



## Friday/Dydd Gwener 10 January 2025

### Dates for your diary/Reminders

January – date TBC – “Meet the Friends”

16<sup>th</sup> January - 3.30pm - First Holy Communion parents meeting

5 February - Urdd open football: Y5 and 6

7<sup>th</sup> February – Y4 Druidston class assembly – morning.

**INSET DAY - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

4<sup>th</sup> March – Urdd mixed football: Y3 and 4

7<sup>th</sup> March – School Eisteddfod

**INSET DAY - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025**



**Sneak peak into our learning for next week!**

### **Dosbarth Little Haven**

Next week, we will be introduced to our focus story all about Hing the hedgehog from China.

### **Dosbarth Marloes**

Next week, we will begin to use our place value knowledge to subtract two numbers.

### **Dosbarth Newgale & Dosbarth Druidston**

Next week, we are looking forward to our first swimming session! Please remember, full swimming kit on Monday 😊

### **Dosbarth Whitesands**

Next week, we are looking forward to our outdoor learning in Dale and our search for the source to our sea.

### **Dosbarth Abereiddy**

Next week, we will be taking part in an ‘introduction to sign language’ workshop to learn valuable communication skills.

### We are currently advertising for a new Executive Headteacher

Working in partnership with the Diocese of Menevia and Pembrokeshire County Council, the governing body of the federation of Mary Immaculate and St Teilo’s is looking to appoint an outstanding leader as executive headteacher. The successful candidate will be expected to continue the successful Catholic learning in both schools and to divide his/her time between the two sites. We are looking for an inspirational leader with an impressive record of school improvement. Someone who has vision, adaptability, drive and passion to facilitate success for our pupils, staff and parish communities. Someone who will have the credibility to motivate, inspire and challenge others. If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please click on the link below:

[Executive Headteacher application](#)

### **First Holy Communion**

Preparations for First Holy Communion will begin next term. If your child is in Year 3 or higher and you would like them to be prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, please click the link to complete the form and let your class teacher know via Dojo.

<https://forms.gle/A1yoNAbtKcP4JYEL7>

A First Holy Communion parents meeting will be held on 16th January @3.30pm in the school hall.

### **Pupil uniform**

Just a reminder that the children should now be wearing their autumn/spring term uniform – please see boxes below. There is no need to purchase uniform with our school logo, and many local retailers sell affordable items without the school logo. Should you wish to purchase a badge or school tie, these are available from our school office at a cost of £4 each. As always, please make sure all items are clearly labelled.

#### Autumn and Spring term Uniform

- Navy jumper or Navy Cardigan
- White shirt
- School tie
- Grey trousers
- Navy pinafore, Navy Skirt or Navy Trousers
- White socks or Navy tights
- Black/Navy shoes

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- Please can pupils wear **shoes** with their uniform and **trainers for PE days**.
- **PE uniform** – Navy shorts/joggers, white polo shirt, **navy jumper/sweatshirt** and trainers

<b>Week beginning 13 January 2025</b> <b>NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK</b>	
Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimming (Years 3 and 4)</li> <li>Year 5 – trip out wth Darwin Science</li> </ul>
Dydd Mawrth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerbcraft for Year 1</li> </ul>
Dydd Mercher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swansea City Primary Stars PE sessions (Years 5 and 6)</li> </ul>
Dydd Iau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 5 – trip out: Source to Sea</li> <li>3.30pm - First Holy Communion parents meeting</li> </ul>
Dydd Gwener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

This week we celebrated The Feast of Epiphany where we celebrated Jesus being revealed to the Wise Men after their long journey following the star. Discovering Jesus brought them great joy and they brought gifts to honour Him.

In the gospel of Matthew, we hear the story of how some wise men from another part of the world were led by a star and travelled the long journey to Bethlehem, looking for Jesus. They found him in a stable.

A reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew:

“After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. And suddenly, the star they had seen rising went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

Loving God,  
 We believe that each person is special because God made us all.  
 Help us try to make sure all people are treated with respect and  
 have what they need because God made them too.  
 Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**



# Burns By Your Side

## Reading with Dogs Scheme



"...for every child, finding the joy of reading  
will change their life!"

