



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.

06
March
2026

Face to Face Consultations with Class Teachers Monday 23 March – Thursday 26 March

Thank you to the parents/carers who have booked appointments- we are very much looking forward to welcoming you into school to share your child's work, celebrate their achievements, and discuss the progress they are making.

It is not too late to book an appointment- please use our online booking system Please note: the booking system will close on Wednesday 18 March – if you need to change your booking after this time, please call the school office.

Please note that there will no after school activities/clubs during this week.

Pupils to share their work with Parents / Carers

For the last 2 years, we've given parents the opportunity, during the school day, to look at their child's books with their child present. Feedback has been very positive from both parents and pupils, so this term we are offering this opportunity to you again. The sessions are listed below and will take place before the upcoming parent-teacher consultations. For families with more than one child in school we will try to accommodate a time when you can see your children's work in one visit, if this would be helpful for you. Please note change of time on 16 March (class 4) to 2.30pm.

Date	Time	Class
Mon. 9 March	9.05-10am	Rec. and Class 1
Tues. 10 March	9.05-10am	Class 2
Wed. 11 March	2.15-3pm	Class 6
Thurs. 12 March	9.05-10am	Class 5
Thurs. 12 March	2.15-3pm	Class 3
Mon. 16 March	2.30-3pm	Class 4

Class Music Concert – Tuesday 10 March

As the finale to the class 1 and class 5 music projects, you're invited to attend their end of project performance on Tuesday 10 March at 2.15pm.

Class 3 Assembly – Wednesday 11 March

Parents of pupils in class 3 are invited to their assembly, Wednesday 11 March, 9.15am.

NEW DATE - Rugby Tournament – Friday 13 March

The Pontypool and District Schools Under 11s Rugby Tournament, postponed last December, will be held on Friday 13 March at Pontypool RFC. The team was selected last year (and we still have trip consent slips completed by parents). Details are: 10am start, due to finish by 3pm, players must bring boots and shin pads (kit and socks provided by school), pupils need to bring lunch and drinks, warm coat, and asthma pump/medical supplies, if necessary.

Class Music Concert – Monday 16 March

As the finale to the class 3 music project, you're invited to attend their end of project performance on Monday 16 March at 2pm.

Class 3 - First Experience Celebration Concert

Class 3 will walk to/from PALC on the morning of 17 March for music sessions and performance. This exciting event, organised by Gwent Music, will showcase First Experience project pupils from Torfaen.

Reminder: Class 6 – Abernant Trip – 18-20 March

Torfaen's Got to Dance Festival – Friday 20 March

Pupils in Dance Fusion Club will take part in the annual dance competition on Friday 20 March. Mrs Williams, Club Leader, will accompany pupils.

Family Mass – Sunday 22 March

Please join us for Mass on Sunday 22 March, 11am, at St. Alban's Church. Members of staff will be at our school at 10.40am to walk pupils to church if you are not able to join us.

Class 6 – Transition Event – Wednesday 25 March

Pupils going to St. Alban's High in September will visit for the morning of Wednesday 25 March (back in school for lunch).

Easter Bonnet Parade and Craft Celebrations – Thursday 26 March, 1.45pm

We are delighted to invite families in Reception, class 1 and 2 to join us for our annual Easter Bonnet Parade in our school hall.

Pupils in Reception, Class 1 and Class 2 are invited to make an Easter bonnet at home and wear it proudly as they take part in our parade– please bring bonnets into school on the morning for judging. They will also perform a selection of Easter-themed songs. There will be cakes and refreshments on sale. We will be holding a raffle before the parade to raise funds to cover the cost of the prizes that pupils will receive – we thank you in anticipation of your support.

Pupils in **Classes 3-6 are invited to take part in our Easter craft competition** by creating an Easter themed craft or decorating a hard-boiled egg at home to bring in for judging on this day.

Easter Assemblies – 23-26 March

Pupils in Classes 3-6 will be taking it in turn each day to tell us the Easter Story through a series of assemblies. Parents and families are warmly invited to join us. The timetable is below.

