen, the menu has been changed - please could you re-book your child's meals for next week - including ensuring the sandwich option has been chosen for Tuesday's Sports Day. **I have been told that Parent Pay should update THIS SUNDAY with the new menu. Parent Pay will email you directly about this.**

If internal temperatures rise above 30 degrees AND the humidity is at the same level as last week there are no other mitigations I am able to take - even fans blowing air upstairs would only be blowing hot air as the windows do not open sufficiently for cooler air to come in and we don't have air conditioning. Classrooms downstairs are often also extremely hot as the canopies that usually protect the children from rain act as lids, keeping the heat in and then transferring it to the classrooms - again, fans would only be blowing hot air around. As always, I shall keep you informed if the conditions become dangerous, especially for young children or those who are vulnerable to illness due to the heat.

### **END OF YEAR REPORTS / PARENT CONSULTATIONS**

There is an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss your child's report this coming **Monday (6th July)**. This is a 'drop-in' session only; we will not be providing booking links. Teachers will be available in the school hall from **3.30pm - 4.30pm** to answer any questions you may have about the report.

### **RETURN OF OUR WELSH LEARNERS**

Mrs Vaughan and Miss Hampson will be returning from their Welsh Language Sabbaticals on Monday 6th - they will return to their classes in Reception/Year 1 and Year 6 respectively. We have missed them hugely and massive thanks need to go to Mr Thomas, Mrs Meakins and Mrs O'Gorman for covering their classes and to Mrs Irwin for teaching all of Year 2 and 3. All classes will return to their usual arrangements for the last 2 weeks of term.

### **CLASSES FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR**

A letter will be coming home on Tuesday next week to explain the class structure for next year and who your child's teacher will be. All children from Nursery to Year 5 (Reception to Year 6 in September) will have 2 days with their new teachers on Thursday and Friday next week.

### **SPORTS DAY - FOR RECEPTION THROUGH TO YEAR 6 PUPILS**

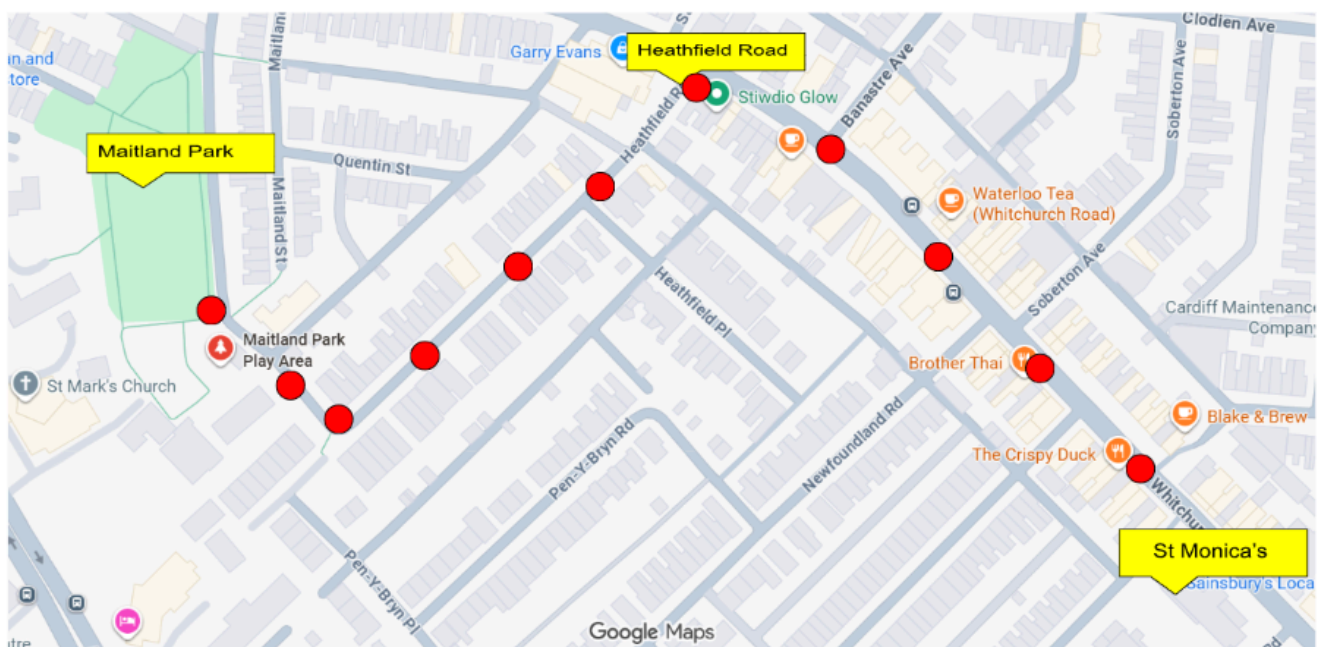
**Sports Day for Reception through to Year 6 pupils will take place on Tuesday 7th July at Maitland Park. Our Nursery pupils will remain at St Monica's, and instead take part in plenty of fun activities led by Miss Watts. We aim to begin Sports Day at 10am, and we anticipate that we will be finished between 2.00-2.30pm.** As in previous years, we will begin with a carousel of fun activities. We will then have a break and lunch. Following lunch, we will have some races, before returning to school. All are welcome to come and watch! You are also welcome to take your child directly from the park once Sports Day has finished. If you wish to do so, please let your child's teacher know. Please also let us know in advance if you have arranged for a different adult to collect your child from the park.

