



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.

26

September
2025

INSET/staff training Days

School will be closed to pupils on the following dates:

Friday 24 October 2025
Monday 5 January 2026
Monday 23 February 2026
Monday 20 July 2026

Parent Consultation Evenings – 20 and 21 October- Book your appointment online!

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 20 and 21 October (via a telephone call). Thank you to the families who have already booked an appointment via the online booking system – your booking has been forwarded to your child's class teacher. If you need assistance, please call the school office and we will happily help you.

Please note that each meeting is limited to 10 minutes to ensure other parents are not kept waiting. Diolch

No After School Activities w/c 20 October

There are no after school activities/clubs due to teacher-parent consultations taking place and INSET day on 24.10.25. Clubs will resume after the half-term holiday.

Photographs – 29 September

Individual photos of pupils will be taken on Monday morning. Unfortunately, the photographer no longer takes family / pre-school sibling photos, but will take photos of siblings in school.

SAVE THE DATES!

23.10.25 from 2:00 p.m. – Informal Coffee Afternoon/chat for All Parents and Carers

Join us for a relaxed chance to meet other parents/carers over a coffee or tea and have a good chat! Kelly, our amazing school cook and a member of Torfaen catering team, will be there to answer any questions you might have about school dinners, breakfast club, or healthy lunch boxes. I'll also be there to chat and help with any questions you may have. We hope to see you there!

07.10.25 at 2pm in our school hall - Meeting for parents and carers about our new RE scheme of work, Majester, and our established RSE Scheme of Work, Life to the Full. During the meeting, we will present both schemes and share examples of what the children are learning in class.

Feast Day Celebration

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Canon Paul for celebrating Mass with us in honour of Padre Pio's Feast Day. A sincere thank you to all the families and parishioners who joined us - your support and participation are deeply appreciated. Most importantly, we are incredibly proud of our children, whose excellent behaviour, reverent participation, and joyful singing made the celebration so meaningful. Their presence truly reflected the spirit of Padre Pio's love and devotion.

Mass and Church Visits

On Friday 3 October, class 2 will visit St. Alban's Church to meet with Canon Paul and talk about baptism. Also, on Friday, class 3 will celebrate their class Saint, St. Francis, with a Mass at church at 9.30am - parents and carers are welcome to join Class 3 at church.

Museum Visit

On Friday 3 October, class 1 will visit Pontypool Museum – children will walk to and from the museum, so please ensure your child is wearing a coat and sensible shoes, thank you.

Exciting News - Building Work

From October half-term until Christmas, there will be building work taking place in the Art Room - more news to follow! Contractors will be safely accessing our school from the playground. The safety of our children, staff and parents/visitors is our top priority. While the work is being carried out, we will be talking to the children about staying safe on the playground. We will share more information with you over the next few weeks. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Year 6 Trip to Abernant

Further to details given to parents last week, a reminder that the £50 deposit is due before Friday 3 October.

RECEPTION CLASS 2026

Spread the Word!!- We need you to tell your friends and family about our school!!

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 in September 2026 then please encourage them to consider us.

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

Our strong links with families were highlighted by Estyn during their recent inspection (February 2025):

Spotlight: Ensuring Strong Links with Families

Leaders and staff develop very positive links with families. They provide valuable opportunities for parents or carers to visit the school, for example, during 'book look' days, where parents can look at their child's work or by attending regular class assemblies. Leaders organise purposeful transition events for parents new to the school. These enable most pupils to have a successful start to school life. They communicate regularly with home and ensure that they respond swiftly and purposefully to any concerns or suggestions for improvement. For example, the views of parents and carers have helped inform the school's approach to diversity and anti-racism.

We will be holding 2 open sessions, a tour of our school and a Q and A with myself for prospective new parents/families on

Tuesday 14 October 10am and on Monday 20 October 6pm

Please register your interest in attending (or request an application pack) by contacting our school office.

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2026. Parents/guardians will be notified of the result of their application on 16 April 2026.

Padre Pio RC School, Conway Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6HL

E-mail: clerk.padrepiorc@torfaen.gov.uk

Phone : 01495 742074

www.padrepiorcprimary.co.uk

Thank you for your Homework Efforts!

A huge well done to all the children who have worked so hard over the past 4 weeks to complete a range of homework tasks. Your child/ren's effort, creativity, and commitment have truly impressed us!

Next week we will be sending home a brand-new homework grid linked to our exciting new topic: "Let's Celebrate!". We can't wait to see how the children engage with the next set of activities.

As part of our trial approach to homework, we really value your feedback. We are asking all parents and carers to please take a short time to complete our short questionnaire by clicking the link below. Your opinions will help shape how we move forward. Diolch/Thank you.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKEX8HPWw3_fAB1pBsH0rWLRMY5FhIj4H95wwbxPI9xIULS/Q/viewform?usp=header

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 |

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.

Next week, pupils from Year 1-Year 6 will have the opportunity to put themselves forward to be part of our School Council, where important decisions about school life and rules are made. If your child would like to stand for this role, staff will invite them to do so next week, and class votes will follow.

Good luck/pob lwc to everyone who puts themselves forward- we can't wait to see your enthusiasm!

Head/Deputy Head Boy and Girl

For the first time, we are excited to introduce the roles of Head Boy and Head Girl, along with Deputy roles, for our Year 6 pupils.

Mr Sefton and I spoke to the children in Class 6 about this opportunity this morning. Anyone interested in these roles has been asked to let Mr Sefton know on Monday.

Good luck to everyone who puts themselves forward - we're looking forward to seeing the leaders emerge!

OVER TO OUR LEARNERS

Read what some of our children had to say about what they are most proud of this week!

"I am proud of my reading at home with Mammy" Oakley, Dosbarth Derbyn/Reception Class

"I am proud of my drawing" Diana, Dosbarth Derbyn

"I am proud of my work on the story of God's Creation!" Harper, Dosbarth 1

"I am proud that I planted daffodil bulbs with my friends. It was lots of fun" Dominic, Dosbarth 2

"I am proud of writing my numbers on a number line. It helps me with my maths" Davina, Dosbarth 2

"I am proud that I can log onto the laptop without help" Lwcus, Dosbarth 3

"I am proud that I celebrated Mass for Padre Pio" Lizzie, Dosbarth 3

"I am proud that I learnt about Abraham. He made a promise to God. I've been making new friends" Michelle, Dosbarth 4

"I'm proud of myself for writing a story" Bridie, Dosbarth 4

"I'm most proud of using my IT skills in topic. I used an AI generator with my group to design a team mascot. We designed a fox carrying a mango" Joe, Dosbarth 5

"I'm proud of the work I did on adding" Halle, Dosbarth 6

"I'm proud of the improvement I made in my handwriting" Freya, Dosbarth 6

And Mrs Taylor, Dosbarth 1 said: "I am super proud of the children's enthusiasm to work together on the independent activities – keep it up and Da iawn bawb!"

And finally...

A big thank you to everyone for your hard work and efforts around the school this week and in all the classrooms. A special well done to all the children who responded perfectly to our fire drill practice earlier on this week. A special congratulations to Class 5 for winning best attendance this week and to Classes Reception, 2 and 5 for receiving NO late marks – perfect!! Let's try to get NO late marks in any of our classes next week – if we achieve this then everyone can have 10 extra minutes play next Friday!!!

We look forward to seeing you all next week. Have a super weekend all! Fingers crossed; the weather stays kind to us!

**Best wishes,
Mrs McGinty**