October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

Welcome back to school

What a wonderful start to our academic year! We were happy to welcome so many of you into school for our 'Meet the Teacher' session and for parent consultations.

Thanks to those of you who joined us for our SHINES day celebrations, we raised over £400 for school resources. It was lovely to unveil our portraits, created by all pupils with the artist Prith B. Thanks to Mr Cuthbert, they are now all proudly displayed in our school corridors.

Visitors to St Monica's

We have opened our doors to a number of different visitors this term, including teachers and senior leaders from St Teilo's High School, Cardiff and some teachers from the USA. We have had many visits from the staff in St Mary the Virgin, our collaboration school and 22 teachers also visited from 6 local schools to look at how we are teaching phonics (Monster Phonics and Super Hero Spelling). We are very proud of the children and staff in St Monica's. They have very eloquently discussed learning and teaching and have impressed our visitors with their enthusiasm and zest for learning. This is certainly something we see from our children when we talk with them about their learning during our weekly 'Hot Chocolate Friday' sessions for all children who have completed their home learning. It has to be one of our favourite parts of the week! All home learning grids are available on the Step Web Pages, links to them are in this newsletter.

FAMILY FILM NIGHT

Our next school fundraiser is a Family Film night on December 2nd from 5.30pm until 8.30pm. You are invited to join us for some festive films and hot dogs, perfect to get us all in the Christmas spirit! Tickets will go on ParentPay after half term.

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

Drawing club, film club and crochet club will continue until December 10th. If you are waiting for a place, you will be notified if a place becomes available.

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**

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

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 October	**Tuesday 13th October** Flu immunisations in school Rec-Y6	**Wednesday 14th October** Rev. Caroline leading worship	**Thursday 15th October** Shwmae Day Health and Wellbeing Sessions (Y6)	**Friday 16th October**
Monday 19th October	**Tuesday 20th October** Y6 Sherman Theatre visit	**Wednesday 21st October** St Mark's Church leading worship Step 3 Singing Project	**Thursday 22nd October** 11am Vision & Values Governing Body meeting Health and Wellbeing Sessions (Y6) Step 3 visit St Mark's Church	**Friday 23rd October** **2.30pm Praise and Celebration**
Monday 26th October	**Tuesday 27th October**	**Wednesday 28th October**	**Thursday 29th October**	**Friday 30th October**
Half Term Break **No school for 1 week, children return to school on 2nd November, Breakfast Club open as usual from 8.10am on 2/11/26**				
Monday 2nd November	**Tuesday 3rd November**	**Wednesday 4th November** St Mark's Church leading worship	**Thursday 5th November** Health and Wellbeing Sessions (Y6)	**Friday 6th November** **9am Helping Hands at The Table** **2.30pm Praise and Celebration**
Monday 9th November	**Tuesday 10th November** Learning Walk with Governors and Collaboration Partner	**Wednesday 11th November** St Mark's Church leading worship Step 3 Singing Project	**Thursday 12th November** Health and Wellbeing Sessions (Y6)	**Friday 13th November** **Colorfoto - individual and family photos**
Monday 16th November Year 6 - Crucial Crew trip to Llandaff	**Tuesday 17th November**	**Wednesday 18th November** St Mark's Church leading worship	**Thursday 19th November** Health and Wellbeing Sessions (Y6) **Parent Workshop - Sleep & routines (see Mrs O'Gorman for details)**	**Friday 20th November** **2.30pm Praise and Celebration**
Monday 23rd November Mr Akrill leading worship (Heath Evangelical Church)	**Tuesday 24th November**	**Wednesday 25th November** Steps 1 & 2 IntoFilm Festival St Mark's Church leading worship Step 3 Singing Project	**Thursday 26th November** Health and Wellbeing Sessions (Y6) Step 3 visit St Mark's Church 4pm Full Governing Body Meeting	**Friday 27th November** **9am Helping Hands at The Table** Step 3 IntoFilm Festival
Monday 30th November	**Tuesday 1st December**	**Wednesday 2nd December**	**Thursday 3rd December**	**Friday 4th December**

		St Mark's Church leading worship **Family Film Night - Christmas Edition**	Fire Service visiting Y2 & Y5	Step 3 to Llandaff Cathedral - singing project
Monday 7th December Christmas Performances - dress rehearsals	**Tuesday 8th December** **10am & 2pm Step 1 & Nursery Christmas Concerts**	**Wednesday 9th December** **10am & 2pm Step 2 Christmas Concerts**	**Thursday 10th December** **10am & 2pm Step 3 Christmas Concerts** **Parent Workshop - Early Reading (see Mrs O'Gorman for details)**	**Friday 11th December**
Monday 14th December	**Tuesday 15th December** Step 3 to the Sherman Theatre	**Wednesday 16th December**	**Thursday 17th December** Steps 1, 2 & 3 to the Sherman Theatre	**Friday 18th December** **9.15am Rock Steady Music Concert** **2.30pm Praise & Celebration**

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.

