September 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

Welcome back to school

Thank you for preparing your children so well for coming back to school this month. It has been lovely to see them, excited to see us and their friends and ready for learning. I can see families have spent quite a bit of money on new uniforms too, if your child's name has not been added to labels inside clothing, we will often do that for you. Please check, just in case it is not obvious.

PARENT MEETINGS

We have an opportunity for parents to come into school next Monday (14th September at 3.30pm), find out about the curriculum for this term and what the home learning expectations are. Parents will be able to have a look around the classrooms and speak directly to their child's class teacher. This is not a formal parent consultation, rather it's an opportunity to get to know your child's teacher.

LONGTOWN PARENTS MEETING

Our annual residential trip has been booked for the week beginning 1st February. All children in Years 4, 5 and 6 are eligible to attend. There is a meeting for all interested parents straight after the parent meetings on Monday 14th September at 4.30pm. The trip is either for 2 nights or 4 nights, only children in Years 5 and 6 may attend for 4 nights. The trips run at the same time. There is a cost to parents for this trip but it is a wonderful experience for children and we believe it is worth every penny!

SHINES DAY (linked to our postponed SUMMER PARTY)

The party will be on Wednesday 30th September, after school and 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 once Helping Hands have met.

YEAR 6 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 are now advertising open evening events - it is worth taking every opportunity to visit schools as you decide which 5 schools you will apply for. Please contact us if you would like any support with the application process.



CLUBS AFTER SCHOOL

We have new booking forms for clubs for the Autumn Term - please don't reuse the old forms. 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. Please click onto the pictures below to access the booking links. If you need help to access any of these links, please ask in the School Office. All clubs run free of charge

Tuesday from 15th September until December 8th
Crochet Club (16 spaces) is open to Step 3 pupils and will be run by Mrs Cuthbert, ably assisted by Mrs Parr (Foundation Governor) and possibly Mrs Selby (parent volunteer).

Wednesday from 16th September until December 9th
Art and Craft Club (16 spaces) will be run by Mrs Meakins each Wednesday for children in Years 1, 2 & 3.

Thursday from 17th September until December 10th
Film Club (16 spaces) will be run by Mr Thomas and is open to children in Step 3.

Tuesday Crochet
(Years 4, 5 & 6)



Wednesday Drawing & Craft
(Years 1, 2 & 3)



Thursday Film Club
(Years 4, 5 & 6)



SCHOOL ORGANISATION THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

Senior Leadership Team		
Mrs Abigail Cuthbert Executive Head Teacher - School leadership and organisation Health & Safety, Child Protection Officer		
Mrs Tanya Meakins Acting Deputy Head / Acting Head Teacher Wellbeing Lead + Pupil Voice/Rights Respecting Schools, Attendance, Child Protection Officer	**Mrs Kelly O'Gorman** Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) Deputy Child Protection Officer	
Step 1 Team	**Step 2 Team**	**Step 3 Team**
Miss Watts HLTA - Nursery Class cover **First Aider**	**Mr Thomas** Teacher - Year 2 Digital Champion – DCF and Tech Gang	**Miss Ali / Mr Wycherley** Teacher - Years 4/5/6 Active Travel
Mrs Vaughan Teacher - Reception & Year 1 Young Interpreters	**Mrs Knight / Mrs Irwin** Teacher - Year 3 Eco Committee	**Miss Hampson** Teacher - Years 4/5/ 6 Teacher Governor, School Council
Mrs Jamil Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions	**Miss Driscoll** Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions	**Miss Covell** Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions, **Fire Warden**
Mrs Bartlett Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions	**Mrs Janiczek** Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions	**Mrs Fowler** Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions
Mrs Selby Teaching Assistant - Nursery Pupil support & Interventions	**Mrs Ludynia-Chudy** Teacher - PPA & Cover	**Mrs Kuginna-Evans** Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions Foundation Governor
Jozefina Fedorova Office Manager (acting) **First Aider** Finance Parent Pay HR Staff Governor	**Jerry Hagan** Estates Manager Health and Safety	
School Cook Irene Harris-Edwards **School Kitchen Assistant** Judy Caesar	**Breakfast Club** Mrs Caesar (co-ordinator) Mrs Belay Ms Alsaedi + 2 interns each day	**Midday Supervisors** Mrs Bibi Mrs Belay Mrs Kulendran Mrs Rahman

With our kindest regards,
Abi Cuthbert (Executive Head Teacher) and Tanya Meakins (Acting Deputy Head / Acting Head)

Staff Contacts

Executive Head - Abi Cuthbert abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.uk
Deputy Head / Acting Head - Tanya Meakins meakinst@hwbcymru.net
Additional Learning Needs Co-Ordinator - Kelly O'Gorman ogormank@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.

