

Friday/Dydd Gwener 12.1.2024

Reminders

Please find important information and dates for the year ahead on our website.
INSET Day – 19th February – School closed to pupils.

Happy New Year

I trust you have all had a restful break with your loved ones over the Christmas Holidays. As we enter a new year, we look forward with excitement to all that will be achieved by our children in 2024! A warm welcome to all new families that have joined Mary Immaculate School. I hope that you have already had the opportunity to experience the loving and caring nature of our school community. If you have any concerns or questions, as well as any feedback that could support us to improve our school, please do not hesitate to speak to any member of staff, including myself (Mrs Prevel – Acting Executive Headteacher), Mrs Priestley (our Acting Deputy Headteacher) or Mrs Evans in our school office. Please see the bottom of our newsletter for important school information.

School Crossing Patrol

Please be aware that there will be no road crossing patrol along Augustine Way from Monday 15th January, 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 we will be taking part in the RSPB birdwatch and using our number skills to see the types of birds we have around our school.

Dosbarth Little Haven

Next week we will begin to look at our literacy text 'Faruq and the Wiri Wiri'. We are excited to explore the different foods from around the world.

Dosbarth Newgale

Next week, we will be continuing to explore our text 'My Name is Not Refugee'. We will be exploring how the characters are feeling and predicting what we think will happen next.

Dosbarth Druidston

Next week, whilst reading 'Here I Am: Notes For Living on Planet Earth', we will be considering what makes us unique by exploring our skills, talents and qualities.

Dosbarth Abereiddy

During our RSE lesson, we will be learning about the growth and development of humans, and the changes that girls will experience during puberty.

Week beginning 15 January 2024

Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newgale and Druidston swimming Y1 Kerbcraft starting
Dydd Mawrth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Morris in to deliver lessons
Dydd Mercher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swansea City Primary Stars PE sessions for Dosbarth Abereiddy and Whitesands
Dydd Iau	
Dydd Gwener	

Dear Jesus,

I want to listen to your voice today!

Help me to hear you and fill me with your joy.

Amen



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 Edwards caught Wyatt Bartlett being wise and attentive whilst completing his learning showing such determination.	Miss Williams caught Seren Harwood-Littlehales, Kaima Ozougwu and Evie Bartlett being curious and attentive whilst solving some problems during our maths learning.
Mrs Tweedie caught Izabela, Melissa, Ryan, Valentino, Alisha and Eleanor being curious and active during our maths group activity this week. They worked extremely well as team!	Mrs Kerrison caught Henry Carruthers being faith filled during our daily prayers.
Mrs Priestley caught Elijah Smith being compassionate and loving by standing to one side and letting others go in front of him on the slide.	Mrs Sims caught Jacob Reynolds being curious during his maths activity and generous in taking his time to explain to others.
Mrs Thomas caught Lilly James being compassionate and loving towards another child when she noticed they were all alone.	Mrs Prevel caught Emily and Lilyana being generous and attentive by emailing to ask if they could up pick litter from around the school.
Mrs Prevel and Mrs Priestley caught Marnie, Evan and Alisha being wise and eloquent in talking about their learning so eloquently.	

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.

Grateful for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, now and in 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

Sebastian Brown for being enthusiastic and ready to learn across all tasks this week. Da iawn!



Dosbarth Druidston

Emily Thomas for sharing her ideas clearly and confidently in preparation for her independent writing task this week! Dal ati!



Dosbarth Little Haven

Kiana Smith for being a fantastic role model and for being very helpful around the classroom. Da iawn a diolch!



Dosbarth Whitesands



Leila Thomas for putting in 100% in every single learning task this week. She has taken pride in her work and should be very proud of her achievements.

Dosbarth Newgale

Joshua Reynolds for persevering with a maths problem and working systematically to find the answer. Da iawn!

Dosbarth Abereiddy



Harley Rone for working incredibly well all week, particularly in maths when exploring factors and multiples. Ardderchog!



Let's look at this week's story



10-year-old Teddy Cottle from Oxfordshire has launched a petition calling for Apple to change the glasses emoji, also known as the 'nerd' emoji, as he says it gives the wrong impression of glasses-wearers. Teddy decided to write a letter to Apple requesting the design be changed, asking his classmates and French teacher, Lisa Baillie, to sign it. She suggested instead that it should become a petition and it was launched on petitiononline.co.uk.



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





UN Rights of a Child



No matter who we are, where we live, what language we speak, what our religion is, what we think, what we look like, if we are a boy or a girl, if we have a disability, if we are rich or poor, we should never be treated unfairly.



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TAKEHOME



Are emojis an important part of communication?



In the news this week

10-year-old Teddy Cottle from Oxfordshire has launched a petition calling for Apple to change the glasses emoji, also known as the 'nerd' emoji, as he says it gives the wrong impression of glasses-wearers. Teddy decided to write a letter to Apple requesting the design be changed, asking his classmates and French teacher, Lisa Baillie, to sign it. She suggested instead that it should become a petition and it was launched on petitiononline.co.uk.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What do you know about emojis? Do you ever use them?
- Talk to someone else at home. Do they use emojis?
- If you could design a new emoji, what would it look like?

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 Abereiddi	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.