

## Friday/Dydd Gwener 2.2.2024

### Reminders

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

Friends of School meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> February, 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February – HALF TERM, INSET Day – 19<sup>th</sup> February – School closed to pupils, 18<sup>th</sup> March – Exhibition afternoon – times tbc



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

#### Dosbarth Little Haven

Next week, we will begin our next RE topic- 'Thanksgiving'. We will be thinking of all the different people and things that we are grateful for in our lives.

#### Dosbarth Newgale

Next week, we are looking forward to celebrating Welsh Music Day! On Thursday, we will be celebrating Welsh music through fun activities and joining classes from across the school for a Welsh Music Disco, which has been organized by the Department of Expressive Arts.

#### Dosbarth Druidston

Next week we will be listening to and giving our opinions on lots of different types of Welsh music as part of our celebrations for Welsh Music Day! We look forward to having llawer o hwyl taking part in a disco too!

#### Dosbarth Whitesands

Next week we are looking forward to showing off our oracy skills to our visitors from Voice 21, we cannot wait to share what we have learnt with them!

#### Dosbarth Abereiddy

Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday next week. We will engage in learning based around the theme 'Inspiring Change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

### NSPCC Number day

We had a great day full of exploring numbers for NSPCC number day! As Pheobe from Little Haven shared in our assembly, it's important to learn to count so that you know how old you are! We also made time to learn a very important number of children – 0800 1111, the NSPCC helpline. We talked about how children can call this number if they are worried about anything and they are not able to speak to a trusted adult at home or in school. Do ask them to see if they can remember it – they might even show you the actions!

### Exhibition event

We are looking forward to another Mary Immaculate exhibition event on the 18<sup>th</sup> March in the afternoon. Please mark the date in your diaries, with further timings to follow.

### Cross Country

Our cross-country teams from Year 4, 5 and 6 had a wonderful time at Prendergast school for the Haverfordwest Cluster competition this week. Our team showed great determination, resilience and super sportsmanship in cheering on each other and competitors from all the schools! We're so proud of you all! A huge thank you to Mrs Kerrison and our parent volunteers who supported the visit. Check out a video from Pure West Radio on our school facebook page.

### Friends of School meeting

The Friends of the School are holding their next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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>

### Week beginning 5 February 2024

Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newgale and Druidston swimming</li> <li>Fun and fitness club Y1 (only booked pupils)</li> <li>Clwb Cymraeg Y3-4 (only booked pupils)</li> </ul>
Dydd Mawrth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Morris in to deliver music lessons</li> <li>Safer internet day</li> </ul>
Dydd Mercher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swansea City Primary Stars PE sessions for Dosbarth Abereiddy and Whitesands</li> <li>After school girls' football club with Swansea City Primary Stars (only booked pupils)</li> <li>Y3-6 Multi-sports (only booked pupils)</li> <li>Y1 Nature Nurturers (only booked pupils)</li> <li>Healthy Minds Club Y5-6 (only booked pupils)</li> </ul>
Dydd Iau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chatterbooks Club Y3-4 (only booked pupils)</li> <li>Expressive Arts Club Y2 (only booked pupils)</li> <li>Netball Y5-6 (only booked pupils)</li> <li>Dydd Miwsig Cymru</li> </ul>
Dydd Gwener	

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>Mrs Kerrison caught <b>Violet Harries</b> being <b>compassionate and loving</b> to her friends both inside and outside the classroom.</p>	<p>Mrs Joseph caught <b>Teagan Knight</b> being <b>loving</b> in her actions both in class and on the playground.</p>
<p>Miss Edwards caught <b>Rene Donoghue</b> being <b>compassionate and loving</b> by caring about others and always asking his friends and adults in school how they are feeling.</p>	<p>Mrs Sims caught <b>Ryley Schroeder</b> being <b>compassionate</b> by always offering help to organise resources in the classroom to help Mrs Sims and his classmates.</p>
<p><b>Mrs Tweedie</b> caught <b>Finely Pearce</b> being <b>generous</b> with his time and knowledge by supporting another learner in our class during our Welsh lesson.</p>	<p>Miss Williams caught <b>George Carruthers and Emily Field</b> being <b>compassionate and loving</b> on the playground, always willing to play and help the younger children.</p>
<p>Jackie, our school cook, caught <b>Isla, Sophia, Lilyana and Llinos</b> being attentive and generous in helping clear plates at dinnertime.</p>	<p>Mrs Joseph caught <b>Ioan Pritchard</b> being <b>generous</b> with his time by helping children in his group who were unsure of the task.</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**

**Olivia Reynolds** for always making the right choices and working so hard across all areas of learning. Da iawn!

## **Dosbarth Druidston**

**Ellis Thomas** for his excellent listening skills which allow him to work so well independently. Ardderchog!

## **Dosbarth Little Haven**

**Theo Williams** for amazing maths work. Theo has learned how to add BIG numbers with confidence. Da iawn ti!

## **Dosbarth Whitesands**

**Taine Macphee** for being an excellent role model in our class. He is extremely hard working in all areas of the curriculum and is ALWAYS helpful to others. Bendigedig Taine!

## **Dosbarth Newgale**

**Ruby Crimlis** for working so hard on her targets in her learning and the improvement she has made over the last few weeks. Keep up the good work!

## **Dosbarth Abereiddy**

**Casey McKee** for his enthusiasm and dedication that he shows towards his learning, especially with his reading. I am super proud of your hard work! Da iawn!



# Siaradwr yr wythnos!

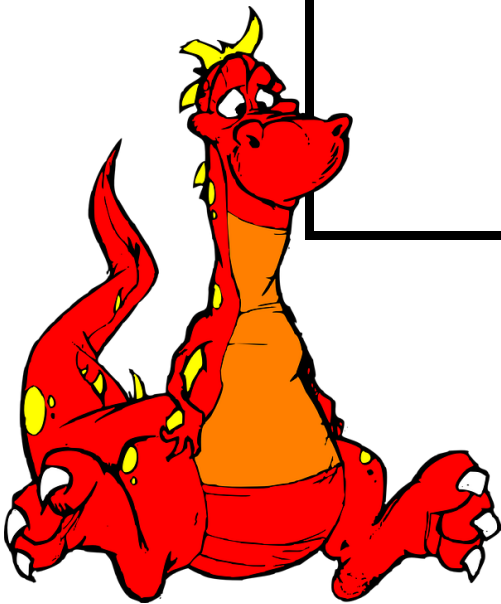


*Well done to all our learner who have been chosen for working so hard on their Welsh speaking this week!*

**Dosbarth Little Haven**  
Robyn Smith

**Dosbarth Whitesands**  
Hannah Woodcock

**Dosbarth Newgale**  
Frankie Willoughby



## Class attendance - Spring 2024

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

Class	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Dosbarth Amroth	88.70%	71.60%	68.20%
Dosbarth Little Haven	83.10%	75.00%	83.50%
Dosbarth Newgale	91.50%	88.30%	87.80%
Dosbarth Druidston	86.10%	82.40%	91.30%
Dosbarth Whitesands	92.60%	76.70%	84.40%
Dosbarth Abereidddy	98.00%	93.80%	92.70%

# Friendly February 2024

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why

26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today

29 Acknowledge someone's problem or pain rather than trying to fix it



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



## 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 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.

<b>Autumn and Spring term Uniform</b>	<b>Summer Term Uniform</b>
<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.