

Friday/Dydd Gwener 26.1.2024

Reminders

Please find important information and dates for the year ahead on our website.

Friends of School meeting – 8th February: INSET Day – 19th February – School closed to pupils.

Friends of School meeting

The Friends of the School are holding their next meeting on 8th February 2024 at 3.30pm in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

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.

Dosbarth Newgale and Druidston Swimming

If your child is in Dosbarth Newgale or Druidston, please can they bring their swimming kit to school on Monday. They will need a swimming costume/trunks, towel, goggles and swimming cap.

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>

Special belongings from home

We have noticed that many children are bringing in toys and other special belongings to school. Whilst we appreciate their excitement to share these with their teachers and friends, they can often cause a distraction in the classroom and become lost, causing distress. Please ensure your child keeps their special belongings at home and not at school. Thank you.

Assemblies this term

Please find below the link to a parent newsletter which tells you about what our children will be learning about in their faith ambassador's assembly each week this term. <http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

School Facebook Page

We have recently launched our school Facebook page today and hope that you will enjoy following the exciting things our learners are up in the new year and beyond!



Sneak peak into our learning for next week!

Dosbarth Amroth

Next week during Children's Mental Health Week, we will focus on what makes us happy and why it is important to keep our minds and body healthy.

Dosbarth Little Haven

Next week we will be creating a video of questions about Chinese New Year to Miss Mansfield and her children in China!

Dosbarth Newgale

Next week, in RSE we will be investigating how our behaviour can affect other people. Children will interact with a film to help them to identify appropriate and inappropriate behaviours and the effects that they can have.

Dosbarth Druidston

Next week in Maths we will be using our model mats to explore subtracting with exchanging.

Dosbarth Whitesands

Next week in our mathematics and numeracy learning, we will begin to explore prime, square and cube numbers.

Dosbarth Abereiddy

We will continue to work our way through our writing toolkit to develop the skills needed to write a discussion text based on our class novel, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'.

Week beginning 29 January 2024

Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newgale and Druidston swimming Y1 Kerbcraft Fun and fitness club Y1 (only booked pupils) Clwb Cymraeg Y3-4 (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"> Swansea City Primary Stars PE sessions for Dosbarth Abereiddy and Whitesands After school girls' football club with Swansea City Primary Stars (only booked pupils) Y3-6 Multi-sports (only booked pupils) Y1 Nature Nurturers (only booked pupils) Healthy Minds Club Y5-6 (only booked pupils)
Dydd Iau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haverfordwest Family of Schools Cross Country – If your child is taking part they will have received a letter this week Chatterbooks Club Y3-4 (only booked pupils) Expressive Arts Club Y2 (only booked pupils) Netball Y5-6 (only booked pupils)
Dydd Gwener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSPCC Number Day. The Department of Curriculum have been busy planning! Please see further information on next page.

NSPCC



We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday 2nd February 2024**.

Everything the NSPCC does protects children today and prevents about tomorrow.

On average, a child contacts Childline every **25 seconds**. The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline – the helpline that’s always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern.

Making maths meaningful

Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, ‘can-do’ attitude towards it.



- We will be taking part in *Dress up for Digits*. Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, spots, stripes). Or, get even more creative by dressing in a maths or numbers theme. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a donation, and we’d love everyone in the school to take part in this special event.
- We are having a fun morning of maths activities with our Year 6 MKO’s visiting each class to deliver some hands-on maths sessions!

It all adds up.

We’re really looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support.

All the money we raise at Mary Immaculate School will make an enormous difference to children today and help the NSPCC be there for children tomorrow.

You can find out more about the NSPCC’s work at nspcc.org.uk

To find out more about keeping children safe online, visit nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against
us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
Amen***



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.

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>Miss Edwards caught Anna Matsuik being wise by being a great role model to others.</p>	<p>Mrs Sims caught Isabelle Hart being attentive by listening carefully and then applying new methods in her Maths work.</p>
<p>Mrs Tweedie caught Olive Jones being learned and wise during our RE learning this week.</p>	<p>Mrs Kerrison caught Brenda being curious in her learning whilst exploring the snow.</p>
<p>Miss Williams caught Tamzen Scarborough and Tianna Hounsome being consistently attentive and generous with their time by always choosing to help others.</p>	<p>Mrs Joseph caught Imogen Morris being compassionate and loving by helping children in the class who needed support.</p>

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

Ivy Jones for always giving 110% across all areas of her learning. You always tackle activities with positivity and are always on hand to help your friends. Da iawn!

