



Friday/Dydd Gwener 6 December 2024

Dates for your diary/Reminders

- 17th December - Year 1 Advent assembly
- January – date TBC –“Meet the Friends”
- 16th January – Y5 and Y6 Urdd mixed netball
- 16th January - 3.30pm - First Holy Communion parents meeting
- 5 February - Urdd open football:Y5 and 6
- 7th February – Y4 Druidston class assembly – morning.
- INSET DAY - Monday 3rd March 2025**
- 4th March – Urdd mixed football: Y3 and 4
- 7th March – School Eisteddfod
- INSET DAY - Monday 23rd June 2025**

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](#)

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

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.

Darwin Science Y3 and Y4

Both Dosbarth Newgale and Dosbath Druidston had an fantastic day with Darwin Science this week, learning about the human body through a rotation of activities which involved looking at x-rays, building anatomy models, researching, and building an organ apron! We also took part in an investigation which focused on how the digestive system works! An extremely exciting, fun and informative day! We would like to say a big diolch to the Darwin team.

Faith Ambassadors - Cathedral visit

On Monday we had the honour of being invited to Cardiff Cathedral to attend the Holy Mass with the presentation of the Papal Bull to Bishop Mark O’Toole appointing him as the new Archbishop of the new Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia. During the mass, our Faith Ambassadors witnessed Mgr Ante Vidovic, a representative of Apostolic Nuncio, show the Papal Bulll creating the new Archdiocese. A very special mass and a privilege to attend mass with our Faith Ambassadors.



Week beginning 9 December 2024 - NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK	
Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming (Year 5/6) 3.30pm – 6pm: Parent/teacher meetings – see separate timetable
Dydd Mawrth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am – 3pm: Respiratory Pharmacist - follow ups. 9.30am: Y3 and 4 Advent Mass in school 1pm – 3pm: Y1: Creative School session 3.30pm – 6pm: Parent/teacher meetings – see separate timetable
Dydd Mercher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas dinner day
Dydd Iau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas jumper day 10.30am: Dosbarth Amroth (Nursery and Reception) nativity concert
Dydd Gwener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am: Year 1 – Homeless Pembrokeshire visit

In this week's Faith Ambassador assembly:

In this first week of Advent, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus and the beginning of the Year of Jubilee with the opening of the Holy Door, children will invite Jesus to open their minds. With minds open to welcome Jesus into our lives and be like Jesus to those we meet, we can learn how to respond to difficulties with strength and courage.

Key Scripture

The Holy Gospel according to Luke,

“Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Luke 21:28

Let us pray

Loving God,

We believe you want to bring your peace to our homes,
our communities and our world.

Help us to be peacemakers, listening to and loving each
other..

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.



Friends of the school BINGO UPDATE

WOW! What a night! The hall was jam packed, the atmosphere was buzzing. Thank you to everyone who came along!

We would like to thank, the lovely Mrs Priestley for her fantastic bingo calling! Mrs Priestley did a fantastic job once again, for us.

I personally would like to thank our volunteers, who helped set up the hall, helped run and very importantly packed up afterwards. I would also like to thank, each and everyone of you for your kind donations. These events cannot take place without your support.

We raised £1135.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Mini Friends, not just the ones from Mary Immaculate, but our past pupils! They have helped this week with making the hampers, setting up and manning the tuck shop! Unfortunately, I was unable to take a photo of them all together, but here's one from the night.

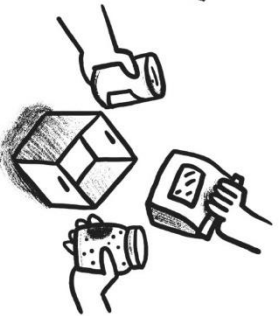
Thank you,
Suzanne



December Kindness 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about	5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	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

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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.