# Could you and your dog volunteer some time?



Train to be part of a  
dedicated team of  
volunteers, and  
support local children

Do you have a dog  
who has a friendly  
temperament and  
enjoys being around  
children?  
Can you spare 1 hour  
a week to visit a  
school local to you?

## To fill out a application for our June course visit our website :

[www.johnburnsfoundation.org](http://www.johnburnsfoundation.org)



**Attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

# Caught Moments

To receive a 'caught moment' at Mary Immaculate School is very special. This means you have been caught living out our virtues. Each week we will be taking time to celebrate how are children are living out our virtues – and rewarding them with a hot-chocolate treat!



<p><b>Miss Edwards</b> caught <b>Rose Hughes</b> being <b>compassionate and loving</b> by sharing her gloves with a friend to help them warm up.</p>	<p><b>Mrs Williams</b> caught <b>Xander Simpson</b> being <b>curious and eloquent</b> during our Topic work. Xander thought carefully about what he would like to learn about and asked thoughtful questions.</p>
<p><b>Mrs Sims</b> caught <b>Feivel Abraham Regi</b> being <b>wise and eloquent</b> in his RE learning this week, explaining the meaning of the scripture clearly to others.</p>	<p><b>Miss Williams</b> caught <b>Lena Modrynska</b> being <b>loving and attentive</b> to a friend who was upset.</p>
<p><b>Ms Tweedie</b> caught <b>Emily Thomas</b> being <b>learned and wise</b> during our RE lesson. Emily asked a variety of interesting and thought provoking questions.</p>	<p><b>Mrs Joseph</b> caught <b>Alexa Jenkins</b> being <b>generous</b> to others with her gift of making her friends smile!</p>

**Compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words.

**Eloquent and truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

**Learned, finding God** in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

**Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future

**Curious** about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

**Grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.

**Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.



# Seren yr wythnos

*Well done to all our learners who have been chosen as our merit winners. What stars we have for this week and last week!*



## Dosbarth Druidston

George Clift for good listening, supporting others and recalling key aspects of scripture in our RE learning this week.

## Dosbarth Little Haven

**Violet Harris** for making a huge effort with her sound work. Violet is always ready to learn and gives everything her very best effort.

## Dosbarth Whitesands

**Lennox Smith** for an excellent effort in our RE learning this week. He took great pride in his work and was a role model for learning to his peers in the class.

## Dosbarth Marloes

**Daisy Scourfield** for showing excellent comprehension skills during our Read Write Inc sessions. Daisy was able to apply her vocabulary knowledge to work out the meaning of unusual words. Excellent work Daisy!

## Dosbarth Aberiddy

**Leila Thomas** for producing an excellent and captivating science-fiction story for our 'cold task'. Leila also consistently demonstrates exceptional behaviour, embodying our Catholic virtues in everything she does.

## Dosbarth Newgale

**Penny Bevans** for working extremely hard across all areas of learning this week, especially in literacy with her Haiku learning. Da iawn, Penny!



# Happier January 2025



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



1 Find three things to look forward to this year

2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself

3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why

5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe

7 Learn something new and share it with others

8 Say positive things to the people you meet today

9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)

10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why

11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime

12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat

13 Take a different route today and see what you notice

14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today

15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful

16 Contribute positively to your local community

17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes

18 Get back in contact with an old friend

19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough

20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge

21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone

22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you

23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment

24 Take a small step towards an important goal

25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down

26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today

27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside

28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently

29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better

30 See how many people you can smile at today

31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



## Important School information

### Getting to know us

You may be new to Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School, or perhaps have not yet met all our staff team. Members of our staff team are out on the playground daily during drop-off and pick-up, so please do pop to chat with us should you require any assistance, information, or support. We have an open-door policy, meaning that we endeavour to always be available to speak with you to discuss any questions, queries, or concerns.

