

Friday/Dydd Gwener 21 February 2025

Dates for your diary/Reminders

HALF TERM: Monday 24th – Friday 28th February 2025

INSET DAY - Monday 3rd March 2025

14th March – School Eisteddfod

Week commencing 24th March – Parent/teacher meetings. Further details in due course.

INSET DAY - Monday 23rd June 2025



Spring term parent/teacher meetings

These have been pencilled in the diary for the week commencing 24th March – please see below for confirmation of the days for your child’s class/es. Letters to book slots will come out from the class teachers shortly.

	Mon, 24 th Mar	Tues, 25 th Mar	Wed 26 th Mar
Amroth – Nursery/Reception	Days to follow		
Little Haven – Y1	Yes	Yes	
Marloes – Y2			Yes
Newgale – Y3	Yes	Yes	
Druidston – Y4	Yes	Yes	
Whitesands – Y5		Yes	
Abereiddy – Y6	Yes	Yes	

Sneak peak into our learning for next week!

We look forward to celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March.

Dosbarth Whitesands ‘ Hoodwinked’ Performance

This week we were treated to a performance by Dosbarth Whitesands. The show was full of energy, it had beautiful singing and charismatic characters. They have worked so hard over the last half term, polishing the performance! It was lovely to see such big smiles on and off the stage and we are so very proud of what they have achieved.

World Book Day

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, 6th March. To make the day extra special, we invite all children to come to school dressed as a character from a book.

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to express their love of reading and creativity. They can choose a character from any book they enjoy - whether it's a classic fairy tale, an adventure story, or a favorite picture book. Costumes can be as simple or as detailed as you like - homemade outfits are always welcome! We look forward to seeing all the fantastic costumes and making this a memorable day for the children.

Thank you for your support.

Week beginning 3 March 2025

Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INSET DAY – NO school for pupils
Dydd Mawrth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerbcraft for Year 1
Dydd Mercher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Wednesday Mass in Church – Years 1 to 6 to attend Swansea City Primary Stars PE sessions (Years 5 and 6) Year 1 and 2 Fun and Fitness Club (only booked pupils) Year 4, 5 and 6 Cross Country (only booked pupils) Y3, 4 and 5 Happy, healthy minds (only booked pupils)
Dydd Iau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Book Day Year 4, 5 and 6 – Chatterbooks (only booked pupils) Year 5 and 6 Netball (only booked pupils)
Dydd Gwener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 and 6 St David’s Day parade



21/2/2025

Dear Parents and carers

Once again this year, our School Eisteddfod Art and DT Competitions will be in line with the Art and DT Competitions for the Urdd National Eisteddfod. The theme this year is **Roots (Gwreiddiau)**. You may interpret the theme as you see fit, either literally or in an abstract way. There are also some ideas attached on the theme below to help you.

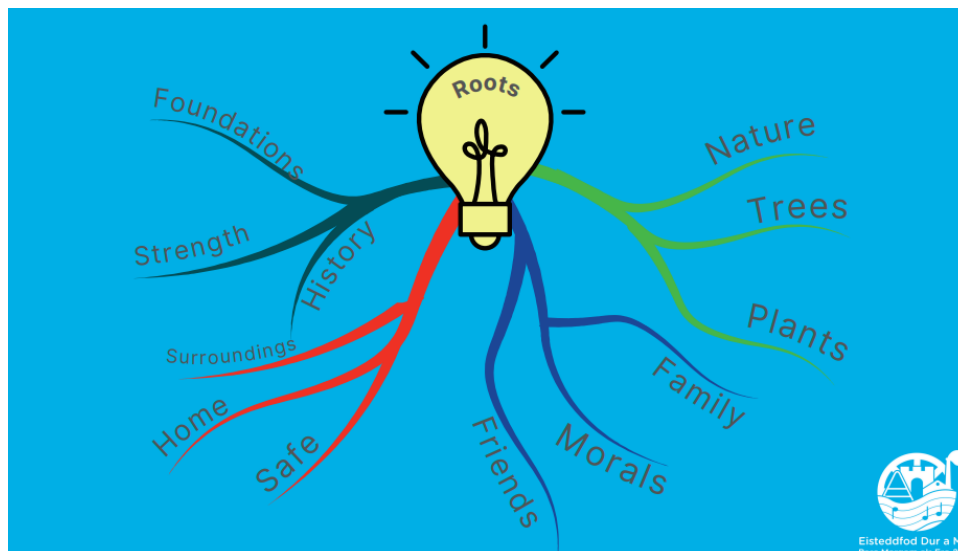
All entries as usual, will gain team points for our School Eisteddfod. We hope to be able to enter the winning entries from the School Eisteddfod into the local round of the Urdd National Eisteddfod.

We are very grateful for your support with this and look forward to seeing your creations. The names of children should be placed on the **back** of all entries please. If you decide to put any words or captions on your pictures, they should be in **Welsh** only. Entries should be handed into school after half term by the **7th of March** please.

