



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.

04
September
2026

Welcome Back to School!

We hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break! It is wonderful to see all the children again—looking very smart, happy, relaxed, and ready to learn in what promises to be another year full of learning, growth, and exciting opportunities.

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 Catholic School. We hope that you will be very happy with the provision and education your child receives.

Through the strong partnership we aim to develop between school, home, and parish, we strive to provide an excellent learning environment for your children. **If you have any concerns or questions at any time, please do not hesitate to speak to me or any member of staff.** In addition, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Jenny Davies to our staff, she will be working as a Teaching Assistant in Classes 1 and 2.

Unauthorised Absences and Fixed Penalty Notices

Our attendance and punctuality record last year is something that we are very proud of – thank you for your continued support with this. As part of the Local Authority's drive to further improve school attendance they use fixed penalty notices (FPNs). 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 a term. These do not need to be consecutive; 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, 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.

Healthy Drink and Snacks

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.

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.

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 contact the school office immediately if you child has a food allergy so that our records can be updated.**

Class Music Project

We are 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.

Outdoor Play Equipment and Adventure Trail

For the safety of your child, we kindly ask that children do not use the play equipment at the end of the school day.

Each day, we need to check the equipment to ensure it is safe for use—especially in wet weather—and we are unable to supervise its use after school hours. Unfortunately, we had a few accidents at the end of the day last year, which we are obviously keen to avoid. Thank you for your co-operation.

2026/2027 School Term and Holiday Dates

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Tuesday 01.09.26	Monday 26.10.26	Friday 30.10.26	Friday 18.12.26
Spring	Monday 04.01.27	Monday 08.02.27	Friday 12.02.27	Friday 19.03.27
Summer	Monday 05.04.27	Monday 31.05.27	Friday 04.06.27	Monday 20.07.27

INSET Days

INSET 1 – 1/9/26
INSET 2 – 2/9/26
INSET 3 – 23/10/26
INSET 4 – 15/2/27
INSET 5 – 19/7/27
INSET 6 – 20/7/27

SAVE THE DATE!

11.09.25 at 2:15 p.m. – Coffee Afternoon

This is a chance to meet with other parents for a chat and catch up before the end of the day. I will be there too to answer any questions that you may have. We hope to see you there!

After School Clubs

Every year, we are very fortunate to have members of staff who kindly volunteer their time to provide extra-curricular activities for the children. I would like to personally thank them for this. Please find below the after-school clubs we will be offering from 14.09.26. If your child would like to participate, please email Mrs Lewis with the relevant details.

Homework Challenges

This year, we will be sending home a mixture of homework grids and separate homework tasks to try to meet the needs of all children. Next week, we will send home the first homework grid, along with more guidance. Thank you.

OVER TO OUR STAFF!

Read what some of our staff had to say about their 1st day back!

“We loved getting to see our new children and their families on their first day at school- everyone was smiling and excited, including us!!” Reception Staff

“It was wonderful to see all the smiling faces after the Summer holidays- I had a great day with my new class!”
Mrs Taylor, Class 1

“I had the most fabulous day with my new class – they are all stars!!!”
Miss Way, Class 2

“It was lovely to see the children so enthusiastic and looking so smart” Mrs Jones, Class 3

“It was fabulous to spend the day with my new class – they are simply amazing!” Mr Davies, Class 4

“It has been a pleasure working with Class 5 this week – they have been fabulous – Mr Francis will love teaching them!!” Mrs Jones, Class 5

“My new class are absolutely superb – they worked really hard all day yesterday – I had a lovely day!!”
Mr Sefton, Class 6

“We were really excited to see all the smiling boys and girls back at school and we look forward to the new school year” Office Staff

“We cannot believe how much everyone has grown! We cannot wait to feed them again this year!” Canteen staff

“It is great to see all the children back, along with the new children too” Mr Carter

A huge well done to everyone for settling back so well this week – I have loved seeing the children rush into their new classrooms, on time and looking super smart! It's great to hear nothing but praise from all staff about the children's attitudes, work ethic and behaviour this week - Bendigedig Bawb! Have a super weekend all. Best wishes, Mrs McGinty.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – AUTUMN TERM 2026 - CLUBS START W/C 14 SEPTEMBER

If your child would like to participate in a club, please email susan.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk with your child's name, class, and chosen club(s). *Art is limited to 10 places and Cookery limited to 8 places.

Clubs will start the week beginning 14 September and will run from 3.05pm to 4pm

Name	Club	Day	For Pupils in Year:
Mrs Taylor	Activities	Wednesday	1 and 2
Mrs H Jones	Board Games	Tuesday	3,4, 5 and 6
Mrs McGinty	Keep Fit	Tuesday	3,4,5 and 6
Mr Tucker	I.T. and Coding	Tuesday	4,5 and 6
Mrs Kettle	Cookery*	Wednesday	5
Mr Francis and Mr Davies	Rugby (TBC Next Week)	Wednesday	5 and 6
Mrs Tennet	Art*	Wednesday	4
Mrs Williams	Dance Fusion	Wednesday	5 and 6
Miss Way	Welsh Club	Thursday	3,4,5 and 6
Mr Sefton	Choir	Thursday	3,4,5 and 6