

Friday/Dydd Gwener 12 April 2024

Reminders

DATES FOR THE SUMMER TERM CAN BE FOUND BELOW – PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE A FEW CHANGES TO DATES ORIGINALLY SHARED ON OUR PARENT CALENDAR.

Clubs will recommence the week beginning 15th April 2024.

Parent questionnaire

We really value the feedback that we receive from our families, as this supports us to improve our school. We would be very grateful if you could take some time to complete our parent questionnaire using the link below. The questionnaire will be open until Friday 21st April for you to complete. <https://forms.office.com/e/BaPi7hjPeb>



Summer 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. After the Easter break, we will move to our summer uniform:

White polo shirt, Grey trousers/shorts, Navy/White gingham dress, Navy skirt/trousers, Black/Navy shoes

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.

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.



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. Letters have been sent out 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. 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>

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.



April 2024

It's officially Eastertide - a time for rejoicing! This significant season is the longest time of celebration in the Church's calendar (50 days!) because of the great news that Jesus has risen! In times when the news of our world is not always so good, Eastertide gives us a bigger perspective. This Good News is at the heart of all our resources and is particularly highlighted as we enter this summer term. This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout April and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.

Alleluia!

Throughout the first half of the summer term, children will be introduced to **Ten Ten's Gospel Acclamation** where they will learn and sing along to the '**Alleluia**'. As St Pope John Paul II said, "*We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!*"

Alleluia means 'Praise the Lord!' and Eastertide is the perfect time to bring our praises to God through this response, typically sung in the Gospel Acclamation. Why not listen and learn the 'Alleluia' with your child/ren and make time to thank God for what He is doing in your family's life? <http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

With your child, why don't you...

- Investigate where people 'Praise the Lord' in the Bible and discuss what praising God looks and sounds like. You might like to start with Psalm 150.
- Choose a time each week as a family to share something you are thankful for. You could even sing the Alleluia once everyone has shared to give thanks to God for these things.

Year of Prayer

The Church is preparing for another special celebration, the Year of Jubilee in 2025. In preparation, Pope Francis has called for 2024 to be a **Year of Prayer**. Children will be introduced to the **Year of Prayer** and the invitation to grow their friendship with God through prayer in their time at home and school. We've put together a short video introducing the **Year of Prayer**, highlighting how children might engage with prayer themselves over the coming months. <http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

With your child, you might like to...

- Plan a monthly prayer time for the rest of the year, where you could try out a different way of praying together. Why not try some silent prayer, a prayer walk, or praying through song?
- Share your own experience of prayer and what you find easy or difficult about praying, allowing space for your child/ren to discuss their thoughts too.

Prayer

The daily prayers for the week beginning 15th April focus on how children can 'see Jesus' and know His presence in the people and things around them. You might like to discuss the different ways we can 'see Jesus' as part of your family prayer time. How can we see Jesus in our friends and family, creation, the things we have or the kindness and help of others? You might like to use this short prayer to conclude your personal or family prayer time.

Jesus, Help us to see you in the people we know, and all the things around us. Amen



**Sneak peak
into our
learning for
next week!**

Dosbarth Newgale

Next week, we are looking forward to celebrating Wales' Outdoor Learning week. Please can children bring old shoes or wellies into school on Tuesday.

Dosbarth Abereiddy

Next week we will be introduced to our new writing toolkit. We will be developing the skills needed to write a persuasively.

