



# 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  
2025

### 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 a 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 Mr Tucker to our teaching staff and wish him all the best as he settles into his new teaching role.

### Unauthorised Absences and Fixed Penalty Notices

As part of the Local Authority's drive to 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 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, 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.

### 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.**

### 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.

### Swimming Lessons for Pupils in Year 5

Swimming lessons will start on Friday 12 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 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.

### 2025/2026 School Term and Holiday Dates

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Monday 01.09.25	Monday 27.10.25	Friday 31.10.25	Friday 19.12.25
Spring	Monday 05.01.26	Monday 16.02.26	Friday 20.02.26	Friday 27.03.26
Summer	Monday 13.04.26	Monday 25.05.26	Friday 29.05.26	Monday 20.07.26

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### 26.09.25 at 2:15 p.m. – Coffee Afternoon for All Parents and Carers

This is a chance to meet with other parents for a chat. Mrs Jones (our ALNCo) and I will also be there to answer any questions 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 15.09.25. If your child would like to participate, please email Mrs Lewis with the relevant details.

### HOMEWORK CHALLENGES

As a result of recent feedback, we are trialling a new homework approach this term. Your child should be bringing home an envelope today containing a detailed letter and a homework chart explaining the new system. If you have any questions regarding homework, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### OVER TO OUR LEARNERS

Read what some of our children had to say about their 1<sup>st</sup> day back!

**“It was really good! I played with the teddies, the babies and the buggy in the home corner”** Prairie, Reception

**“I had a good day and I love when Mrs Taylor does star of the day”** Essie, Class 1

**“I had a great day! I enjoyed drawing and singing in Welsh”**  
Brayden, Class 2

**“My day was amazing!! The best part was maths because I learnt something new!”** Franklynn, Class 3

**“I enjoyed being with my friends again and the work we did in RE”** Isabella, Class 4

**“I liked my first day because we are allowed to bring our own stationary and I liked how the day got progressively harder”** Luned, Class 5

**“I was nervous when I went into class but Mr Sefton made me comfortable and happy. The best part was when Mr Sefton started teaching and I realised it would all be ok”**  
Lola, Class 6

And, finally, from Mr Tucker...

**“It was an absolute pleasure! I feel so fortunate to work at such a fantastic school, with amazing children”**

It's great to read such positive comments from our children and 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, everyone, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next week!

**Mrs McGinty**

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – AUTUMN TERM 2025 - CLUBS START W/C 15 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 and Cookery and I.T. Yr3 and 4 are limited to 10 places.

**Clubs will start the week beginning 15 September and will run from 3.05pm to 4pm**

Name	Club	Day	For Pupils in Year:
Mrs Taylor	Activities	Tuesday	1 and 2
Mrs H Jones	I.T.*	Tuesday	3 and 4
Mrs McGinty	Drama	Tuesday	3,4,5,6
Mr Francis and Mr Davies	Sports	Tuesday	3 and 4
Mrs Kettle	Cookery*	Wednesday	5 and 6
Mr Francis and Mr Davies	Rugby	Wednesday	5 and 6
Mrs Tennet	Art*	Wednesday	6
Mrs Williams	Dance Fusion	Wednesday	5 and 6
Miss Way	Welsh and Criw Cymraeg	Thursday	3,4,5,6
Mr Tucker	I.T. and Coding	Thursday	5 and 6
Mr Sefton	Choir	Friday	3,4,5,6