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

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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.**

- **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.

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

Please visit 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

Start your musical journey today

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

Enrol today!
cavms.co.uk/enrolment

Developing Young Musicians

cavms
Cardiff and Vale Music Service



Be a Social Scientist

Scan here for tickets!

Tuesday 27th October
10:00 - 14:00
Sparc | Spark, Cardiff University

Activities will include:
- Clay-making
- Quizzes
- Games
- Lego building

Explore, discover, and think like a social scientist!

A day of free interactive events giving children and families an introduction to the field of social science.

Children will have the opportunity to meet researchers and think about current societal issues through creativity and play.

ESRC Festival of Social Science · UKRI Economic and Social Research Council · Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd

Festival of Social Science 2026
17 October - 7 November

Nyrsio Ysgol | School Nursing
BIP Caerdydd a'r Fro ı 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**

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.

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 7th September	Tuesday 8th September	Wednesday 9th September	Thursday 10th September	Friday 11th September
		St Mark's Church leading worship	Year 6 job applications to Mrs Meakins	
Monday 14th September Mr Akrill (Heath Evangelical Church) leading worship **Years 4/5/6 Swimming** **3.30pm Meet theTeacher, See the Classroom** **4.30pm Longtown Parents Meeting**	**Tuesday 15th September** Rev. Caroline leading worship **Years 4/5/6 Swimming**	**Wednesday 16th September** St Mark's Church leading worship **Years 4/5/6 Swimming**	**Thursday 17th September** **Years 4/5/6 Swimming** 4pm Full Governing Body meeting	**Friday 18th September** **Helping Hands in school at 9am** **Years 4/5/6 Swimming**
Monday 21st September **Years 4/5/6 Swimming**	**Tuesday 22nd September** **Years 4/5/6 Swimming**	**Wednesday 23rd September** St Mark's Church leading worship **Years 4/5/6 Swimming**	**Thursday 24th September** **Years 4/5/6 Swimming**	**Friday 25th September** **Years 4/5/6 Swimming**
Monday 28th September **Parent Consultations - a booking link will be sent home**	**Tuesday 29th September**	**Wednesday 30th September** Rev. Caroline leading worship **SHINES DAY - bring and share food after school**	**Thursday 1st October** 4pm Standards Governing Body meeting	**Friday 2nd October**
Monday 5th October	**Tuesday 6th October** Becky Harris leading worship	**Wednesday 7th October** St Mark's Church leading worship	**Thursday 8th October** 4pm Premises, Finance, H&S Governing Body meeting	**Friday 9th October**
Monday 12th October	**Tuesday 13th October** Flu immunisations in school Rec-Y6	**Wednesday 14th October** Rev. Caroline leading worship	**Thursday 15th October**	**Friday 16th October**
Monday 19th October	**Tuesday 20th October**	**Wednesday 21st October** St Mark's Church leading worship	**Thursday 22nd October** 11am Vision & Values Governing Body meeting	**Friday 23rd October** **9am Helping Hands at The Table**
Monday 26th October	**Tuesday 27th October**	**Wednesday 28th October** **Half Term Break**	**Thursday 29th October**	**Friday 30th October**

No school for 1 week, children return to school on 2nd November, Breakfast Club open as usual from 8.10am

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

- 4th January = INSET day 3, training linked to the School Development Plan
- 30th April = INSET day 4, observing good practice in other schools
- 19th July = INSET day 5, training linked to the School Development Plan
- 20th July = INSET day 6, training linked to the School Development Plan

The last day of term for children will be Friday 16th July.