



Friday/Dydd Gwener 22 November 2024

Dates for your diary/Reminders

- 2nd December – Festive non-uniform day for Cafod
- 4th December Pantomime – Years 1-6
- 6th December – 9.30am. Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Year 5 to lead
- Parent teacher meetings – Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th December – please see below for your class's days.
- 10th December – 9.30am. Advent mass – Year 3 & 4 to lead
- 12th December – 10.30am, Nursery and Reception nativity play (Miss Skoczek).
- 12th December – Christmas jumper day
- 16th December – last week of term – no after school clubs this week
- 17th December - Year 1 Advent assembly
- 17th December – Christmas Fayre in school hall
- 20th December – last day of term - break up for Christmas
- January – date TBC – “Meet the Friends”



Exhibition morning – see timings for each class later in newsletter

This is an opportunity for parents and carers to visit their child/ren's classrooms to see the lovely work that they have been doing this term. The main hall will be open from 9am through to 11.10am to allow you to wait in between sessions, if you require. Teas and coffees will be available during this time and school staff will show you to the classrooms at your allocated time. We will also be selling tickets for a Christmas raffle during the morning.

Parent/teacher meetings

Parent/teacher meetings will take place after school during the week of 9th December. Letters have been sent home with your child/ren today for you to request an appointment.

Day	Day
Monday 9th December	Tuesday 10th December
Amroth – Miss Skoczek	Amroth – Miss Skoczek
Little Haven – Mrs Joseph	Little Haven – Mrs Joseph
Marloes – Mrs Williams	
Newgale – Miss Edwards	Newgale – Miss Edwards
Druidston – Mrs Sims/Mrs Kerrison	Druidston – Mrs Sims/Mrs Kerrison
Whitesands – Miss Lewis/ Ms Tweedie	
Abereiddy – Miss Williams	Abereiddy – Miss Williams

Friends of the School Christmas bingo

Just a reminder that there will be Christmas Bingo in the school hall on Friday 29th November. Doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 6.30pm. Refreshments, tuck shop and popcorn available.

Dosbarth Newgale need your help for Cafod World Gifts

Dosbarth Newgale have selected CAFOD World Gifts as their Advent Charity this year. To begin Advent, they would like everyone to come to school in festive themed clothing and, if you can, please give a donation towards CAFOD World Gifts. Please see poster on next page for full details.

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/A1voNAbtKcP4JYEL7>

A First Holy Communion parents meeting will be held on 16th January 2025 @3.30pm in the school hall.

The School Health Research Network (SHRN) survey

Over the coming weeks children in Years 3-6 will be taking part in The School Health Research Network (SHRN) survey. This survey is a brief online survey, which will take about 20 minutes on average. It will ask some general questions about themselves, their feelings, what they think about school, and behaviours which can affect children's health (e.g. physical activity, sleep, screentime etc). Please see the attached letter for further information. [Parent/carer information sheet: Student Health and Wellbeing Survey](#)



Sneak peak into our learning for next week!

All the children are looking forward to sharing their learning with their grown-ups in our Exhibition of Learning on Friday morning.



Congratulations to our talented gymnast who, with her partner, was placed 3rd in Wales in a recent gymnastics competition in Ebbw Vale.

She proudly tells us that “She will be going to Italy to compete for Wales after Christmas. We do a couple of competitions every year. We enjoy it a lot even though it's a long journey for some places. It's always fun, you don't need to worry about what you do you just need to focus. It's a hard sport but you just have to work hard.”

Congratulations, you have proved that hard work pays off – llongyfarchiadau!

Week beginning 25 November 2024	
Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming (Year 5/6) Fun and Fitness Year 1 (only booked pupils)
Dydd Mawrth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Morris in to deliver music lessons
Dydd Mercher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressive Arts Year 1 and year 2 (only booked pupils) Healthy Minds Club Years 3,4, and 5 (only booked pupils). Tag Rugby - Years 3 and 4 (only booked pupils) Digi Club Year 6 (only booked pupils)
Dydd Iau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chatter Books – Year 4 and 5 (only booked pupils) Netball – Year 6 (only booked pupils)
Dydd Gwener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition morning - see timetable below, plus Christmas jumper swop and raffle