Diolch a phob lwc!

Individual Art and DT Competitions

Year Group	Competition
Nursery - Year 2	2D drawing based on the theme in one or a combination of materials, e.g., paint, pencil, crayon, pastel or ink (must be no bigger than 760 x 560 mm)
Years 3-4	2D creative work based on the theme using combined mediums e.g., collage mosaic, wood, plastic or metal (must be no bigger than 760 x 560 mm)
Years 5 -6	3D Creative Work based on the theme which is freestanding in any medium or a combination of mediums. Materials from the natural environment may be used (must be no bigger than 750mm x 750mm x 750mm)
All Years	Design a T-Shirt (front and back) to celebrate ' energy .' You must use the template attached to draw your competition entry on!



In the Gospel, Jesus announced to His disciples what it is that made them blessed. This week we were reminded that Jesus gazes upon us with love today too and invites them to live blessed and happy lives.

Loving God,
We believe that we are all brothers and sisters.
Help us to think about what is good for everyone, not just ourselves.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.



Key Scripture

Luke 6:17, 20-26

He lifted up His eyes on His disciples, and said:
"Blessed are you ..."

Friends of the School

SchoolCycled.

The Friends have signed up to SchoolCycled. This is aimed at educating and rewarding children for recycling plastic bottle tops, e.g Pringle lids, deodorant tops, shampoo tops, coffee lids, hot chocolate, fabric conditioner, fruit shoots, ketchup tops and Heroes chocolates lids etc...The list is endless!!!

As long as it's a lid or top and made of plastic it can go in the bins. Bins are located in the main reception area, and within the school building. They can also be handed to the class teacher, ready for this terms weigh in.

We are still waiting on the count from the last 5 boxes of lids/tops we have sent. But, on our last count, we have managed to send over 20,000 tops and lids!

All of our tops will be recycled for outdoor furniture for our playground.

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



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

Caught Moments



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.

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>Mrs Williams caught Rio Underwood being curious and active with his learning this week!</p>	<p>Miss Skoczek caught Louie Townsend being generous to another child by offering his extra orange to another child at snack time.</p>
<p>Miss Williams caught Fearne Thomas being generous with her time, helping another child in the class with their learning.</p>	<p>Ms Tweedie caught Lennox Smith being Intentional and Prophetic in our class play, he took on extra roles at short notice, and was a confident leader on our stage.</p>
<p>The department of Spiritual Life in Year 3 caught Sammy Lory being compassionate and loving towards a friend.</p>	<p>Mrs Sims caught Hana Sinclair being compassionate with her peers during our Peer Tutor training this week.</p>
<p>Mrs Joseph caught Amahle Mabuzane being generous with her actions by greeting her friends with a big smile and hug.</p>	

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 Amroth

Daniel Joltin for his extra effort towards his learning time in class this week. Da iawn Daniel.

Dosbarth Druidston

Evie Avery for always sharing her thoughts and ideas clearly and confidently and for always working enthusiastically across the curriculum.

Dosbarth Little Haven

Tommy Sinclair for his hard work and positive attitude toward all tasks. These qualities shine through every day, making him a fantastic role model for others. It is an absolute pleasure to teach him, and his enthusiasm for learning is an example to others!

Dosbarth Whitesands

All of **Dosbarth Whitesands** for an excellent performance of our class play. We are so proud of all of their hard work and determination, it was lovely to see you all shine on the stage!

Dosbarth Marloes

Aadya Bhagavathiparampil for being a little ray of sunshine in the classroom and always trying her best in all she does.

Dosbarth Abereiddy

Annabella Davis-O'Brien for consistently going above and beyond in her learning, showing incredible focus and enthusiasm. Ardderchog!

Dosbarth Newgale

Amelia Peel for trying really hard with her maths learning this week and explaining division to her friends. Da iawn!



Friendly February 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 <p>3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone</p>	 <p>4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)</p>	 <p>5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour</p>	 <p>6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while</p>	 <p>7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others</p>	<p>1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them</p>	<p>2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently</p>
<p>10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them</p>	<p>11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost</p>	<p>12 Focus on being kind rather than being right</p>	<p>13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day</p>	<p>14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you</p>	<p>15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message</p>	<p>16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help</p>
<p>17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life</p>	<p>18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself</p>	<p>19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing</p>	<p>20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun</p>	<p>21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them</p>	<p>22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today</p>	<p>23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise</p>
<p>24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them</p>	<p>25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why</p>	<p>26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones</p>	<p>27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them</p>	<p>28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today</p>		



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 Abereiddy	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.

<u>Autumn and Spring term Uniform</u>	<u>Summer Term Uniform</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White polo shirt • Grey trousers/shorts • Navy/white gingham dresses (no white collars please) • Navy skirt/trousers • Black/Navy shoes
Physical Education	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 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 to request a refund or alternatively you can request that the credit be transferred to a sibling's account.