Monday 23 March at 2.30pm Class 3 (Palm Sunday)
Tuesday 24 March at 9.15am Class 4 (The Last Supper)
Wednesday 25 March at 9.15am Class 5 (Good Friday)
Thursday 26 March at 9.15am Class 6 (Easter Sunday)
We hope that you can join us.

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EASTER HOLIDAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED

School will be closed after Friday 27 March (for 2 weeks) for Easter. School will re-open on Monday 13 April.

School Eisteddfod

What an absolute pleasure to listen to every pupil taking part in our school Eisteddfod- cheering on each other and our teams. A special well done to all of our winners and runner ups to the range of competitions that we ran- it was great to call out a wide range of names. Thank you to the families who supported the half term challenges- the entries get more competitive and creative every year!

World Book Day

It was wonderful to see so many pupils - and staff! - getting involved in World Book Day yesterday. The enthusiasm across the school was fantastic, and the effort that went into the costumes was clear to see. Our character parade was a real highlight, with some outfits keeping us guessing right until the end of the day.

Throughout the celebrations, we focused on the message that reading should be fun, and that there is a book out there for everyone! We are also pleased to share that new storybooks have been added to Purple Mash, which is well worth exploring at home to help pupils discover even more books they might enjoy.

Collection for a Local Foodbank

As part of our Lenten promise to help others less fortunate than ourselves, our Mini Vinnies pupils are organising a food collection between now and the end of term. Pupils are invited to bring in donations such as: **TINNED ITEMS** (e.g. vegetables, meat, soup, custard, fruit)

DRINKS (e.g. Coffee, long-life milk, hot chocolate)

PACKETS OF FOOD (e.g. Pasta, rice, biscuits, jelly)

Please send in any donations you would like to make with your child by Monday 23rd March.

Thank you for your support.

Update on 'The Nursery'

County Childcare Padre Pio is now taking enquiries about Flying Start places (for children aged 2 to 3 years) and for Nursery Childcare - email: admin@countychildcare.co.uk for more information.

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).

DATES FOR THE DIARY

w/c 09.03.26

Parent Book Look with child

w/c 23.03.26

Parent Consultations

30.03.26

Easter Holidays (2 weeks)

17.07.26

Last day of term for all pupils

20.07.26

INSET 6

Homework Challenge

Last week, your child should have brought home their new homework grid and skills overview for this half term. If you did not receive them, please let us know. The School Council will be deciding next week on the reward for pupils who complete at least **five pieces** of homework at home. The response last half term was phenomenal – it will be very tough to beat! We recommend that each pupil completes one piece of homework each week.

Over to our Leadership Groups

We have a range of leadership groups made up of pupils running this year. Let's hear about some of the projects they are currently working on to help improve our school.

Rights Respecting Group

We are currently working on teaching the younger children in fun ways about their rights at school (eg doing a drawing with a right written on it). We are putting them all together into a mosaic art piece that everyone will see in our hall.

Heddlu Bach

We have been finding out about clues that criminals leave behind. Richard from Gwent Police showed us what investigators wear when they gather clues so they don't leave any marks.

Criw Cymraeg

We loved helping to organise the school Eisteddfod. We gave a presentation about St David. We could not believe the encouragement everyone gave to their teams- everyone should be really proud of themselves! Da iawn bawb!

Eco Warriors

Year 6 and Year 4 pupils have built bird boxes to encourage more wildlife into our gardens. We have been gifted a super cool Bug Hotel which you will see soon at the front of our school! We have collected over 5,000 bottle tops that will be turned into outdoor chairs. We are also still collecting batteries and crisp packets!

Curriculum Group

We have been focusing on developing Independent Learning across the school and what opportunities we already have. We are also planning a Careers Day for the Summer Term!

And finally

What a wonderfully busy two weeks it has been! Our whole-school events have filled the building with energy, teamwork and a real sense of togetherness. Next week, we are excited to open our doors to parents and families so you can enjoy looking through your children's books and celebrating their progress. Have a lovely weekend, and let's hope the dry Spring weather stays with us.

**With best wishes,
Mrs McGinty**