



## Friday/Dydd Gwener 15 March 2024

### Reminders

NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK. CLUBS TO RE-COMMENCE WEEK OF 15 APRIL 2024

18<sup>th</sup> March afternoon – Exhibition afternoon – times tbc | Parent/teacher meetings – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March | 19<sup>th</sup> March 9.10am - Little Haven Lenten Liturgy

### Exhibition afternoon – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March

We are looking forward to another Mary Immaculate exhibition event on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March - please see the next page for the allocated slots for you to visit your child/ren's class/es. The main hall will be open from 1pm to 3.15pm to allow you to wait in between sessions, if you require. Teas and coffees will be available and school staff will show you to the classrooms at your allocated time.

### Supporting attendance

Improving school attendance is a key priority for our school. When children are not in school, they miss key learning, which can have a huge impact on their progress at school. Today, we have sent letters to parents/carers to make you aware of your child's attendance. If your child's attendance is below 93% and you feel that you need support with improving this, please take the opportunity to discuss this with your child's class teacher during parents meetings, which will be during the week of 18<sup>th</sup> March. We are working with our staff team and pupils to look at how we can support everyone to improve attendance. We would also welcome views from parents on the challenges they find with school attendance and how we might support families to ensure our children reach our school target of 93% attendance. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please use the form below to respond. <https://forms.office.com/e/81FmG41Asq>

### Friends of the School Easter Bingo

What a fun packed evening! The friends would like to thank, our volunteers and our "mini" volunteers, who have worked so hard behind the scenes over the last couple of weeks and this evening, to put this event on! I would personally like to thank the very entertaining Father Liam for giving up his time, to support our school. We would like to thank each and every one of you for your wonderful donations - without your help, these events cannot take place. Lastly, we would like to thank, everyone who attended. We are very excited to announce that we raised £1100. Thank you, Suzanne

### SchoolCycled

The Friends of the School have signed up to SchoolCycled. This is aimed at educating and rewarding children for recycling plastic bottle tops, e.g. Pringles, hot chocolate, fabric conditioner, fruit shoot tops etc... as long as it's a lid or top and made of plastic it can go in the bins. Bins are placed in the main reception, should you wish to drop off any lids or tops, and within the school building for children to drop of bottle tops. Further information can be found later in the newsletter.



### Little Haven Lenten Liturgy

Mrs Joseph would like to invite the parents and carers of pupils in Dosbarth Little Haven to their class liturgy on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9.10pm

### Parent/teacher meetings

Meetings will now take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Class teachers have sent out forms which will give you an opportunity to book a 10 minute slot. There will no after school clubs during that week.

### School Crossing Patrol

Please be aware that there is no road crossing patrol along Augustine Way, until further notice. Please ensure that you remind your child of important road safety messages.

### First Holy Communion

Preparations for First Holy Communion will begin this term. If your child is in Year 3 or above, and you would like them to be prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, please complete the form below. <https://forms.gle/M2ZNPVg3g1mhS3h58>

### Sport Pembrokeshire Dance Competition – Y4, 5 and 6

This will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. If your child has been selected to take part, they should have received a letter this week. Please can these be returned as soon as possible. A huge thank you to Finola from FF Dancers who has been working hard with the dance team this term.

### Our Lenten Charity – Missio

We continue to look out for others this Lent by raising money for the charity, 'Mission Together'. Following as assembly led by our Faith Ambassadors at the end of last half-term, your child was given a red collection box to take home with them. We please ask for these collection boxes to be returned to school. We are incredibly grateful for the donations we have received so far. The money collected will provide children living in poverty with food, education, shelter and care. Diolch yn fawr.



## Sneak peak into our learning for next week!

### Dosbarth Amroth

Next week, we will be exploring the importance of The Easter Story and look forward to sharing our learning with parents at our exhibition.

### Dosbarth Little Haven

Next week, we look forward to sharing our Lenten Liturgy with the school, parents and the parish.

### Dosbarth Newgale

Next week, we are looking forward to sharing our learning with parents at our exhibition.

### Dosbarth Druidston

Next week, we will be reflecting on what we have learned about the Kingdom of God. Children will choose how they would like to present their work.

### Dosbarth Abereiddy

As well as sharing our learning with parents and governors on Monday, next week we will also explore poetry. We will write our own Haiki poem, using our topic of diversity as inspiration.

Week beginning 18 March 2024	
Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dosbarth Druidston and Newgale Swimming</li> <li>Exhibition afternoon – see timings below</li> </ul>
Dydd Mawrth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Morris in to deliver music lessons</li> <li>Parent/teacher meetings – booked appointments only</li> </ul>
Dydd Mercher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urdd Girls netball</li> <li>Swansea City Primary Stars PE sessions</li> <li>After school girls' football club with Swansea City Primary Stars</li> </ul>
Dydd Iau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dosbarth Abereiddy PE session with the college.</li> </ul>
Dydd Gwener	

#### Exhibition afternoon – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Further to our message on Dojo please find below the times for your child/ren's exhibition of work for spring term.

The main hall will be open from 1pm to 3.15pm to allow you to wait in between sessions, if you require. Teas and coffees will be available and school staff will show you to the classrooms at your allocated time.