We have chosen Maitland Park as the venue because (at the time of typing this newsletter) the weather forecast for next week currently predicts hot and sunny days. Maitland Park includes rows of trees around the perimeter of a large grassy field, offering important shade. This is unlike our usual venues, Gelligaer Park and Maindy Stadium. Please can you ensure that your child brings a water bottle and a sun hat to school in the morning, and suntan lotion has been applied.

A map showing the location of Maitland Park is on the next page, along with a suggested walking route between St Monica's and the park. Please note that there is very little parking close to Maitland Park. The streets are residential and a school (St Joseph's) is next door. However, the park is not far from school. It took Step 3 pupils only 10-minutes to walk from school to the park this week.

Our pupils' wellbeing is paramount, so we will, of course, continually assess the weather conditions in the coming days. If we feel that the sun is too strong and temperatures too high, we will, regrettably, need to cancel. Fingers crossed, however, that we have the ideal conditions on this day.

### Suggested walking route from St Monica's to Maitland Park



### SUMMER PARTY - POSTPONED

We regret to say that we need to postpone the St Monica's Summer Party, which was planned to take place on Wednesday 8th July. This will be rearranged for the end of September. The party will provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the start of the new year, once all pupils have settled back into school life. We will let you know all details of this party closer to the time.

### YEAR 6 LEAVERS' CELEBRATION EVENING

We will be marking the journey that our fabulous Year 6 pupils have experienced at St Monica's with a special celebratory evening on **Wednesday 15th July at 6pm**. All are welcome as we take this opportunity to remember the wonderful times that our Year 6s have had, as well as wishing them the very best that life can offer as they prepare to take the leap to high school.

### ST MONICA'S TALENT SHOW - HUGE CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS!

Our wonderfully talented pupils have, as always, risen to the challenge and shone throughout our two superb talent show evenings! The audiences were treated to a very wide variety of talents, including painting, musical instrument playing, singing and dancing, joke-telling, website creations and stop-frame animations, and more. Quite the achievement! Thanks to parents,

carers and other family members for joining us and making the shows such a well attended success. And thanks, too, to our pupils and families who prepared food and supported the stall sales. We are thrilled that the money raised will be used towards swimming lessons for our pupils.

### **HERITAGE AND IDENTITY PROJECT**

All pupils across the school have been working with Prith B, a local artist, on our wonderful portrait project. We are asking for a **voluntary contribution of £3.00 per pupil** towards the costs of these workshops in school. This request will be also sent to you on Parent Pay.

### **YEAR 5 PARENTS**

Please be aware that the application period for secondary school places 2027/2028 will be from September 4th - 30th October. This is much earlier than usual and is a Wales wide change. Many secondary schools will be advertising open evening events very soon - it is worth taking every opportunity to visit schools as you decide which 5 schools you will apply for. Please contact me if you would like any support with the application process.

### **ACTIVE TRAVEL**

Cardiff Council is consulting on the Active Travel Network Map, a 15 year plan for improving routes for walking, wheeling and cycling. For further information, to view the proposed Active Travel Network Map and respond to the consultation please visit our website at: [www.cardiff.gov.uk/ActiveTravelConsultation](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ActiveTravelConsultation) The consultation closes on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2026.

### **FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS IN WALES**

The UK Government has given additional funding to Local Authorities and schools in England to help support Additional Learning Needs. They have given **A LOT OF MONEY**. As part of the funding agreement, the UK Government then have to give a proportional amount to the Welsh Government. While the Welsh Government are not legally bound to pass this money on to Local Authorities or schools, they are being given - £500,000,000 (YES, that's £500 million). Cardiff usually gets 10% of any allocation due to the larger population size... this would be roughly £50,000,000 (£50 million). The huge amount of good this would do for the education sector cannot be understated. I am not a political person - at all - however, this money could revolutionise education for ALL children, not just those with Additional Learning Needs.

A petition has been set up, so that (if there were more than 10,000 signatures) it could be debated in the Senedd (the Welsh Government). Your children would directly benefit from this money being released to schools and Local Authorities. **I urge you to consider signing the petition** - you do not need to be a UK citizen to sign it - all that is collected is your name and email address, it is only stored for this petition and is not used for any other purpose.

