



## Friday/Dydd Gwener 13 December 2024

### Dates for your diary/Reminders

#### 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – RETURN TO SCHOOL

January – date TBC – “Meet the Friends”

16<sup>th</sup> January – Y5 and Y6 Urdd mixed netball

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 Amroth

Next week, we will be visiting the Palace cinema to watch 'Paddington in Peru!' and selling Christmas decorations at our Christmas market!

#### Dosbarth Little Haven

Next week, we are looking forward to making our Christmas cards, completing Christmas crafts and having lots of fun and celebrations with our friends.

#### Dosbarth Marloes

Next week, we will be sharing our Christmas creations in the Christmas market!

#### Dosbarth Newgale

Next week, we look forward to our Christmas market, and sharing our creations that we have made.

#### Dosbarth Druidston

Next week, we look forward to our Christmas market, and sharing our creations that we have made.

#### Dosbarth Whitesands

Next week we look forward to our Christmas market, and sharing our creations that we have made.

#### Dosbarth Aberiddy

Next week, we are looking forward to some festive-themed activities, as well as our class Christmas celebrations and class party.

### 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.

### Advent Mass

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, we welcomed families and our members of our Parish family as Year 3 and 4 led our Advent assembly. The children reminded us that Advent is the time of waiting for Jesus and the importance of being patient. The children read and sang beautifully. Diolch to Father Ramesh for leading our Mass.

### Choir

Next week, the choir are looking forward to sharing Christmas cheer. Please see the following dates and places where we will be performing.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fayre - 3:30pm.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Warm Hub at the Church Hall – 1pm.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Tesco – 9:30 – 10:30am.

### Friends of the School Grand Christmas Raffle

Please see the poster on the next page for the wide range of prizes in the Grand Christmas Raffle. All monies, stubs and unused books to be returned back to school by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets to be drawn on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### Christmas Fayre

We will be holding our Christmas Fayre in the school hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm. There will be lots of stalls to browse and lovely items to purchase that the children have made as part of their enterprise activities. Refreshments and mince pies will be provided by the Friends of the School, please come and join us.



Week beginning 16 December 2024 - NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK	
Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Y1: Creative School session</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Dydd Mawrth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.30am: Year 1 – Advent assembly</li> <li>3.30pm - Christmas Fayre – Choir to open</li> </ul>
Dydd Mercher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Years, 4, 5 and 6 attending Mass in church.</li> </ul>
Dydd Iau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choir singing in 'Warm Hub'</li> </ul>
Dydd Gwener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.30am – 10.30am: Choir singing in Tesco</li> <li>1pm – Choir going to warm hub in Church hall</li> <li>LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM – 2 weeks off for Christmas break</li> </ul>
Dydd Llun 6 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RETURN TO SCHOOL</li> </ul>

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be led, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all shall see the salvation of God.’”  
(Luke 3:1-6)

Loving God,  
We believe that we are one big human family.  
Help us to reach out to people who are suffering or sad,  
showing them the love you have shown  
to us.

Lord in your mercy  
Hear our prayer.



**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 Williams and Mrs Jones</b> caught <b>Jasmine Collins</b> being <b>generous</b> and <b>loving</b> to others, by giving a younger child an old Christmas jumper she no longer needed, making the child's face light up with joy.</p>	<p><b>Mrs Williams</b> caught <b>Aadya Bhagavathiparampil</b> being <b>compassionate</b> and <b>loving</b> during tidy up time!</p>
<p><b>Mrs Falzon</b> caught <b>Izabela Iorgulescu</b> being <b>intentional</b> and <b>generous</b> with her time, always helping to tidy up in the dinner hall without being asked.</p>	<p><b>Miss Edwards</b> caught <b>Grace Forbes</b> being <b>intentional</b> and <b>faith-filled</b> with the effort she puts into her role as a member of the Department of Spiritual life.</p>
<p><b>Ms Tweedie</b> caught <b>Serena Berettoni</b> being <b>compassionate</b> and <b>loving</b>, she could see a class member was struggling with her work and supported her with such patience .</p>	<p><b>Miss Skoczek</b> caught <b>Theo James</b> being <b>curious and active</b> when meeting his new nursery friends during our performance days this week.</p>
<p><b>Mrs Joseph</b> caught <b>Hari Freeman</b> being <b>intentional</b> by having such a positive mindset and showing commitment to everything he does. Da iawn ti!</p>	<p><b>Mrs Sims</b> caught <b>Evie Avery</b> being <b>curious and active</b> in her careful and thoughtful questioning and in her learning across the curriculum</p>

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

# 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 Amroth

**All of our classmates in Dosbarth Amroth** for a fantastic Nativity performance for our families this week!  
Da iawn pawb!

## Dosbarth Druidston

**Joshua Price** for always contributing well orally, settling down to tasks straight away and demonstrating positivity across all activities!

## Dosbarth Little Haven

**Eddie Worth** for making a huge effort with his listening skills and trying extra hard to make the right choices.  
Bendigedig Eddie, I am very proud of your effort.

## Dosbarth Whitesands

**Noel Uduji -Quintus** for making the right choices which have had a positive impact outside of class and with the effort that he has put into his learning tasks. Da iawn!

## Dosbarth Marloes

**Miriam Roji** for excellent independence in her Maths work! She was able to apply her knowledge of place value to add two digit numbers together independently!  
Arddechog!

## Dosbarth Abereiddy

**Bradley Mazaiwana** for bringing joy to every day just by being you. Your determination and perseverance are truly inspiring, showing us the power of never giving up. Da iawn!

## Dosbarth Newgale

**Robyn Smih** for having such a positive attitude towards her learning and speaking so confidently and clearly during our Advent Mass this week. Da iawn!





# December Kindness 2024



SUNDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

MONDAY

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

TUESDAY

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

WEDNESDAY

4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

THURSDAY

5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

FRIDAY

6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

SATURDAY

7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

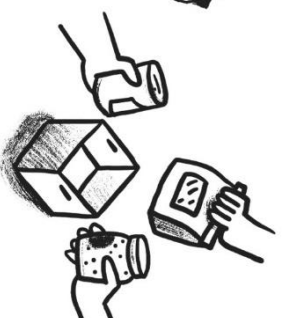
27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2025



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.