November 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

Welcome back to school
We hope you all enjoyed a restful half term break. It is always lovely to welcome our children back, full of excitement for the busy term ahead.

Visitors to St Monica's
On November 10th we welcomed our collaboration partner, Claire Skidmore, and Governors into school for a learning walk. We looked at the recommendation linked with our Estyn visit in June, 'to strengthen opportunities for pupils to make choices about their learning and to work more independently.' We listened to our children, found out even more about their learning and looked for examples of progress made. It was an extremely successful visit. The children, as always, were a joy. They were able to eloquently talk about their learning and show huge amounts of independence in all classes across the school.

This half-term we also have visitors from Techniquest working with step 3 children in a Lego workshop, Year 6 workshops with the Sherman Theatre and Cardiff Rugby leading Health and Wellbeing sessions with Year 6 children. Rachel Kilby from Llandaff Cathedral is also leading singing sessions with step 3 children, to prepare for the concert in Llandaff Cathedral on December 4th. Parents are welcome from 1.30pm.

School Trips
During the week beginning 23rd November all children will be going to the cinema, free of charge, as part of the Into Film Festival. Step 1 and 2 will be seeing Miss Moxy and Step 3 will be seeing Momo and the Time Thieves.
To finish our Christmas celebrations, we will be going to the Sherman Theatre. Steps 1 and 2 will enjoy Pinocchio and Step 3 will see The Merry Adventures of Maid Marian. We have been awarded a Go and See grant from the Arts Council of Wales to fund 90% of this trip. You will be able to make a small donation on ParentPay towards the remaining costs.

Parent Workshops-Sleep and Routines and Early Reading





On **Thursday November 19th from 1.30pm-2.30pm** there will be a workshop to support healthy Sleep and Routines, held at Fairoak Primary school.
On **Thursday 10th December from 9.30am-10.30am** there will be an Early Reading workshop in our school. Please contact Mrs O'Gorman Kelly.OGorman@cardiff.gov.uk for more information.

HELPING HANDS

Each Friday morning from 9am some parents meet at The Table on Pentyrch Street for a free hot drink and an opportunity to connect with other families. We also host Helping Hands meetings where we support school based events and share useful information. All are welcome!

Here is a QR code to join the Parent's WhatsApp group. It is a really useful space to get reminders of school events, and to ask any questions you might have.

WhatsApp group

FAMILY FILM NIGHT

Our next school fundraiser is a Family Film night, Christmas edition, 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 are available on ParentPay, priced at **£4.00 per person or £10 for a family of 4.** Children will need to be accompanied by an adult.

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 2nd November	Tuesday 3rd November	Wednesday 4th November	Thursday 5th November	Friday 6th November
		St Mark's Church leading worship	Health and Wellbeing Sessions (Y6)	9am Helping Hands at The Table 2.30pm Praise and Celebration
Monday 9th November	**Tuesday 10th November**	**Wednesday 11th November**	**Thursday 12th November**	**Friday 13th November**
	Learning Walk with Governors and Collaboration Partner	St Mark's Church leading worship Step 3 Singing Project	Health and Wellbeing Sessions (Y6)	Colorfoto - individual and family photos

Monday 16th November Year 6 - Crucial Crew trip to Llandaff	**Tuesday 17th November**	**Wednesday 18th November**	**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 Reverend Charis 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** Reverend Caroline leading worship **Family Film Night - Christmas Edition**	**Thursday 3rd December** Fire Service visiting Y2 & Y5	**Friday 4th December** 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 here for more information:





