

October Newsletter

Once again this has been a very busy term in school. You can see more photographs and information 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 Teresa.

We ended the term with our Harvest Celebration, it was lovely to see so many people joining us in church – thank you for your generous donations of food which will be passed onto The Trussell Trust.

Class Five also represented the school at the Menevia Missio Mass in Swansea – it was a joyful, uplifting occasion and our pupils were a credit to the school. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have designated 2020 as 'The God Who Speaks': A Year of the Word. Throughout the year pupils will be taking part in a range of events and activities designed to help us in **celebrating, living** and **sharing** God's word.

Pupil Voice

Following a successful Pupil Voice week, we have appointed pupils to fulfil the following roles - Faith Ambassadors, Attendance Officer, Digital Leaders, Criw Cymraeg, Eco Ambassadors, Reading Ambassadors, Class Councilors, Playground Buddies, Sports Ambassadors, 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.

School Grounds

Please note dogs are only allowed on school premises for educational purposes or with pupils, staff or members of the public as a registered service dog.

Advice to those bringing dogs to school at drop off and pick up times

We recognise that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. Please could we ask that you ensure your dog is on a lead and remains outside the school playground – unfortunately we have had a number of complaints about dog mess in the vicinity of the school. Please could all owners clean up after their dog.

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

Lost Property

Please could you make sure all items of clothing (including PE kit) and coats are clearly labelled with your child's name.

School Uniform

A reminder that uniform consists of yellow logoed polo shirts all year round. 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 School Trends – the link is on our school website

PE

Tuesday Classes 2,3,4 & 5 (C5 Swimming) Wednesday Classes 4 and 1 Thursday Classes 1,2,3 and 5. Please could you ensure your child brings PE kit to school and that all items are clearly labelled with their name.

Headlice

We have been notified that some pupils in school have head lice. Please could we ask all parents to check their children's hair.

Head lice have nothing to do with cleanliness or parenting skills. The best defense we have against head lice is vigilance and prompt, thorough treatment.

Further information and advice on how to treat head lice can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Attendance

Our whole school attendance target for the year is 95.9%

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

Dinners

The current dinner menu can be found

at <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/school-meals/school-menus>

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.

If your child is being picked up by a close relative (eg grandparent/aunt/uncle/) who is known to the class teacher it is not necessary to phone the school.

Dates for your diary

October 25th NSPCC Visit – pupils may wear non-school uniform and bring in a donation for the NSPCC

October 25th Holy Name Quiz Night

October 28th – November 1st – Half Term

November 8th - 10am Whole School Mass (All Saints)

November 18th INSET Day

November 18th - Y6 Transition Day Ysgol Bro Gwaun

December 4th Christmas Disco

December 9th – 10am Mass

December 16th, 17th 18th – Christmas Concerts (details to follow)

December 19th - Christmas Mass

December 23rd – January 5th Christmas Holidays