



# 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.

**21**  
**November**  
**2025**

## Staffing Update

The Governing Body recently asked if I would continue in the role of acting Headteacher until August 2027. I have agreed and I am very much looking forward to working with everyone to further strengthen our strong school community. In addition, I am delighted that Mr Tucker will remain teaching our Reception children after Christmas, ensuring continuity and stability for our youngest learners.

## Attendance and Punctuality

We have fantastic news to share: - since September, our pupils have shown outstanding commitment to both attendance and punctuality. As a school community, we are not only meeting but exceeding the target set by our Governors for our attendance this year. Even more impressively, we are currently performing above the Torfaen average for all schools. Let's keep this momentum going together. With your continued support, we can continue these excellent standards and give our pupils the best chance to thrive.

## Friendly Class Competition!

Each week in assembly, we celebrate the classes with the best attendance and punctuality. The competition is always fierce — and not just among the pupils! Here's how the leaderboard is shaping up this week:

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF TIMES EACH CLASS HAS WON BEST ATTENDANCE AWARD</u>	<u>NUMBER OF TIMES EACH CLASS HAS WON BEST PUNCTUALITY AWARD</u>
Reception	1	0
Class 1	2	2
Class 2	4	4
Class 3	0	1
Class 4	1	5
Class 5	2	1
Class 6	1	5

Who will come out on top at the end of the term to win a whole class award? Pob Lwc/Good luck to everyone!

## Keep Wales Tidy – Planting for the Future

This week, pupils in classes 1 and 6 proudly joined forces with Keep Wales Tidy to plant bulbs in our school grounds. Their enthusiasm and teamwork shone through as they worked together to make our environment brighter and greener.

Read what some of gardeners had to say about their hard work:

**Daisy, Year 1** – “We planted bluebells”

**Thomas, Year 1** – “We worked with year 6 and Bryony”

**Eifion, Year 6** – “I really liked the planting and the scavenger hunt. The best bit was when there were no more trowels and I got a big shovel!”

**Euan, Year 6** “It was fun doing it with Class 1 and it was a detailed lesson planting the seeds. We helped class 1 learn about the seeds”.

And their hard work doesn't end there! In the spring, our pupils will be planting a range of fruit trees to create a brand-new school orchard. We are so proud of their commitment to caring for the environment and look forward to watching our bulbs bloom and orchard flourish in the months ahead.

## Heddlu Bach- Our visit to Regency House

This week, our kind and caring pupils from the Heddlu Bach group volunteered their time to visit our local residential home, where they spent the morning chatting with and supporting the residents.

Read what they said about the visit:

“We went to Regency House to give the elderly people some company, we loved it there and we learnt a lot about their lives. It was warm there and the people were really kind”

(Ruby, Freya, David, Sopiha, Ben, Tom, Joe, Thea, Logan, Cohen and Dorina).

We are incredibly proud of the kindness, thoughtfulness, and compassion shown by our learners, who gave up their snack time to spend meaningful moments with others in our community. A big thank you to Mrs Williams for co-ordinating this wonderful project.

## Our new school Facebook page

We are delighted to share the launch of our new school Facebook page with you. For now, we will use this page to keep families updated with information and upcoming events. In the future, we may consider opening up the page for comments, but at present it will be a space for sharing news with you. Please find us on Facebook, follow our page and give us a like to stay connected. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me directly, thank you.

## Eco Warriors Update

Our Eco warriors have been busy this week with an exciting project! They are currently collecting plastic bottle tops, which will be recycled and transformed into furniture for our school garden. This dedication shows how small actions can make a big difference to our environment. In addition, they are also collecting batteries and crisp packets.

We are so proud of the commitment to care for our school and the wider world. Keep up the great work! A special thank you to Mrs Taylor for co-ordinating this project.

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

**E-mail: [clerk.padrepiorc@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:clerk.padrepiorc@torfaen.gov.uk)**

**Phone : 01495 742074**

**[www.padrepiorcprimary.co.uk](http://www.padrepiorcprimary.co.uk)**

### INSET/Staff Training Days

School will be closed to pupils on the following dates:

Monday 5 January 2026  
Monday 23 February 2026  
Monday 20 July 2026

### SAVE THE DATES!

#### Coffee Afternoon and Fun “No prize” Bingo!! – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm

Come to our school hall for chance to meet other parents/carers/grandparents over a cup of coffee or tea and have a good chat! We will also play a free game of bingo too. We hope to see you there - everyone is invited.