### Ensuring we know you and your child

It is vitally important that we hold the most up to date information on you and your child so that we can keep your child safe and contact you in the case of an emergency. It is important that we know how your child is getting home from school (including permission to walk home for learners in Y4, 5 and 6), so please make sure you have let your child's class teacher know via dojo if they are allowed to walk home unaccompanied. Please contact the school office if there are any changes to collection arrangements for your child or any other change to details that you have previously supplied us with.

### Staying in touch

Communication between home and school is vitally important to ensure your child can excel and thrive at school. You can contact your child's class teacher directly and receive school and class-based updates and information through the Class dojo app, which can be downloaded for free onto your smartphone (app store) or accessed through their website. Class dojo allows you to see the rewards your child receives in real time and offers other great features.

- **School and Class stories** will be used to publish news, events, and important notices - all of which can be translated via the app.
- There is also a **school calendar** which will send you notifications of up-coming events in school.
- Most importantly you will still be able to stay in direct contact with your child's class teacher via **Class dojo messaging**.

Please remember that teachers may not have the opportunity to check messages during the day, as they are teaching, and will not routinely check messages after 4pm. If your message is urgent, please call the school office. Mrs Evans, Mrs Priestley and I have access to class messaging, but do not monitor these inboxes, so please contact us through the school office in the usual way if you need to speak with us. Should you not receive a personal invitation, please use the following link to join.

<https://www.classdojo.com/ul/p/addKid?target=school&schoolID=4f0e09053b7c029066dc955c>

Whole school correspondence and notifications will come through the 'parentmail' email system, so please share with us any changes to your email address, so that you do not miss important information.

### Asymmetric Week

The asymmetric week, implemented in September 2023 following a consultation, has been created for staff to focus on training to further drive standards and achievement forward. On a Friday, the school day finishes at 12.20pm. Learners can be collected at 12.20pm with a take-away style lunch – please contact Mrs Evans at the school office if you wish to collect your child at this time. All learners can remain in school to eat lunch on-site and should be collected between 12.50pm - 1.00pm, at their normal exit points, please. We do have a provision for learners on site after lunch if parents need this. Please contact the school office to book a space for your child in our Friday afternoon supervision, which finishes at 3pm. Spaces must be booked in advance.

### School timings

School session times are below. Please arrive promptly as doors and gates will close at the start of the school day.

Year groups	Monday-Thursday AM		Fri PM	
	Gates Open	School Day	School Day (learners stay for lunch)	Pick-up
Amroth (Reception learners), and Little Haven and Marloes	8.30am	8.50am-3.15pm	8.50am-12.20pm	12.50pm
Newgale, Druidston, Whitesands and Abereddy	8.30am	8.45am-3.20pm	8.45am-12.20pm	12.50pm
Amroth (Nursery AM)	8.30am	8.50am-11.50am	8.50am-11.50am	
Amroth (Nursery PM)	12.45pm-3.15pm (10h entitlement over 4 days)			

### Healthy Schools

As part of the healthy school agenda, we encourage all pupils to eat a healthy snack of fruit/vegetables at breaktime (please, no nuts or nut-based products to protect vulnerable learners). All learners are encouraged to bring a bottle of water into school, which they can access throughout the day. As usual, please remember to label any items from home.

### Universal Free School Meals – Now free for all learners in Full-Time Nursery to Year 6!

All full-time learners in Full-Time Nursery to Year 6 will receive a free school meal each day, saving nearly £15 per week (per child), through the Universal Free School Meals policy of Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru's Co-operation Agreement. Parents do not need to register

or complete an application form. Pupils will order all school meals as usual during morning registration. Checking what is for lunch is easy! You can now ask Alexa what is on the Primary School menu with the [Pembrokeshire Council Alexa Skill](#), or you can access the menu for the year ahead using the following link: [Primary Schools Menu - Pembrokeshire County Council](#). We've included some answers to frequently asked questions at the bottom of this letter.