Dosbarth Druidston

Taylor Frampton for her enthusiasm and positivity towards all aspects of school life! Bendigedig!

Dosbarth Little Haven

Greg Thomson for trying extra hard with his sounds. You have show great perseverance and determination. Da iawn Greg!

Dosbarth Whitesands

Chloe Kplomedo for being such an enthusiastic learner – her enthusiasm is infectious. She shows kindness and patience to all of her friends in the class, and is a joy to teach!

Dosbarth Newgale

Alisa Makarova for always being such a positive role model to others and giving 100% towards all her learning!
Da iawn!

Dosbarth Abereiddy

Tilly Avery for her enthusiastic and positive attitude towards all of her learning. Tilly took her time to produce a well-organised information page on our Lenten charity, Mission Together. Ardderchog!



Siaradwr yr wythnos!



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



Dosbarth Druidston
Noel Uduji-Quintus
Hana Sinclair

Dosbarth Little Haven
Arthur Reynolds

Dosbarth Whitesands
Rosie Haworth

Dosbarth Newgale
Xavier Keattch



Class attendance - Spring 2024

Each week, the class with the best attendance wins our attendance trophy! Llongyfarchiadau i Dosbarth Abereddy!

Class	Week 1	Week 2
Dosbarth Amroth	88.70%	71.60%
Dosbarth Little Haven	83.10%	75.00%
Dosbarth Newgale	91.50%	88.30%
Dosbarth Druidston	86.10%	82.40%
Dosbarth Whitesands	92.60%	76.70%
Dosbarth Abereddy	98.00%	93.80%



Is fashion important?



Let's look at this week's story

A new BBC television programme, called Style It Out, gives nine young promising fashion designers from all over the UK the chance to compete in designing different outfits. The winner will have their clothes showcased at London Fashion Week. The main focuses of the challenge are creativity and sustainability, with the contestants having to use second-hand materials. As people's awareness of the impact of fast fashion increases, sustainable clothing is becoming more at the forefront of shoppers' minds.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



Reflection



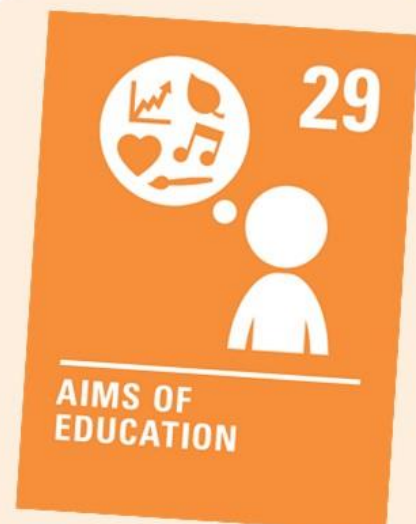
When we need new clothes as our current ones no longer fit or we no longer need them, it's important to consider where they come from and their impact on the wider world.



UN Rights of a Child



As part of our education, we should be taught to live peacefully and protect the environment. Considering where we get our clothes from and what happens when we no longer need them can help us do this.



TAKEHOME

29 Jan -
4 Feb



In the news this week

A new BBC television programme, called *Style It Out*, gives nine young promising fashion designers from all over the UK the chance to compete in designing different outfits. The winner will have their clothes showcased at London Fashion Week. The main focuses of the challenge are creativity and sustainability, with the contestants having to use second-hand materials. As people's awareness of the impact of fast fashion increases, sustainable clothing is becoming more at the forefront of shoppers' minds.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Can you remember the last item of clothing you bought or were given? Where was it from and what was it for?
- What does 'being fashionable' mean to you? Is it important to you? Talk to others at home.
- What do you do with the clothes that you no longer need or that no longer fit?



Is fashion important?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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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. If you are a working parent, have no other childcare option and have not yet done so, 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, are limited and will be allocated on a first-come basis.

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 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.

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 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 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.