[Allocate the full consequential funding to Additional Learning Needs \(ALN\) - Petitions](#)

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

You are invited to join our free virtual swap shop:



# FREE SCHOOL CLOTHES.com

Join our **growing community**. Easy to adopt with significant benefits for schools and families:

FreeSchoolClothes.com is a free, not-for-profit "virtual swap shop" helping families share and reuse school clothes and other essentials locally within your school community, for free.

- Help families to save money.
- Protecting our planet by reducing waste.
- Strengthening our communities.

Founded in 2022 at Ysgol Treganna, Cardiff. **Now covering all UK schools.**

It's easy to get started. *Simply share this message and QR code with your families.*

- Your school is already live on the platform and ready to go.
- **Free** to join and use. Not-for-profit.
- **No storage or handling** of clothes, redistribution happens directly between families.
- **Sustainability goals:** live impact data show money saved and carbon offset for your school.
- **Always open:** when families need it most, evenings, weekends and school holidays.
- **Compliments existing physical swap shop initiatives**, if you have one.

Please visit [FreeSchoolClothes.com](https://www.freeschoolclothes.com) to join our new virtual swap shop.

Offer outgrown school clothes to other families in our school community. Browse and request things that you need, for free. Save money and protect the planet.



For support or to volunteer as a school champion please contact: [support@freeschoolclothes.com](mailto:support@freeschoolclothes.com)

## School Holiday Cycling Courses

Learn to Ride

+

Level 1+2 On the Road



To book a place, go to: [link.wales/yc](https://link.wales/yc)

**ST ANDREW'S METHODIST CHURCH**  
Caerphilly Road, Birchgrove CF14 4AE  
(Opposite CO-OP)



Calling all  
5 - 11 year olds!

You are invited to our Egyptian themed holiday club...

**PYRAMID ROCK**

The story of Joseph

Using resources from Scripture Union, John Hardwick and others.

songs - quizzes - bible stories - games  
craft activities - puppets

*Come and join the fun and why not invite a friend?*



9.30am – 1.00pm every day  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July  
(Bring a packed lunch)

Admission free! (Donations welcome)  
Registration: In advance or on the day (if space)  
For more information and to book, contact:  
Mary by e-mail:- [marystand1@outlook.com](mailto:marystand1@outlook.com)


# TAKE THE PLUNGE INTO WEEKLY LESSONS

Give your child the gift of confidence and safety in and around the water with Better Swim School.

50% OFF INITIAL PAYMENT



Join weekly lessons with Better Swim School and get 50% off your first payment with code SCHOOL50.

 **Better Swim School**

Terms and conditions apply. Offer open to new customers only for school children aged between 4-12 years. Offer ends on 07/08/2026. Full terms at [better.org.uk/offer-terms](https://better.org.uk/offer-terms). Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 27793R. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SX. Inland Revenue Charity no. XR43398.

**BETTER**

# Start your musical journey today

- Learn an instrument
- Discover new talents
- Make friends for life



**Enrol today!**

[cavms.co.uk/enrolment](https://cavms.co.uk/enrolment)

Developing Young Musicians

**cavms**  
Cardiff and Vale Music Service



**Nyrsio Ysgol | School Nursing**  
BIP Caerdydd a'r Fro | Cardiff & Vale UHB



**GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES**

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

[This link takes you to the Cardiff & Vale School Nursing Team.](#) It contains information about LOTS of support services for families to use. The pages can all be translated into multiple languages. You can find:

- School Nursing - health information
- Immunisations - when to expect an invite for which immunisation and what they are for
- Parental support - Parent Line, Early Help Services, Parenting Smart - practical tips to support a child's wellbeing and behaviour, Keeping Me Well website, Family Lives helpline, Neurodevelopmental Service
- Emotional support for young people - including The Hangout (mental health support for young people aged 11-18), Self Harm Support for 10-17 year olds, Stepiau (primary mental health support service)
- Additional Needs - AP Cymru (neurodiversity charity), Behaviour Support Hub, ADHD, ASD, Autism Toolbox
- Additional sections including those about anger, anxiety, bedwetting and soiling, bullying, sleep, diet and exercise, eating disorders, health conditions (including menstrual health, head lice, threadworms, asthma, eczema, allergies) and leaving school ([Click here for a useful link for Y6 children leaving St Monica's](#))

## 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.

## 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 6th July</b> Step 1 leading worship	<b>Tuesday 7th July</b> <b>Sports Day for Reception - Year 6</b>	<b>Wednesday 8th July</b> Rev. Marcus (St Mark's) - worship Years 4 & 5 Cycling in Maindy Y6 Leaver's Service in Llandaff Cathedral	<b>Thursday 9th July</b> 4pm Full GB meeting	<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 Years 4 & 5 Cycling in Maindy <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 Thursday 3rd September 2026

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

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