



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.

16
October
2026

Shwmae Day/Wear Something Red

Da iawn/ Well done to our Criw Cymraeg and Miss Way, for organising Shwmae Day this week. Everyone looked amazing in their red clothes and accessories. The Criw are running the following competition that is open to everyone:

You will need to create a "Shwmae" poster.

It needs to be A4 size.

It needs to have the word "Shwmae" on it.

It needs to be colourful and eye-catching!

You can use coloured pencils, felt-tips, paint or collage.

There will be 1 winner from each class. The prize will be a bar of chocolate and your poster displayed around the school!

Please give your finished poster to your Criw Cymraeg or to Miss Way by Wednesday 4th November.

Diolch yn fawr!

Family Bingo Night!

Our popular **Prize Bingo** night is back! Join us on **Monday 23rd November at 6pm** for a fun-filled evening suitable for the whole family. We are currently accepting prize donations, so if you have anything you would like to contribute, we would be extremely grateful. All funds raised will go directly towards Christmas treats for our pupils.

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.

Football Team News

Huge congratulations to our school football team, who recently took part in a tournament hosted by Newport County! Playing four games in total, the team scored some fantastic goals, showed great enthusiasm, and represented our school brilliantly. A special thank you to Mr Davies and Mr Francis for coaching the team, and to Mr Francis for leading them on the day.

Cross-Country Event

Congratulations to our 40 pupils from classes 3-6 who were chosen to represent our school today at the annual cross-country running event. We hope they all enjoyed taking part (and managed to make it across the finishing line!) We will share the results with you at a later date. Thank you to Mrs Kettle for accompanying them with me today.

Christmas at Padre Pio School!

Advanced notice of Christmas Concerts dates.

Every year, pupils from Reception to Class 5 take part in a Christmas Nativity/concert that parents/families are invited to watch. This year the dates are as follows:

Monday 7th December, 2pm – **Classes 1 and 2**

Tuesday 8th December, 5.30pm – **Classes 1 and 2**

Wednesday 9th December, 1.45pm – **Classes 3, 4 and 5**

Thursday 10th December, 6pm – **Classes 3, 4 and 5**

Friday 11th December, 9.30am – **Reception**

We have also set dates for the following events:

Wednesday 16th December - **Christmas Lunch**

Thursday 17th December - **Class Christmas parties (during the school day)**

Friday 18th December - **Whole School Mass at St Alban's Church (9.30am)**

Music Concert on 15.12.26 2pm – Classes 2 and 6

Each class will take it in turn this year to learn to play a musical instrument taught by a music specialist over a 10-week period. At the end of this time, the classes will perform to the rest of the school and families/parents are warmly invited. **Class 2 and 6 pupils would like to invite their families to attend on 15.12.26 at 2pm.** We hope to see you there.

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.

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) Awareness Day – 16.10.26

Today is DLD awareness day and the theme this year is "Together for DLD". DLD is a lifelong condition that affects the way a person understands and/or uses spoken language. Yesterday, both Mrs Jones and Mrs Kettle spoke to all pupils about ways of supporting people with DLD and some examples were speaking clearly and slowly and giving someone time to think and answer. Thank you to Mrs Jones and Mrs Kettle for spreading this important message.

Healthy Drink and Snacks

A big thank you to all our families and pupils for supporting our Healthy Snacks and Water Policy. It is wonderful to see our pupils enjoying their healthy choices every day.

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.

Family Mass – Sunday 29th November, at 11am

We would love all families to join us for **Family Mass at St Alban's Church at 11am**. If your child would like to attend but you can't make it, your child can meet staff at school at **10.40am** and we will walk down with us. Pupils will be taking part in the service. Thank you.

Wear It Pink – Breast Cancer Awareness Month

On **Thursday 22 October** you can show your support for Breast Cancer Now's Wear It Pink (charity fundraising events). Children can wear pink to school – we ask for a **donation of 50p** for the charity. In addition, Torfaen Catering staff will be selling cakes/biscuits (50p), pink ribbon (50p), pink ribbon pin badges (£1), Guess the Name of the Bear (50p), slap bands (50p) – so please provide your child with some spending money – all proceeds to the charity.

Parent Consultation Evenings – 19 and 20 October (10 minute telephone calls)

The booking system has closed, but you can contact the school office or your child's class teacher if you have not made an appointment.

No After School Activities w/c 19 October

There are no after school activities/clubs due to teacher-parent consultations taking place.

Reminder: Breakfast Club 8.20 (doors close 8.30)

To ensure staff have time to serve children and children have time to eat their breakfast, please ensure your child arrives at 8.20 (and before 8.30) for breakfast club.

Reception Class 2027

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 Update

As you are aware, we are currently reviewing our homework arrangements to ensure they work best for all our pupils. While we currently send home weekly literacy and numeracy activities, our school council will be surveying pupils next week to find out how they prefer to receive their homework. We would love to hear from parents and carers, too! Please drop me an email to share your thoughts and let us know which format your child prefers:

The homework grid

Weekly tasks

You can email me directly at

nicola@padrepiopriary.co.uk or speak to me directly. 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 (Friday before half term)

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 talking about my weekend news" - **Oliver, Reception Class**

"I enjoyed describing the Ugly Duckling" – **Thea, Class 1**

"I really liked making spinners in RE all about Baptism" – **Connor, Class 2**

"I enjoyed making masks. We decorated it with ways to care for the environment" – **Rioghan, Class 3**

"I have loved the Maths because we are learning different ways of adding numbers" – **Willow, Class 4**

"I've loved the new Maths because you get to show numbers in so many different ways" – **Destiny, Class 5**

"I liked learning about fractions because they are very interesting and fun to work out" – **Scarlett, Class 6**

And finally, a big thank you to everyone for another brilliant week. It is crazy to think we are already heading into the final week before half term! My highlight this week was sharing Hot chocolate and cookies with over 60 pupils who completed at least 5 homework challenges during the last topic – simply amazing! Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend. Best Wishes, Mrs McGinty.