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29 TH 2024: EXHIBITION MORNING TIMINGS					
Time	Class 1	Slot		Class	Slot
9.15am - 9.30am	Dosbarth Abereiddy (Year 6 - Miss Williams)	Child's surname initials A - K		Dosbarth Whitesands (Year 5 – Miss Lewis/Ms Tweedie)	Child's surname initials G-Z
9.35am - 9.50am	Dosbarth Abereiddy (Year 6 - Miss Williams)	Child's surname initials L - Z		Dosbarth Whitesands (Year 5 – Miss Lewis/Ms Tweedie)	Child's surname initials A-F
9.55am - 10.10am	Dosbarth Druidston (Year 4 – Mrs Sims)	Child's surname initials A-F		Dosbarth Newgale (Year 3 – Miss Edwards)	Child's surname initials L-Z
10.15am - 10.30am	Dosbarth Druidston (Year 4 – Mrs Sims)	Child's surname initials F-Z		Dosbarth Newgale (Year 3 – Miss Edwards)	Child's surname initials A - L
10.35am - 10.50am	Dosbarth Little Haven (Year 1 – Mrs Joseph)	Child's surname initials A-J		Dosbarth Marloes (Year 2, Mrs Williams)	Child's surname initials T-Z
10.55 - 11.10am	Dosbarth Little Haven (Year 1 – Mrs Joseph)	Initial of child's surname M-Z		Dosbarth Marloes (Year 2, Mrs Williams)	Child's surname initials A-S



Christmas Bingo
 Friday 29th November 2024
 Doors Open 6pm
 Eyes Down 6.30pm
 Refreshments, tuck shop and popcorn
 available.



FESTIVE THEMED NON-UNIFORM DAY

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER



We have selected CAFOD World Gifts as our Advent Charity this year. To begin Advent we would like you to come to school in festive themed clothing and if you can, please give a donation towards CAFOD World Gifts.

We have been inspired by Poppy the Pōpokotea and want to help our brothers and sisters around the world



Classes will then have the opportunity to choose what gifts they would like to give.



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>Mrs Williams caught Rio Underwood being compassionate and loving to a friend during amser chwarae.</p>	<p>Mrs Kerrison caught Joshua Price being intentional and prophetic inside and outside the classroom.</p>
<p>Miss Edwards caught Lily Thomas being intentional by always thinking things through and always aiming to do what is best.</p>	
<p>Miss Skoczek caught Maggie Lovell being compassionate and loving to her peers when playing kindly in class.</p>	<p>Mrs Tweedie caught Kyanu Wiseman being learned and wise, making the right choices and showing his maturity.</p>
<p>The Faith Ambassadors caught Ivy Jones being faith-filled by respectfully praying at the grotto during her own time.</p>	<p>Miss Williams caught Evan Wooff being intentional and loving towards all, always.</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.

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.

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

Amelia Robbins for being a loving and supportive friend in the class. You lead by example and always make the right choices. Da iawn a diolch Amelia!

Dosbarth Druidston

Rosie Connell for the fantastic attitude that she has shown towards her learning this week. Da iawn.

Dosbarth Little Haven

Jack Smith for having a fantastic week of learning, listening looking out for others. Keep it up Jack! Da iawn ti!

Dosbarth Whitesands

Isla Chalmers for always being such a positive role model in class, always wearing a sunny smile and trying her best at everything she does!

Dosbarth Marloes

Daisy Scourfield for showing excellent Oracy skills during our exhibition preparations. Arddechog!

Dosbarth Abereidly

Nell Kerrison for always contributing thoughtfully to discussion, showing her knowledge and understanding through instigating new ideas, building on the ideas of others and summarising viewpoints. Ardderchog!

Dosbarth Newgale

Ruby Crimlis for taking on such an active role during the sharing of our plans for our Advent Charity this year. She was eloquent, confident and had fantastic ideas! Da iawn





Siaradwr yr wythnos!



Well done to all our learners who have been chosen for working so hard on their Welsh speaking this week!



Dosbarth Druidston
Wyatt Bartlett

Dosbarth Marloes
Tobechukwu Eneh

Dosbarth Whitesands
Taya Symmonds

Dosbarth Newgale
Sophia Gray

Dosbarth Abereiddy
Leila Thomas



New Ways November 2024



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community



5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel



6 Try out a new way of being physically active

7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire

1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month

2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way

3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you

8 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week

9 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"

10 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea

11 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way

12 Find out something new about someone you care about

13 Do something playful outdoors - walk, run, explore, relax

14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about

15 Build on new ideas by thinking "Yes, and what if..."

16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective

17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself

18 Connect with someone from a different generation

19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site

20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before

21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them

22 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them

23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love

24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently

25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way

26 Try out a different radio station or new TV show

27 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it

28 Discover your artistic side. Design a friendly greeting card

29 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen

30 Look for new reasons to be hopeful, even in tough times

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 Aberiddy	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.

Autumn and Spring term Uniform	Summer Term Uniform
<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.