

October Newsletter

As you can see this has been a very busy term in school. You can see more photographs by visiting our website at www.holynameschool.co.uk and selecting 'Our School' and looking at individual class pages.

Mass

Pupils attended Mass at the start of term and then in October to celebrate the feast of St Francis. We ended the term with our Harvest Celebration, it was lovely to see so many people joining us in church – thank you for your donations of food which will be passed onto PATCH.

We raised £150.02 which has been sent to Mission Together.

Pupil Voice

Following a successful Pupil Voice week, we have appointed pupils to fulfil the following roles - Faith Ambassadors, Display Defenders, Attendance Officers Digital Leaders, Criw Cymraeg, Eco Ambassadors, JRSOs, Class Councillors, Criw Cymraeg and Super Ambassadors. We believe that a strong pupil voice has clear benefits for both schools and learners. These roles are important in helping us ensure that children in our school are actively involved in making decisions and able to share their ideas and opinions

Meet The Teacher/Teacher-Parent Meetings

Thank you to parents who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions in September. Many parents also met with teaching staff for individual appointments. Our next Teacher-Parent meetings will be in the Spring Term.

School Grounds

A huge thank you to all the parents and grandparents who joined us to help cut back the willow garden and tidy the school grounds. We appreciate your help and the money saved can be used to benefit our pupils.

School Day

Please can we remind parents that the doors to school open at 8.45am and children come in and go straight to class. Pupils on the playground are **not**

supervised before this time and remain your responsibility. The school gates are not manned by staff.

Play equipment (eg climbing wall) is not to be used before and after school.

At the end of the day gates are opened at 3.05pm. Classes 1 and 2 can be collected from the main entrance at 3.10pm. Other pupils will exit via the hall door at 3.15pm

Visitors

PC Llewellyn, community police officer visited all classes this term to talk about keeping safe.

PCSO Carwyn came in to talk to us about staying safe on bonfire night.

Fireman Lee Simmons worked with Classes 2 and 5 focusing on how to stay safe in the event of a fire.

Class 2 also enjoyed a visit from our local firefighters as part of their topic 'The Great Fire of London'

Urdd Football

A football team from Classes 4 and 5 represented the school at the Urdd Football Tournament.

Colby

As part of their topic work Class 5 visited Colby Woodland to carry out some scientific investigation work.

Scolton

Pupils from Class 3 enjoyed a visit to Scolton Manor where they learnt about life in Victorian times.

Outdoor Classroom Day

Pupils in Classes 1,2 and 3 enjoyed Outdoor Classroom day. **Outdoor Classroom Day is a global campaign to celebrate and inspire outdoor learning and play.** On the day, thousands of schools around the world take lessons outdoors and

prioritise playtime. **In 2017, over 2.3 million children worldwide took part**, more than 580,000 of those were in the UK and Ireland.

Outdoor learning **improves children's health, engages them with learning and leads to a greater connection with nature**. Play not only teaches **critical life skills** such as **resilience, teamwork and creativity**, but is central to children's **enjoyment of childhood**.

Our children worked with staff, parents and governors to take part in a range of exciting outdoor activities.

Theatre Visit

Classes 2 and 4 worked with JC Theatre Company taking part in workshops designed to enhance their new topics.

Class 2 learnt all about The Great Fire of London while Class 4 were transported back to The Sixties.

Shwmae Award

On Shwmae Day pupils and staff dressed up as Welsh characters. During the day the children had the opportunity to introduce and talk about their character. They all came to Parti Fiss and enjoyed a visit to CymruWood.

We were delighted to be finalists for a Shwmae Award. Members of Criw Cymraeg attended the award ceremony in the Merlin Theatre. We were thrilled to be awarded the Shwmae Welsh Second Language for the second year running.

Some Criw Cymraeg members accompanied Miss Richards to an exciting event in Haverfordwest designed to provide us with new ideas to support the development of Welsh in school.

Siarter Iaith

On Friday we were awarded our Silver Siarter Iaith. Pupils and staff have continued to work hard to improve standards of Welsh in our school and it is lovely to see this being recognised.

School Uniform

A reminder that uniform consists of yellow logoed polo shirts all year round and we will no longer require pupils to wear shirts and ties as part of school uniform. Pupils also wear Logoed red school jumpers or cardigans, grey trousers, skirts or pinafores . **Shoes should be plain black shoes or plain black trainers. Coloured, logoed sports trainers are not part of our uniform.** PE kit consists of black or navy shorts and a red school PE T shirt. In cold weather pupils also need dark jogging bottoms and a plain dark sweatshirt or hoodie.

Please could we ask you to support us in ensuring that pupils adhere to the agreed uniform.

Uniform can be ordered from the links to School Trends and Tesco on the website.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance target for the year is 95.5% - last year our final attendance average was 94.7%

It is important that your child attends school regularly throughout the term in order to gain the maximum benefit from the education provided. Any applications for leave for a holiday during term time made by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides, will be considered on an individual basis. If your child's attendance for the previous year is below 93% we will not be able to authorise the holiday.

Save in exceptional circumstances, the pupil will not be granted more than ten school days leave for holidays in any school year.

We have made an excellent start to the school year – our current average attendance is 96.58%

Dinners

After half term our school will be part of the Cashless Catering system and we will no longer be accepting payments for school dinners.

The current dinner menu can be found at
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/school-meals/school-menus>

School Disco

Thank you to the parents who organised two very successful school discos this week.

All money raised will be used to purchase new IT equipment for the pupils' use.

Home School Communication

If you need to contact a member of teaching staff via Dojo they will aim to respond within one working day.

The office is always not staffed in the afternoon, **any Dojo messages sent to the admin account will not be seen until the following morning.**

We are still receiving a number of phone messages in the afternoons relating to arrangements for pupil collection – teaching and support staff have to leave the classroom to answer these calls.

Wherever possible please could we ask that arrangements are made prior to the school day. If you do need to inform the school about changed arrangements please phone in the morning if possible.

Dates for your diary

October 26th – INSET Day

October 29th – November 2nd – Half Term

November 9th - 10am Whole School Mass (All Saints)

December 3rd – 10am Whole School Mass (Advent)

December 6th 5.30pm Come and meet Father Christmas

December 13th School Christmas Dinner

December 18th – Carol Concert (details to follow)

December 19th – 10am Christmas Mass

December 20th - Carol Concert (details to follow)

December 24th – January 4th Christmas Holidays