### ***Support for low-income families***

Families on low incomes will not be affected by the introduction of universal free school meals. You will still be able to receive free school meals and other essentials, such as help with uniform, sports kit and stationery (PDG Access Grant). This grant not only entitles you to funding to support your child, but also enables the school to access funding to further support them whilst in Mary Immaculate.

If your child is starting school or your circumstances have changed and you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit, you must still apply for Free School Meals (eFSM) to access other funding, such as for school essentials. If you are a pupil or parent that receives one of the following benefits, please contact Mrs Evans, at the school office, who can support you in applying:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA). Contribution Based Jobseekers Allowance (CBJSA) does not qualify
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credits only, with an annual household Income of under £16,190 \*
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (IR)
- Universal Credit

Please note that if you are in receipt of Working Tax Credits in addition to any of these benefits you will not be eligible for free meals, even if your household income is below £16,190.

### ***School Uniform***

We strongly encourage all learners to wear school uniform daily. We believe that this supports their readiness for learning and builds a sense of pride and belonging to our school.

<b><u>Autumn and Spring term Uniform</u></b>	<b><u>Summer Term Uniform</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy jumper or Navy Cardigan</li> <li>• White shirt</li> <li>• School tie</li> <li>• Grey trousers</li> <li>• Navy pinafore, Navy Skirt or Navy Trousers</li> <li>• White socks or Navy tights</li> <li>• Black/Navy shoes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White polo shirt</li> <li>• Grey trousers/shorts</li> <li>• Navy/white gingham dresses (no white collars please)</li> <li>• Navy skirt/trousers</li> <li>• Black/Navy shoes</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Education</b>	Navy shorts, white polo shirt and trainers.

**School ties and badges are sold through the school office.**

There is no need to purchase uniform with our school logo, and many local retailers sell affordable items without the school logo. Should you wish to purchase a badge or school tie, these are available from our school office at a cost of £4 each. As always, please make sure all items are clearly labelled.

### ***Attendance***

Being in school every day is essential to ensure that learners make the most possible progress, develop friendships and make important memories. When your child walks into school every morning, you can be assured they will be supported personally, emotionally and academically. We're here to provide them with the social and educational development opportunities to shape their futures and become the best versions of themselves. Please make every effort to ensure your child attends school daily and arrives promptly.

### ***Breakfast Club***

Breakfast club is available to all learners from 8am, offering food, drink. Doors close at 8.15am so that we can ensure that all learners attending have the opportunity to eat breakfast. Please contact the school office if you would like to book a place for your child to attend.

### ***Extra-curricular clubs and dates for the term ahead***

Extra curricular clubs are booked termly.

### **Universal free school meals FAQs**

#### **Will I need to fill in an application form to get Universal Primary Free School Meals for my child(ren)?**

Parents and carers will not need to fill in an application form. Children will be asked whether they would like to order a meal each day during morning registration.



**I am on a low income and my child(ren) currently receive Free School Meals (eFSM) anyway - how will the introduction of the new Universal Primary Free School Meals scheme affect me?**

Families on low incomes will **not** be affected by the introduction of Universal Primary Free School Meals. You'll still be able to receive free school meals and other school essentials, such as help with school uniform, sports kit, and stationery.

**I have a child or another child starting school in September. Will they automatically get free school meals?**

If your child is starting full time nursery, reception, Year 1 or Year 2 in September, they will **automatically** qualify for the new Universal Primary Free School Meals scheme. However, if you as a parent or guardian are in receipt of a qualifying benefit you must still apply for Free School Meals (eFSM) in order to access other funding, such as School Essentials (PDG Access).

**Can schools cater for my child's special dietary requirements?**

Yes, all special dietary requirements can be catered for upon request. Please contact PCC's School Liaison Officer via email [elinor.phlip@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:elinor.phlip@pembrokeshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01437 776168 to discuss your child's special dietary needs.

**My child's cashless catering account is in credit. How do I get a refund?**

Please email [cashless.catering@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cashless.catering@pembrokeshire.gov.uk) to request a refund or alternatively you can request that the credit be transferred to a sibling's account.