



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.

17
October
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 – NEXT WEEK

A reminder that parent consultations will take place next week via a telephone call. Thank you for making an appointment using the online booking system – your booking has been forwarded to your child's class teacher and they look forward to speaking with you next week. The telephone number that the teachers will use will either say withheld or will be the school telephone number.

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

No After School Activities Next Week

We remind you that there are **no after school activities/clubs** next week due to teacher-parent consultations taking place. Clubs will resume after the half-term holiday.

Reminder: INSET day on Friday 24 October and school closed for half-term holiday. School reopens on Monday 3 November.

SAVE THE DATES!

Next Thursday 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!

Class 5 Assembly

Next Wednesday at 9.15am – Class 5 will be leading our Assembly in the hall – parents and carers are invited.

Sunday Family Mass

All families are invited to join staff at St Alban's church on Sunday 30th November at 11am- more details to follow.

Family Prize Bingo- Monday 24th November, 2025

Everyone is welcome to our Family Fun Prize bingo night in our school hall at 6pm. It is always a very enjoyable evening.

A reminder about morning arrivals

We've noticed some confusion around the start of the school day, so we'd like to clarify our expectations to ensure a smooth and punctual start for all pupils.

School begins at 8.55am. All pupils should arrive between 8.45am and 8.55am to be ready for learning. The school gate will be locked promptly at 9am. Any pupils arriving after this time must enter through the main school entrance and will be marked as late. While we understand that occasional lateness can happen due to unforeseen circumstances, persistent late arrivals are being closely monitored by myself and our education welfare officer.

We are here to support all families and work in partnership. If for whatever reason you are finding it difficult to arrive by 8.55am, please do not hesitate to speak to me. I will do everything I can to help and support you. Thank you for your continued co-operation and commitment to your child's education.

Improved Attendance – A fantastic start!

We are delighted to share some positive news – our education welfare officer was extremely impressed with our whole school attendance at the start of this academic year since September. Well done to all our pupils and families for making good attendance a priority.

To help maintain this brilliant record, please book medical appointments outside school hours wherever possible and avoid holidays and weekday breaks during term time. Your support makes a real difference. Let's keep up the momentum and continue building a strong, consistent routine for our children.

An Update - Building Work – Our Future Nursery

From October half-term until Christmas, there will be building work taking place in the Art Room. Contractors will be safely accessing our school from the playground. The safety of our pupils, staff and parents/visitors is our top priority. While the work is being carried out, we will be talking to the pupils about staying safe on the playground. Work includes the addition of toilets, sinks, and a new kitchen area. The work has been funded by Welsh Government, a Childcare Capital Grant, accessed with the help of Torfaen Council's Childcare Team. From next year, the plan is for the room (which we will call 'The Nursery') to be used for Flying Start provision (for 2–3-year-old children), Nursery Childcare (3–4-year-old children), and for After School Childcare. We are working with Pontymoile Childcare, a local and very experienced childcare provider – they are in the process of registering the setting for Flying Start and childcare (approved by Care Inspectorate Wales).

R.E. Inspection Highlights- our pupils shone!

We are absolutely thrilled to share how proud all staff were of our pupils during the recent inspection. Their behaviour, attitude, and work ethic truly shone – and the inspectors were genuinely blown away by their conduct (Not that we were surprised!)

A heartfelt thank you to all families who took the time to complete the pre-inspection questionnaire. We have been told your feedback was incredibly positive and deeply supportive of our school and staff- your

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

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

Phone : 01495 742074

www.padrepiorcprimary.co.uk

partnership means the world to us and we never take it for granted. If we can support you in nurturing your child's prayer life or religious education journey, please do not hesitate to speak to me. The RE Inspection report will be available in the very near future.

Homework feedback – Thank you!

A huge thank you to all the families who responded to our recent homework questionnaire. We've carefully read every comment, and feedback is already helping us reflect and strengthen our offer.

The majority of responses were extremely positive, with many families sharing that this approach to homework is better suited to family life and that pupils are more engaged and motivated. Your individual suggestions were especially helpful. We will be discussing these at an upcoming staff meeting to explore how we can put your ideas into practice and continue improving together. We truly value your partnership- thank you for helping us shape a homework work experience that supports learning and works for families.

Incredible Turnout – RE and RSE parent/carer meeting

We were absolutely thrilled with the amazing turnout at our recent parent meeting on Religious Education and RSE- it was the best attended meeting ever! Thank you to Mr Francis who co-hosted the meeting.

If there are any areas of the curriculum or aspects of school life, you'd like us to offer a workshop or information session on, please let me know. We are always keen to respond to your interests and needs. By working together, we continue to grow as a stronger united team for our pupils and families.

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

Celebrating our Year 6 Leaders!

We were absolutely thrilled by the incredible response from our Year 6 pupils who put themselves forward for the roles of Head Boy, head Girl, and their Deputies. The enthusiasm, courage, and leadership shown by all candidates made the decision incredibly difficult for our staff- every single pupil who applied would have made a fantastic representative!

A huge thank you to everyone who bravely stepped up. The voting was extremely close, which speaks volumes about the talent and character of our pupils. Congratulations to our newly appointed leaders:

Head Girl- Gwenni

Head Boy- Caleb

Deputy Leaders- Aylah, Phoebe M and Freddie

They have already made a brilliant start in their roles, impressively guiding prospective parents around our school earlier this week! We're confident they will represent our school with pride, kindness, and excellence throughout the year.

Our next Open day for new parents is Monday 20th October, at 6pm- please spread the word to anyone who may consider choosing our school for their child in September 2026.

OVER TO OUR LEARNERS

Please read what some of our pupils said the highlights of their week has been!

"I had a certificate off Mr Tucker and Mrs Kettle", Thea, Dosbarth Derbyn/Reception Class

"I am really pleased with my writing about the story "Hike"!" Thomas, Dosbarth 1

"I have loved playing tag with my friends on the playground" Davina, Dosbarth 2

"I liked the maths- I like sorting and multiples" Jonah, Dosbarth 3

"I enjoyed learning the scientific names of the bones of the human body" Osian, Dosbarth 4

"I've really enjoyed writing a list in RE about The Ten Commandments" Dorina, Dosbarth 5

"I'm proud of coming 6th in the cross-country trial and being on the reserve list" Nyree, Dosbarth 6

And Mrs Jones, Dosbarth 3 said:

"My highlight this week has been seeing the effort from everyone during our practice for the cross-country race in November. All of the children encouraged and supported each other, cheering really loudly!"

And finally...

As we head into the final week before half term next week, I want to thank everyone - pupils, families, staff and governors - for your continued energy, enthusiasm, and support. It's been such busy and joyful few weeks (with a surprise RE inspection thrown in for extra excitement!!!) and I'm so proud of all that everyone has achieved so far and the plans that we have in place for this year.

Enjoy a restful and happy weekend with your loved ones, and I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday for one last brilliant week before the break!

**Best wishes,
Mrs N. McGinty**