



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.

19
December
2025

School Leadership Announcement

I am delighted to share that Mr Francis will be taking up the role of Acting Deputy Headteacher from January 2026 until August 2027. I am confident that he will be a real asset to our leadership team, bringing dedication and creativity to support our whole school community. Mr Francis will join Mrs H. Jones and myself on the Senior Leadership Team, and together we look forward to continuing to move the school forward with positivity and purpose.

Christmas Concerts

Words cannot express how proud we are of every single child who took part in last week's concerts. The singing, dancing, acting, and behaviour was truly outstanding. Watching the children perform with such confidence and joy was a highlight of our school calendar and a wonderful way to celebrate the season. We are deeply grateful to our families for their support-whether through buying raffle tickets, sourcing costumes, or cheering from the audience. Your involvement makes these occasions so special. Finally, and by no means least, a huge thank you to our dedicated staff, who worked tirelessly to prepare the children and gave up their evenings to ensure the concerts could take place. Your commitment is very much appreciated.

Many Thanks for Your Support

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets during our concerts last week. Your generosity-together with the success of Bingo Night- has raised £1,105! We're awaiting quotes for outdoor play equipment (spending the £1,500 grant from Tesco) and may add all or some of the £1,105 (anything left will be used to pay for activities, trips/transport).

Christmas Festivities

It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying such a wide range of Christmas events this week- from our lively school disco with DJ Tucker (rumour has it he's available for private gigs at a reasonable price!) to a delicious Christmas dinner prepared by our amazing canteen staff, as well as jumper day, class parties and toy day. The children's behaviour throughout has been phenomenal, and it has been priceless to watch them embrace the Christmas spirit with their friends and staff. A heartfelt thank you goes to our parents for providing everything needed to make these events possible, and once again to our dedicated staff who

worked tirelessly behind the scenes. We hope that the children have made special memories that will stay with them throughout next year.

Advent Mass

What a perfect way to end our term – coming together as a school to celebrate Advent mass with Canon Paul, parishioners, and families. The Liturgy reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas: that Jesus was born for everyone on the very first Christmas night. We are sincerely grateful to Canon Paul for leading us through such a special celebration. It was also a moving moment to remember Charlie Williams, our past pupil, during Mass. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Charlie's family at this heartbreaking time.

Christmas Mass Times

Canon Paul would love to welcome you and your families to Mass during the Christmas period. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate the joy of Christ's birth. Please see below for the Mass times at the various churches. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December

7.30pm St. Alban's Church

Christmas Day, Thursday 25 December

11am St. Felix Church, Blaenavon

11am St. Alban's Church

Choir visit to Regency Residential Home

Our school choir represented us tremendously this week as they sang for residents at Regency Residential Home. The residents thoroughly enjoyed listening to the children, sharing that it brought smiles to their faces and filled them with the Christmas spirit. A truly remarkable gesture was that our pupils chose to miss their own Christmas party in order to sing for the residents- an inspiring example of how they live out our school values and Catholic faith.

A special thank you goes to Mr Sefton for arranging this visit, and to Murray's Mini Bus Hire for providing transport for free, saving everyone from a wet walk!

Punctuality and attendance

After a long and competitive battle, we are delighted to announce our two winners for this term:

Class 2 – Best Attendance

Class 4 – Best Punctuality

A huge congratulations to both classes! They celebrated their success with a cosy afternoon of hot

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chocolate, marshmallows, and cookies- a well-deserved treat for their fantastic efforts.

Next term, the competition begins all over again.... So good luck to every class as you aim for high attendance and punctuality. We can't wait to see who will claim the prizes next time!

In addition, a huge well done and thank you to the many children who have achieved excellent attendance and punctuality records this term. Your commitment and effort are truly commendable – keep it up!

Spring Term After School Clubs

We are always so fortunate to have staff who generously give their time to offer a wide range of after school clubs for our children to experience and enjoy. A list of available clubs will be sent out during the first week back at school, and clubs will resume from the week beginning 19th January.

Update on 'The Nursery'

Thank you for your patience and support during the recent building work in our former Art Room. We are delighted to announce that the project is now complete - and the space looks fantastic! 'The Nursery' is ready, and County Childcare Padre Pio is now taking enquiries about Flying Start places (for children aged 2 to 3 years) - email: admin@countychildcare.co.uk for more information.

We're awaiting CIW registration for Nursery Childcare (for children aged 3 to 4 years) and will update you as soon as this is received. County Childcare Padre Pio will manage the nursery childcare and parents will register directly with them for a place. Please note that, if you're eligible to apply for the Childcare Offer for Wales, nursery childcare is free (if you're not eligible, you would need to pay the childcare provider).

Last chance to apply for Reception Class Sept. 26

Thank you to everyone who has spread the word about joining our reception class in September 2026. The Open Events have proven very popular and we appreciate the kind praise and reviews that you give to others about our school. This is the last opportunity to apply for a reception place - the closing date for application forms is 15th January. Please let anyone know who may still be interested. We are a Catholic School, open to all families.

Our new school Facebook page

We are delighted to see our new Facebook page growing in popularity, with more followers and likes every day. It is proving to be a fantastic way of keeping in touch with families and sharing updates from school. If you haven't found us yet, please take a moment to look us up, follow our page, and give us a like. We will not share photographs of children on this platform.

Over to our classes!

Please read what our classes and staff have said are this term's highlights!

Dosbarth Derbyn:

"Our class highlight was performing for our parents and grown ups at our Christmas concert"

Class 1

"We enjoyed our visit to the local museum. We learnt lots of new things about our local area"

Class 2

We have especially loved Maths and Welsh lessons. We also liked making Christmas snowmen as presents for their families"

Class 3

"We really enjoyed making our calendars. It was nice to be able to choose what to do and we didn't all do the same"

Class 4

"We enjoyed reading James and the Giant peach and carrying out work using electrical circuits"

Class 5

"We enjoyed learning about our rights and putting it into action, making our Christmas cards and calendars and learning French"

Class 6

"When we went to St Alban's and we did Music with Mr Cook. We also enjoyed measuring different amounts using water outside"

And our school office said "Listening to children singing beautifully in Friday morning assemblies and Christmas concerts – it warms our hearts!"

And finally, my highlight has been seeing our school community come together for a range of family occasions, including Family Mass, coffee afternoons, concerts, and Bingo! It brings me great joy to see everyone collaborating and celebrating together, strengthening the sense of belonging within our school community"

A Final Message of Thanks

As we come to the end of this busy and rewarding term, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our parents and families for your continued support. It has been a term filled with many highlights, achievements, and moments to be proud of.

Our children have worked tirelessly to gain new knowledge and skills, approaching every challenge with positivity and determination. We have also been blessed to welcome new children into our school community, enriching our shared journey together.

From myself, all the staff and governors, we wish you a wonderful and Holy Christmas. May it be a time of joy, peace, and special memories with those who mean the most to you.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2026 (**Tuesday 6th January not Monday 5th January!**) and to continuing our work together in faith, learning and community.

Nadolig Llawn i chi gyd a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

Best wishes,
Mrs N. McGinty