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)

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.

St Monica's CW Primary School

Where everyone SHINES

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.**

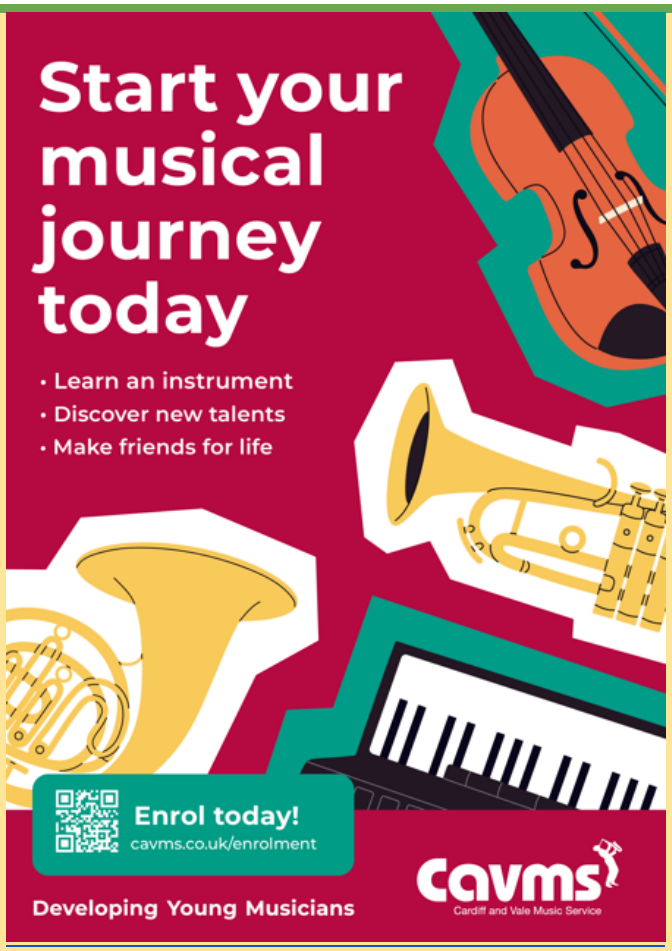
It's easy to get started. *Simply share this message and QR code with your families.*

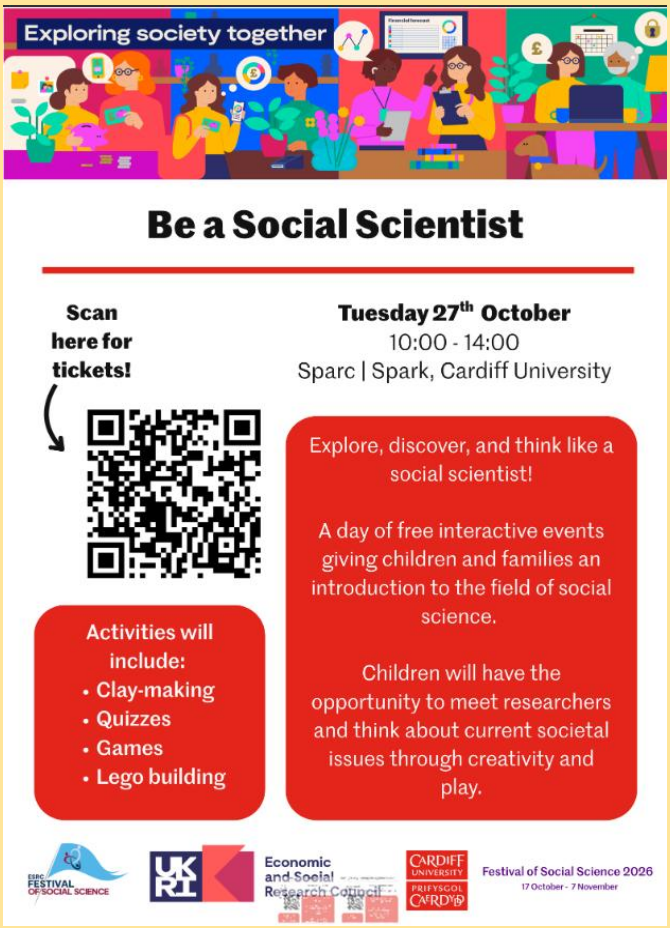
- **Your school is already live** on the platform and ready to go.
- **Free** to join and use. Not-for-profit.
- **No storage or handling** of clothes, redistribution happens directly between families.
- **Sustainability goals:** live impact data show money saved and carbon offset for your school.
- **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 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


Exploring society together
Be a Social Scientist
Scan here for tickets!
Tuesday 27th October
10:00 - 14:00
Sparc | Spark, Cardiff University
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.
Activities will include:
• Clay-making
• Quizzes
• Games
• Lego building
Festival of Social Science 2026
17 October - 7 November