Time	Class 1	Slot		Class 2	Slot
1.05pm – 1.25pm	Dosbarth Abereiddy	Child's surname initials A - F		Dosbarth Whitesands	Child's surname initials G-Z
1.30pm- 1.50pm	Dosbarth Abereiddy	Child's surname initials G - Z		Dosbarth Whitesands	Child's surname initials A-F
1.55pm - 2.10pm	Dosbarth Little Haven	Child's surname initials A-L		Dosbarth Amroth	Child's surname initials A-L
2.15pm - 2.30pm	Dosbarth Little Haven	Child's surname initials M-Z		Dosbarth Amroth	Child's surname initials M-Z
2.35pm - 2.50pm	Dosbarth Druidston	Child's surname initials A-M		Dosbarth Newgale	Child's surname initials N-Z
2.55pm - 3.10pm	Dosbarth Druidston	Child's surname initials N-Z		Dosbarth Newgale	Child's surname initials A - M

# WHAT KIND OF LIDS CAN BE COLLECTED?

## THAT'S EASY! IF IT'S MADE OF PLASTIC, PUT IT IN THE BOX!

You might find one of these symbols on your bottle top, they tell you what kind of plastic it is. Don't worry if you can't find it though, we will still recycle it!



Please don't put batteries or metal lids/caps - or any other metal items in the box - they might damage our recycling machines!



PETE



HDPE



LDPE



PP



# SchoolCycled



PASSIONATE ABOUT RECYCLING

MYGROUPLTD.COM

### Class attendance - Spring 2024

Each week, the class with the best attendance wins our attendance trophy!

Class	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Dosbarth Amroth	90.30%	93.90%	89.40%
Dosbarth Little Haven	87.30%	85.80%	92.30%
Dosbarth Newgale	93.80%	91.90%	96.30%
Dosbarth Druidston	98.20%	88.50%	98.60%
Dosbarth Whitesands	91.80%	87.90%	93.90%
Dosbarth Abereiddy	98.70%	88.60%	92.80%

**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 celebrate how are children are living out our virtues – rewarding them with a hot-chocolate treat!



Mrs Kerrison caught **Isaac Hart** being **caring** and **compassionate** with the younger learners.

Miss Edwards caught **Marnie Kerrison** being **compassionate** by showing care to a younger child.

Miss Williams caught **Jack Tinsley** being **active** and **intentional**, always there to help anyone in need, whether that be a child in our school or a member of staff.

Mrs Sims caught the **whole of Dosbarth Druidston** being curious and attentive during our World Book Day visit to Swansea Stadium!

Mrs Joseph caught **Robyn Smith** being **attentive** around the classroom, paying attention to detail and taking her time.

Jackie, our cook, caught **Isla J, Emily, Liyana, Sophia, Llinos** and **Esme** being **generous** with their time and clearing up in breakfast club.

**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 their learning for the common good.


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

**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 this week!*



## Dosbarth Amroth

**Brenda Tawananyasha** for always being ready and respectful during our prayers. A fantastic role model for our friends. Da iawn



## Dosbarth Druidston



**Catrin Bunston** for excellent questioning during the author presentation in Swansea Stadium! Da iawn!



## Dosbarth Little Haven

**Rio Underwood** for being such a calm and gentle member of the class who always makes the right choices.



## Dosbarth Whitesands



**Gethin Rees** for showing fantastic leadership skills in his diversity topic group work! Da iawn!

## Dosbarth Newgale

**Max Kempa** for the huge improvement he has made in his swimming skills this term. Da iawn!

## Dosbarth Abereiddy



**Seth Edwards** for his determination and commitment in showcasing his excellent oracy skills in preparation for our class exhibition this week.

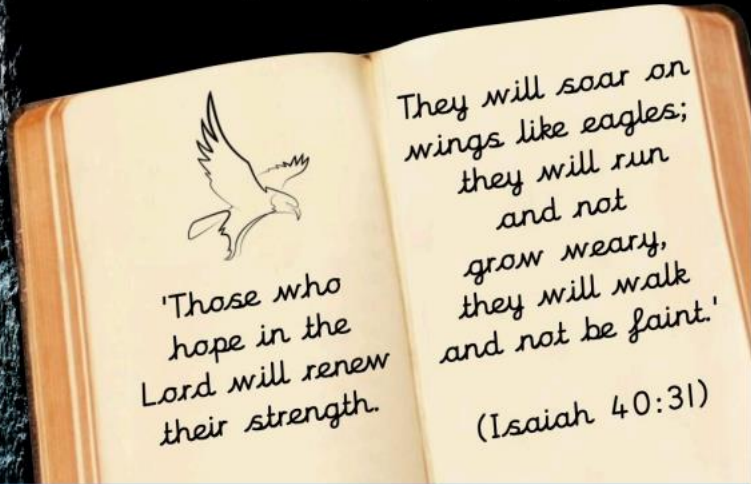


# Faith-filled and Hopeful



This is our Catholic Pupil Profile Virtue this half-term:  
**Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.'

We challenge you to demonstrate your understanding of what it means to be faith-filled and hopeful and share this virtue with others. This could be through acts of kindness, writing a hopes and dreams list, making artwork inspired by the scripture or by creating a special prayer.



Prizes will be awarded to creative and original interpretations of the virtue. Pob Lwc!

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the example of Saint David,  
who lived a simple life and helped others.

Help me to consider my choices  
and live more simply  
in order to make a big difference to others.

Like David, help me do little things  
with great love.

Amen

Saint David, pray for us.





# Mindful March 2024

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words



5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them



6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down



7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world

3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today

21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice

30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

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## Important School information – January 2024

### ***Getting to know us***

You may be new to Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School, or perhaps have not yet met all our staff team. Over the coming days, we hope you'll get to know your child/ren's class teachers and support staff. 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-Tuesday AM		Fri PM	
	Gates Open	School Day	School Day (learners stay for lunch)	Pick-up
Amroth (Reception learners), and Little Haven	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"><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 and supervision until the start of the school day. 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.

If you have any questions or require any support, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We look forward to working with you to support our wonderful Mary Immaculate children!

Cofion cynnes,  
Mrs L Prevel, Acting Executive Headteacher

## **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.