



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.

18
September
2026

School Mass for Feast of Padre Pio

Please join us for Mass in St. Alban's Church with pupils in classes 1–6 on **Wednesday 23 September at 9:30 a.m.** All parents, families, and parishioners are warmly invited to join us. We would love to see you there! Our reception children will not be joining us at church this time – but will certainly be part of our next school Mass!

Keeping our pupils safe

Safeguarding our pupils is our highest priority, and every member of staff takes this duty very seriously. As the school's Safeguarding Lead—supported by Mrs H. Jones as Deputy Safeguarding Lead—we are always available to discuss any concerns you may have. Please feel free to reach out to us in person, over the phone, or via email at nicola@padrepioprimary.co.uk or hilary@padrepioprimary.co.uk

Data Collection, Consent Forms and routine off-site visits

Thank you to everyone who has returned the forms. If you have not done so yet, please complete them and return them as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss them.

Attendance and Punctuality

We are thrilled with our fantastic attendance and punctuality so far this term—thank you for your support! Just a quick reminder that our side gates are locked at 9:00 am. Children arriving after this time will need to enter via the main entrance and will be marked as late, which is monitored closely by the Local Authority. If you ever face challenges getting to school on time, please reach out to me so we can help. Finally, as holiday requests start to come in, we kindly ask that families avoid taking children out of school during term time wherever possible. Again, this is taken very seriously by the Local Authority. Thank you for your co-operation.

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.



Pupil Profile

The virtues we will be focusing on this half term are: **Faith-filled** and **Hopeful**. We are encouraging pupils to be **Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.

Parent Consultation Evenings – 19 and 20 October

We are very much looking forward to speaking to you about your child's progress and successes this term during our parent consultations that will take place on 19 and 20 October (via a telephone call). Over the next 2 weeks, you will receive a link to book your appointment online – please note the date and time in your diary

Please note that each meeting is limited to 10 minutes to ensure the evenings run smoothly.

No After School Activities w/c 19 October

There are no after school activities/clubs due to teacher-parent consultations taking place and INSET day on 23.10.26. Clubs will resume after the half-term holiday.

Outdoor Playground Equipment Reminder

Please remember that children must **not** use the playground equipment before or after school.

To ensure everyone's safety, the equipment is strictly off-limits outside of school hours unless directly supervised by a member of staff. Staff members have been asked to remind and challenge anyone using the area before or after the bell.

Thank you for your ongoing co-operation and support in keeping our pupils safe!

Pupil Groups

Pupil groups are a very important part of school life and decision-making. We're proud of the many groups our children are involved in, including the Eco-Committee and Digital leaders. All pupils from Year 2 onwards were asked if they would like to represent any of the groups – and the response was amazing. We are so proud of their enthusiasm to represent our school. We announced all the group members during our Praise assembly today. Congratulations to everyone involved. We look forward to seeing what ideas they bring to the meetings.

Celebration of Pupil Leadership

A huge thank you to all our Year 6 pupils who put themselves forward for the roles of Head Boy and Head Girl. The effort, maturity, and enthusiasm shown by everyone who applied made the decision incredibly tough! After careful consideration by all of our staff, we are extremely proud to announce our new Pupil Leadership Team:

- **Head Boy:** Morgan
- **Deputy Head Boys:** Ollie and Tom
- **Head Girl:** Rihanna
- **Deputy Head Girls:** Phemelo and Luned

Here is what they said when they found out!

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Rihanna – “I was so shocked! As Head girl, I want to make sure everyone is safe and happy at school”

Luned – “I was so happy, but shocked! I really want to help others by adding a suggestion box for each class”

Phemelo – “I felt on top of the world! I was flabbergasted!!!! I want to help the school come together as a group”

Morgan – “I was so excited! I would like to add suggestion boxes in classes so everyone has a say”

Ollie – “When I heard my name, I thought my life was complete! I thought I was capable. I wish for an even better school”

Tom – “I felt overjoyed. I want to create more nature and insects for our school”

A huge congratulations to all! We know you will represent our school brilliantly. We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to every single candidate who applied—you should all be immensely proud of yourselves!

Reception Class 2027

Thank you to everyone who speaks so fondly about our school to potential new parents.

We are very proud of the warm, welcoming, and inspiring environment we've created here – and we would love even more families to join us!

If you know friends, family, or neighbours who are looking for a Reception Class place for September 2027 then please encourage them to consider us.

We welcome applications from all families of all faiths (and no faith).

We will be holding 2 open sessions (a tour of our school and Q&A with myself and members of our staff) for parents considering applying for a place in Reception Class 2027 on:

Thursday 12 November 10am and

Monday 16 November 5pm

Please email susan.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk if you wish to book a place.

For the first time, applications for Reception Class (September 2027) should be submitted to Torfaen Council, via their website, from 13 November 2026 and before the deadline of 15 January 2027. (All other applications, i.e. in-year school transfer applications and applications to all other classes/year groups, are made directly to school using our school application form.)

Homework Challenges - Update

Last week, the children received a copy of our new topic homework challenge! We encourage all pupils to complete at least 5 activities of their choice over the coming weeks, and everyone who completes their target will receive a special reward at the end of the topic. If this format doesn't quite suit your child's learning style, please pop in to speak with their class

teacher or me—we're happy to adapt things so it works best for them. Thank you for your support.

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	Tuesday 20.07.27

INSET Days

INSET 3 – 23/10/26

INSET 4 – 15/2/27

INSET 5 – 19/7/27

INSET 6 – 20/7/27

OVER TO OUR WONDERFUL LEARNERS!

Read what some of learners have enjoyed this week:

“I liked drawing myself and matching my face to the picture” - **Aurora-Lily, Reception Class**

“I enjoyed describing the different fruits” – **Elijah, Class 1**

“I enjoyed working on my writing” – **Alesha, Class 2**

“I have enjoyed playing with my friends. We have played new games” – **Iori-Wyn, Class 3**

“I enjoyed making a Mandela when we did outdoor learning” – **Franklynn, Class 4**

“I like our new approach to Maths and having Mr Francis as my teacher for the third time!” – **Leland, Class 5**

“I've really enjoyed Maths this week. It's pushing me to explain how we do sums” – **Eleri, Class 6**

To close, I would like to say a big well done to the children for their brilliant behaviour and positive learning attitudes throughout the week. A warm thank you to our parents as well for your ongoing support—please never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns, no matter how small. On behalf of all the staff, I wish you a relaxing weekend, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday!

Best wishes, Mrs McGinty.