#### Family Prize Bingo - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November- 6pm

Everyone is welcome to our Family Fun Prize bingo night in our school hall at 6pm. It is always a very enjoyable evening. There will be refreshments on sale and bingo tickets. Please arrive from 5.40pm.

#### Family Mass Invitation – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November

All families are warmly invited to join **Canon Paul and the staff at St Alban’s Church, Pontypool**, on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 11: 00am**. There will be light refreshments in the Church Hall afterwards. We hold three Family Masses each year, and they are a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to feel part of our parish community. We would love as many families as possible to join us, although we understand that family commitments can sometimes make attendance difficult. This year, we are offering families the option to **drop children off at school at 10:40am**, where staff will walk them to church and bring them back to school after Mass (approximately 12:20pm). If you would like your child to take part in this way, please let **myself or Mrs Lewis** know by **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November**. If you have any questions, please contact school. Thank you for your continued support.

### Christmas Concerts

Practice is now in full swing for our Christmas concerts and our pupils are getting very excited to share with you our concerts. Concerts are as follows:

**Classes 1 and class 2 concert – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 5pm**

**Classes 3, 4 and 5 concert – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 6pm and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm**

**Reception – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 9.30am**

We will also record concert rehearsals and share them online, via the school’s private YouTube channel. We will send parents a link to their child’s class concert. We remind parents that the link is for your personal use only – please do not share the link with others and refrain from posting images of the concert which will contain other children onto any social media sites. We feel it appropriate to advise you that the guidance from the Information Commissioners Office would be by publishing on social media and if used for any other purpose that you could be treated as a Data Controller in your own right and would be subject to the legislation and be accountable to ICO scrutiny.

**If you do not consent to your child being in the recording, you must contact school before Wednesday 26 November.**

We will not charge for entry to concerts, but we will be fundraising with a **raffle** before every concert – all proceeds will be used to pay for trips and activities, so please be generous in your support.

### Music Assembly – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Parents of pupils in **Class 2** and **Class 6** are warmly invited to attend our **Music Assembly** on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 2:15pm**. The pupils will be showcasing the musical skills they have been developing and perfecting over the past few weeks. We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating their hard work and talent!

### Open Evening for new parents – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 6pm

Thank you to all the parents who have shared information about opening evenings – we really appreciate your support. We will be holding one last opening evening on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 6pm for any parents considering sending their child to our school.

### 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

### Over to our Learners

Please read what some of our pupils have said they have loved learning about this week!

**“I have enjoyed playing in the sand and singing our Christmas songs”,** Oliver, Dosbarth Derbyn/Reception Class

**“I have loved learning our Christmas concert songs!”**

Ollie, Dosbarth 1

**“I really enjoyed painting a birthday cake”,** Ava, Dosbarth 2

**“I enjoyed finding out facts about pandas in our literacy lessons”,** Harlow, Dosbarth 3

**“I enjoyed writing about James and Giant Peach”,** Keira Dosbarth 4

**“I am enjoying poetry in Welsh because it is fun and I like learning other languages”** Cienna, Dosbarth 5

**“I enjoyed art club because we decorated wooden stockings and baubles”,** Enzo, Dosbarth 6

And Mr Francis, Dosbarth 5 said:

**“My highlight this week has been seeing Class 5 writing biographies about Walter Tull in literacy. The talent, knowledge and skills demonstrated has been remarkable – I am a very lucky teacher indeed”**

### And finally...

We hope that many families will be able to join us for our upcoming family bingo night and Family Mass. These occasions remind us that we are more than just a school for learning – we are a community that comes together, celebrates and grows side by side.

Thank you once again to our fabulous pupils for their hard work, positive attitudes and exemplary behaviour this week – long may it continue!

We wish all our families a wonderful weekend, wrap up warm, enjoy the fresh air, and take time to rest and recharge.

**Best wishes,**

Mrs N. McGinty

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

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