



September 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

The last academic year ended with some sad farewells, to Mrs Prichard, the Year 6 pupils leaving to go to their high schools and some other children who received places in specialist provision. It is always a little sad to say goodbye but each of those people was excitedly ready for their next adventure, after being very warmly celebrated for all of their achievements. They go with our prayers and best wishes for all that comes next. And now, the next chapter for St Mary the Virgin CW Primary School begins...

Hello, let me introduce myself

I have always been aware that Headship is a role where you are passed the baton, a relay race that never ends. It is now my turn to lead the school forward, building on what has come before. My name is Abigail Cuthbert, the children call me Mrs Cuthbert. I have been a Head Teacher for 12 years, I always say it is the best job in the world and now it has got even better... What could be better? How about being the Head Teacher of two schools - St Mary the Virgin AND St Monica's!



I have 3 grown up children (a step-son and two daughters) who have all now left home. I live with my husband Stewart in Cardiff and we have two dogs, Buddy and Bella. I really like being outside, gardening, walking and cycling but I also love reading and crochet.

I am very lucky to have two outstanding acting deputy Head Teachers - Mrs Lakin (SMTV) and Mrs Meakins (St Mon's) who I know are able to support the smooth running of both schools. We have already started to work together, across both schools, building on expertise found in both staff teams. The next few months should be very exciting! If I haven't already met with you, I look forward to meeting you in person very soon.

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.

LONGTOWN PARENTS MEETING

Last year was the first residential trip for many years in SMTV. I would like to invite the children from St Mary's to join the annual residential trip that St Monica's goes on. This 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 school on Wednesday 16th September at 3.15pm**. The trip is either for 2 nights or 4 nights, only children in Years 5 and 6 may attend for 4 nights. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 could choose to go for 2 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, they learn so many new skills and we believe it is worth every penny!

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 at harrism200@hwbcmru.net if you would like any support with the application process.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

Senior Leadership Team		
Mrs Abigail Cuthbert Executive Head Teacher - School leadership and organisation Health & Safety, Child Protection Officer		
Mrs Hannah Lakin Acting Deputy Head / Acting Head Achievement + Rights Respecting Schools Child Protection Officer	Mrs Rhian Howe TLR & Year 3 Teacher Deputy Child Protection Officer	Mrs Danielle Egan Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo)
Step 1 Team	Step 2 Team	Step 3 Team
Katie Thomas Teacher - Nursery	Lisa Davies Teacher - Year 2	Jo Webb Teacher - Year 4 (3 days per week)
Jade Wan Teaching Assistant - Nursery Pupil support & Interventions	Salma Shah Supply Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions	Fatha Ali Teacher - Year 4 (3 days per week)
Anitta Kaur Teaching Assistant - Nursery Pupil support & Interventions	Rhian Howe Teacher - Year 3 TLR	Chris Darlington Teacher - Year 5
Lemia Mohamad Teaching Assistant - Nursery ALN Pupil support	Georgia Rankmore Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions	Basra Ibrahim Teacher - Year 6
Kate Parsons Teacher - Reception	Clare Atkins HLTA Pupil support & Interventions across KS1	Amina Aboussaad Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions
Simran Kaur Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions	Maisy Gibbs Supply HLTA - Nest	Emma Phelps Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions
Rachel Goodwin Teacher - Year 1	Helen Watt Teaching Assistant - Nest 3 days per week	Eman Mohamad Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions First Aider
Samina Ali Teaching Assistant Pupil support & Interventions	Amal Mohamed Teaching Assistant - Nest 2 days	Amal Mohamed Teaching Assistant - Y6 & Cartref
		Susannah Thomas Teacher - PPA cover
Gemma Achilles Office Manager Finance Parent Pay HR	Michaela Harris Family Engagement Officer Attendance	Tyrone Berry Estates Manager Health and Safety First Aider
School Cook Jaskaran Kaur School Kitchen Assistant Maria Mota, Kathleen Blades		Breakfast Club Jaskaran Kaur Maria Mota

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

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.

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.

- 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.



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



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](#))

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

Executive Head - Abi Cuthbert abigail.cuthbert@cardiff.gov.uk

Deputy Head / Acting Head - Hannah Lakin hannah.lakin2@cardiff.gov.uk

Additional Learning Needs Co-Ordinator - Danielle Egan danielle.egan@cardiff.gov.uk

Office Manager - Gemma Achilles gemma.achilles@cardiff.gov.uk

Family Engagement Officer - harrism200@hwbcymru.net

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child, please contact either Mrs Cuthbert, Mrs Lakin or Mrs Howe. 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 14th September	Tuesday 15th September	Wednesday 16th September Y5 & Y6 - WRU Cardiff Arms Park Y4, 5 & 6 Longtown Parents Meeting 3.15pm	Thursday 17th September Year 5 Cardiff Market Trip	Friday 18th September
Monday 21st September	Tuesday 22nd September	Wednesday 23rd September	Thursday 24th September Technique Theatre - Assembly Y3-6 4pm Full Governing Body meeting	Friday 25th September
Monday 28th September	Tuesday 29th September	Wednesday 30th September	Thursday 1st October Cathay's High School Open evening for Y6	Friday 2nd October
Monday 5th October	Tuesday 6th October	Wednesday 7th October	Thursday 8th October	Friday 9th October
Monday 12th October Parent Consultations	Tuesday 13th October	Wednesday 14th October	Thursday 15th October 4pm Committee meeting for the Governing Body	Friday 16th October
Monday 19th October	Tuesday 20th October	Wednesday 21st October	Thursday 22nd October Sherman Theatre Y4, Y5, & Y6	Friday 23rd October

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

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.