Dates for the Summer Term 2024	
April	
8th	INSET – school closed to pupils
9th	Pupils return to school
10th	Maths Cluster Challenge in Haverfordwest High VC School
11th	Urdd Tag Rugby
18th	Cricket Wales taster session
22nd	Swimming Gala Y3-6
22nd-28th	Wales outdoor learning week
23rd	Feast of St George
24th	RNLI assembly
30th	Bushcraft sessions for Y4, Y5 and Y6
May	
6th	Bank holiday
9th	Ascension Day Tennis Y3 and Y4
10th	School Photos
19th	Pentecost
22nd	Druidston Class Assembly
Date TBC	Music Evening
27th-31st	Half term
June	
2nd	Feast of Corpus Christi
5th	World Environment Day
7th	Sports Day – Nursery to Y2
14th	Sports Day – Y3 to Y6
20th	World Refugee Day
26th-27th	Y6 transition day to HHVCS
27th	Summer fete
30th	Feast of St Peter and St Paul
July	
Date TBC	Y6 leavers Mass
Date TBC	End of year celebration assembly
12th	Whitesands Class assembly
15th	Y4 PBuzz Festival at Haverfordwest High
17th	Y6 leavers service and party (please note the change of date from our original calendar)
19th	Last day of term
22nd	INSET – School closed to pupils



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!



Miss Williams caught **Nell Kerrison** and **Seren Harwood-Littlehales** being **faith-filled and hopeful**. The children have been reminding others about our Lenten charity, Missio, and how we can continue to follow the actions in our everyday lives.

Mrs Joseph caught **Phoebe Field** and **Imogen Morris** showing **kindness** to a class-mate by picking to work with her so she 'did not feel alone'.

Mrs Tweedie caught **Eleanor Haggar** being **eloquent** during a group discussion.

Miss Edwards caught **Xavier Keatch** being **eloquent** sharing his ideas during our RE sessions this week.

Mrs Sims caught **Noel Uduji-Quintus** being **eloquent** discussing his thoughts and understanding during our RE lesson this week.

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.

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

Kieara-Jayne May for settling in so well into full-time school this week.
Da iawn!

Dosbarth Druidston

Callum Rees for sharing his ideas confidently when planning our writing through boxing up. Da iawn!

Dosbarth Little Haven

Pollyanna Beach for being a positive, happy and hardworking member of the class.
Da iawn!

Dosbarth Whitesands

Alisha Panesar for having such a positive attitude towards her learning, her enthusiasm is infectious! She gives 100% in absolutely everything that she does. A role model for all!

Dosbarth Newgale

Grace Forbes for having such a positive attitude towards her learning and making fantastic progress in her reading. Da iawn!

Dosbarth Aberiddy

Gennaro Algieri for engaging well during all learning activities this week, particularly when working with fractions and percentages. Da iawn!

Active April 2024



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

1 Commit to being more active this month, starting today

2 Spend as much time as possible outdoors today

3 Listen to your body and be grateful for what it can do

4 Eat healthy and natural food today and drink lots of water

5 Turn a regular activity into a playful game today

6 Do a body-scan meditation and really notice how your body feels

7 Get natural light early in the day. Dim the lights in the evening

8 Give your body a boost by laughing or making someone laugh

9 Turn your housework or chores into a fun form of exercise

10 Have a day with less screen time and more movement

11 Set yourself an exercise goal or sign up to an activity challenge

12 Move as much as possible, even if you're stuck inside

13 Make sleep a priority and go to bed in good time

14 Relax your body & mind with yoga, tai chi or meditation

15 Get active by singing today (even if you think you can't sing!)

16 Go exploring around your local area and notice new things

17 Be active outside. Plant some seeds and encourage growth

18 Try out a new exercise, activity or dance class

19 Spend less time sitting today. Get up and move more often

20 Focus on 'eating a rainbow' of multi-coloured vegetables today

21 Regularly pause to stretch and breathe during the day

22 Enjoy moving to your favourite music. Really go for it

23 Go out and do an errand for a loved one or neighbour

24 Get active in nature. Feed the birds or go wildlife-spotting

25 Have a 'no screens' night and take time to recharge yourself

26 Take an extra break in your day and walk outside for 15 minutes

27 Find a fun exercise to do while waiting for the kettle to boil

28 Meet a friend outside for a walk and a chat

29 Become an activist for a cause you really believe in

30 Make time to run, swim, dance, cycle or stretch today



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



Important School information – April 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 - 1.01pm, 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"> · 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.