



# PADRE PIO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Padre Pio is a Catholic family where we pray and learn in peace with each other.  
Together we take the message of Jesus to the world.

05

September

2024

### Welcome Back to School!

We hope everyone managed to have a relaxing break! It is great to see all the children again, looking very smart, relaxed, and ready to learn. To our new families, on behalf of all the staff and governors, we would like to offer you a very warm welcome to Padre Pio School and hope that you will be very happy with the education your child receives. With the strong partnership we try to develop between school, home and parish, we strive to provide an excellent learning environment for your children.

### Unauthorised Absences and Fixed Penalty Notices

As part of the Local Authority's drive to improve school attendance they use fixed penalty notices (FPNs). The LA will only issue a FPN as a last resort and usually issues are resolved with clear home-school communication. However, should the school and LA feel that there are no underlying reasons for absence from school then the FPN process may be followed. For your information, Fixed Penalty Notices may be considered appropriate when:

- At least 10 sessions (5 school days) are lost due to unauthorised absence during the current academic year - these do not need to be consecutive days; or
- Unauthorised absences of at least 10 sessions (5 school days) due to holidays in term time or delayed return from extended holidays; or
- Persistent late arrival at school, i.e. after the register has closed, in the current term. Persistent means at least 10 sessions of late arrival; or
- Truancy, where the child has come to the attention of the Police or public during school hours for being absent from school, without an acceptable reason.

With the above in mind, please can we remind you to take note of school term dates and avoid booking holidays during term time. If you need to inform school of holiday dates, please complete a request for authorised leave form (contact school for form). Based on your child's attendance rate, school will decide if the holiday can be marked as authorised in the attendance register. School may refer to the Local Authority's Education Welfare Service regarding unauthorised absences and parents may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for an unauthorised holiday in term time.

To view our school Attendance Policy, please visit the policies section of our school website.

### Data Collection and Consent Forms

Data collection forms will be sent home – if necessary, please amend your form and please return all forms to ensure that records and contact details are up to date and include any medical details that we should know about. You will also receive a consent form for routine off-site visits and photographs. Without a completed consent form, your child will not be allowed to go on off-site visits.

### Asthma Pumps and Other Medical Equipment

If your child has asthma, please ensure that school is provided with 2 asthma pumps (one for the classroom and one for the medical room). If you have not already done so, please notify school of any medical conditions or allergies that we need to know about and provide us with in-date medical supplies for your child.

### Our Virtues and Values

As a Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Cardiff, we have embraced the Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile, which teaches the children a set of eight pairs of virtues to be internalised and cultivated, enabling them to grow in wholeness as fully rounded individuals in the image of God.

The pair of virtues we are focusing on this half-term is:

#### Curious:

Being **curious** about everything in our world and trying to learn and gain as much knowledge as we can. Pupils will be encouraged to explore God's creation and ask questions to find out more. Everything around us was created by God. Being curious about these things – from tiny insects to enormous planets, from the languages of the Earth to the patterns made by numbers – brings us closer to God.

#### Active:

Being **active** in our engagement with the world, changing what we can for the better. Pupils will be encouraged to be active in the life of the school, the Church, and the wider community, working to make things better where we can.

In our daily lives, if we use our curiosity to explore, we find things that could be better. For example, a friend is unhappy; a neighbour is lonely; there is litter in the playground. Some of these problems we can fix. By being active we take responsibility for these tasks and look after God's creation.

Padre Pio RC School, Conway Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6HL

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## Food Allergies and Intolerances

Currently, our school policy is to allow children to bring in birthday cake (packs of fairy cakes) to share with other children and we may also provide children with food for class parties, for example, at Christmas time and for special occasions. We would like to continue to offer food for occasional events and birthdays, but we're aware that some children may have food allergies or intolerances. **Please can you ensure that you contact the school office immediately if you child has a food allergy or intolerance so that our records can be updated.**

Please note that we encourage healthy eating and children should only bring water to drink throughout the day and a healthy snack, e.g. fruit for breaktime. Please see the attached information on healthy drinks and snacks.

## Swimming Lessons for Pupils in Year 5

Swimming lessons will start on Friday 13 September. Pupils will walk to and from Pontypool Leisure Centre. Pupils must wear their swimming costume to school (and can wear own clothes/non-uniform every Friday). Pupils must bring a towel, goggles, and raincoat. No deodorant spray and pupils only rinse hair with water so do not pack shampoo.

## Class Music Project

We're pleased to inform you that Gwent Music will deliver a music project in every class again this year, starting with class 2 and class 6 in the autumn term. After each 10-week project pupils will perform in an assembly. Projects may include samba, drumming, brass band, flutes, etc. We hope that all pupils will enjoy the opportunity to play a musical instrument. School will pay for all projects.

## Uniform

Thank you to everyone for ensuring your child has started the school year wearing the correct uniform. The children look very smart and it really does make a difference to the life of the school. A little reminder that the correct footwear is black shoes. Pupils should not wear brightly coloured trainers.

To ensure uniform doesn't get lost and any items misplaced can be returned to pupils, please can you label every item of school uniform, PE kit, and lunch boxes.

## 2024/2025 School Term and Holiday Dates

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Monday 02.09.24	Monday 28.10.24	Friday 01.11.24	Friday 20.12.24
Spring	Monday 06.01.25	Monday 24.02.25	Friday 28.02.25	Friday 11.04.25
Summer	Monday 28.04.25	Monday 26.05.25	Friday 30.05.25	Monday 21.07.25

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

23.09.24	Feast of Padre Pio Mass, 9.30am, school hall (parents invited)
24.09.24	Sports competition for class 6 – letter with details next week
26.09.24	Flu immunisations
25.10.24	INSET 3

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – AUTUMN TERM 2024 - CLUBS START W/C 16 SEPTEMBER

If your child would like to participate in a club, please email [susan.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:susan.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk) with your child's name, class, and chosen club(s).

\*Art, Cookery, Gardening and Yr 3 and 4 IT are limited to 10 places and Welsh is limited to 20 places.

**Clubs will start the week beginning 16 September and will run from 3.05pm to 4pm**

Name	Club	Day	For Pupils in Year:
Mrs McGinty	Activities	Tuesday	1 and 2
Mrs Taylor / Mrs Sculley	Gardening*	Tuesday	4,5,6
Mr Welsh	I.T.	Tuesday	5 and 6
Mrs Curtis	Netball	Tuesday	4,5,6
Mrs Jones	I.T.*	Wednesday	3 and 4
Mr Francis	Rugby	Wednesday	5 and 6
Mrs Tennet	Art*	Wednesday	5
Mrs Williams	Dance Fusion	Wednesday	5 and 6
Miss Powell	Cookery*	Thursday	5 and 6
Mr Sefton	Choir	Thursday	3,4,5,6
Miss Way	Welsh	Thursday	3 and 4
Mr Francis / Mr Welsh	Football	Friday	5 and 6

Please note that football club is initially limited to Y5 and Y6 to gauge numbers as the number of staff leading the class has reduced. Depending on the size of the club we may be able to offer places to other classes in the near future.

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