



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.

02
October
2026

Half Term Disco

To celebrate the end of our first half term, all pupils are invited to a disco hosted by our very own DJ Tucker on Thursday 22nd October. Pupils from classes **Reception, 1 and 2 can join us between 4pm and 5pm** and pupils from **classes 3 - 6 from 5.15pm – 6.30pm**. There will be no charge and the disco is optional.

Coffee Afternoon for parents/families – Thursday 22nd October at 2.15pm

Please join me and other parents for chat and a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits on **Thursday 22nd October at 2.15pm**. A peaceful way to end half term without children!

Invite for a parent/family member to “Stay and Play” – Class 1 pupils on Thursday 22nd October

On Thursday 22nd October at 9am, we are inviting a parent or family member who has a child in **Class 1** to stay and complete different activities/play games with their child. The session will run until 10am. We hope that you can join your child for this. We will shortly set dates for the other classes. Diolch.

Supporting your child at home – Parent workshops

We are always looking for new ways to support you at home with your child's learning and well-being. If there are any workshops or guidance sessions you would find helpful—such as supporting reading, mathematics, Welsh language skills, Additional Learning Needs (ALN), or Religious Education—please let me know! You can email your ideas directly to me, the school office or pop over for a chat with me on the school gate.

Healthy Drink and Snacks (and reducing waste packaging)

Please note that as a school we encourage healthy eating, and breaktime snacks should only be **a fruit or vegetable**, e.g. a banana or apple. If providing fruit or vegetable sticks/chunks, please use a reusable container (this helps us to reduce packaging waste/litter). You do not have to provide a breaktime snack, but it is recommended (particularly if you know your child gets hungry or enjoys fruit/veg snacks). The **preferred drink is water** (in a reusable and refillable water bottle). Thank you for your support in promoting healthy choices and helping us to minimise unnecessary packaging in school.

Class 3 Mass

On Monday, class 3 will celebrate their class Saint, St. Francis, with a Mass at St Alban's church at 9.30am - parents and carers are very welcome to join Class 3 at church. Also, Class 2 will be visiting church on Friday 9th October to learn more about Baptism, a topic they are currently learning about in class.

Class 2 Assembly – Wednesday 21st October

Class 2 will be sharing what they are currently learning in RE by leading our Whole School Assembly on **21.10.26 at 2.30pm**. Parents and family members are warmly welcome to join us.

Keeping our pupils safe

As part of our keeping pupil's safe policy, we carried out a lockdown drill practice this week. During this practice all pupils were kept in their classrooms and the blinds were closed and classroom doors locked. All pupils behaved impeccably during the drill and we were very proud of how they conducted themselves. In the next few weeks, we will hold a practice fire drill. **If as parents you are on the yard when you hear a fire drill practice – a continuous bell sounding, we ask you to assemble over the far end of the playground, just in front of the field opposite the Reception classroom).** As the school's Safeguarding Lead—supported by Mrs H. Jones as Deputy Safeguarding Lead—we are always available to discuss any safeguarding/safety 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

Attendance and Punctuality

We are thrilled with our fantastic attendance and punctuality record for many pupils so far this term—thank you for your support! We have however issued several letters by email this week if your child's attendance has fallen below 90% - we do not expect children to come into school when they are genuinely unwell but, if your child seems a little under the weather, we are happy for them to attend school and we will contact you if they condition worsens. Pupils miss out on so much learning by just having a few days off school. Also, 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.

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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](#)). You will have received an emailed link to book your appointment online – please note the date and time. Please note that each meeting is limited to 10 minutes to ensure the evenings run smoothly. If you're having difficulty booking your appointment, please email susan.lewis@torfaen.gov.uk

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.

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.

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.

Homework Challenges - Update

Well done to all the pupils who have been extremely busy completing homework challenges at home. All pupils have until NEXT FRIDAY (09.10.26) to complete the homework challenges based on the topic "Knowing Me, Knowing You". Pupils who send in/evidence 5 completed tasks (or more) will be rewarded with a treat- pob lwc bawb!

Personalised Assessments – Classes 2 to 6

Over the coming weeks, your child may tell you that they have been completing assessments on a laptop or Chromebook. These are **Personalised Assessments**, which help us understand each pupil's progress in **reading, numeracy and reasoning**.

The assessments are carried out in small groups or whole-class settings and are designed to adapt to each child's responses, becoming more challenging or providing additional support as appropriate. As a result, pupils can work at their own level without feeling under pressure.

All pupils across Wales complete these assessments at least once each year. In addition, our pupils are currently completing spelling assessments in class to support our understanding of their literacy development. An overview of your child's progress and results will be available to discuss during the **parent consultation meetings** taking place later this month. Thank you for your continued 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 learning patterns with Mrs Sculley" - **Ivor, Reception Class**

"I enjoyed learning about God's Creation"– **Preah, Class 1**

"I enjoyed making the pictogram on the chrome book. It was brilliant" – **Avayah, Class 2**

"I have enjoyed learning about our class Saint. He liked animals like me" – **Bonnie, Class 3**

"I enjoyed learning about sharks in Literacy" – **Franklynn, Class 4**

"I've loved getting to know Mr Francis better and sharing lots of laughs at lunch!" – **Maggie, Class 5**

"I've really enjoyed learning about the Big Bang Theory in RE" – **Luned, Class 6**

And finally,

Thank you all for a fantastic, successful week across the school. Well done to all our winners during this morning's Praise Assembly, to Class 1 for winning best attendance, and to both Class 1 and Class 2 for having zero late marks this week! I hope you all have a wonderful, restful weekend, and I look forward to seeing everyone bright and early on Monday!

Best wishes, Mrs McGinty.