



Jesus: in our hearts, in our minds, in our living, in our learning.

Sully Road, Penarth
CF64 2TQ

office@stjosephsrcadmin.com

02920 702864

www.stjosephsrc.com

@stjpenarth

Headteacher: Mrs Laura Taylor

28th November 2025

Thank you to those who supported our first Youth Mass at St Mary's RC Church, Dinas Powys on Sunday.

You were wonderful!



Message from Mrs Taylor

This week is the last week of the Church's year as we prepare to start the season of Advent on Sunday. In my liturgy this week, we remembered the Feast of Christ the King which was celebrated in church last Sunday. Jesus Christ is King. Jesus Christ is the King of Life. The King of Truth. The King of Peace. The King of Heaven. The King of our Hearts. Jesus Christ the King, the Anointed One of God, came to earth to reveal to us God's truth; God's love for all of us. We are loved by God who created us in his image. We are loved by God and this love gives us life and hope.

In RE learning this week, Nursery and Reception pupils heard the story of the shepherds visiting Jesus when he was born; Years 1 and 2 learnt about the Annunciation and Visitation; Year 3 pupils described how Catholics celebrate Mass; Year 4, compared Mark and Matthew's accounts of the story of John the Baptist; Year 5 showed their understanding of Psalm 23 and Year 6, their understanding of the Magnificat.

The application period for parents and carers who wish for their child to join our Reception class in September 2026 opens today. **Parents and carers who wish for their child to transfer from our Nursery to the Reception class must also complete and submit an application.** The link to the Vale Primary School Admissions Page is:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/admission/s/primary/Primary-School-Admissions.aspx>

Please contact Mrs Perry in the school office if you would like any assistance with this process.

Our Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production, 'Hey Ewe!' will take place on Tuesday 9th December at 2pm and Wednesday 10th December, both performances at 10am in the school hall. Tickets will be on sale from Monday at £2 each. Please note, the entrance doors will be open 15 minutes before the start time. Refreshments and raffle tickets will also be on sale.

Thank you for your support today with our home-clothes day and donations for the teddy and bottle stall. Next week will also be a 'Christmas themed' home clothes to mark the celebration of our Christmas Fair which will take place in school hall from 4pm.

Take care and God Bless,
Mrs Taylor

Prayer of the Week



This Sunday starts the first week of Advent. During Advent we wait in joy and hope for Christmas. We look forward to celebrating the fact that God loves us so much that he sent his Son into the world to save us. Talk to your children about how they can show little acts of love at home, in school and in the community during this Advent season.

Light a candle.

Say this prayer together:

O God,
as light comes from this candle,
may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,
warming our hearts and brightening our way.
May Christ our Saviour bring life
into the darkness of this world,
and to us, as we wait for his coming.
Amen

Pupil Profile Virtues



Pupils in St Joseph's RC Primary School are growing to be . . .

learned, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

To be educated is to be learned – to know about God's creation and about people who are part of it. But facts and skills are of little value unless we have wisdom also – the ability to see what is important and what is not.

Catholic Social Teaching – Human Dignity

This half term we are learning about the Catholic Social Teaching principle, '**Human Dignity**'.

You are made in the image and likeness of God. You are special, unique and important to God. Treat everyone with the dignity and love they deserve. Care for each other, help those in need, and stand up for what is right, just like Jesus taught us.



Attendance

Well done to Year 2 who achieved the highest attendance this week and to all families who arrived at school on time.

This week's attendance figures for each class are:

Class	Attendance	Late
Reception	90.32%	0.54%
Year 1	93.36%	0.44%
Year 2	95.88%	0.59%
Year 3	85%	0.33%
Year 4	95.86%	0.00%
Year 5	93%	0.67%
Year 6	87.1%	0.00%



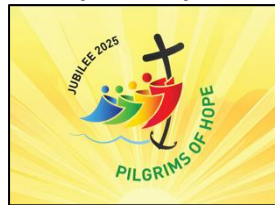
Congratulations!

We are delighted to congratulate Mrs Jones on her appointment as Deputy Headteacher in a Catholic school in Bridgend. While we are incredibly proud of her achievement, we will also be very sad to say farewell when she leaves us at the end of this term. We thank Mrs Jones wholeheartedly for her exceptional leadership, dedication, and commitment to our school community; she has made a truly lasting impact and will be greatly missed.



Governors will be advertising for a substantive Deputy Headteacher in January; however, to ensure continuity in leadership, they have appointed Mrs Lawrence as part-time Acting Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion, and Mr Frost as part-time Acting Deputy Headteacher with a focus on teaching, learning, and the curriculum. We are grateful to them both for stepping into these roles and supporting the ongoing work of the school.

Jubilee Celebration Day – Friday 21st November 2025



Last Friday, our school community came together for a joyful Jubilee Celebration Day, marking the Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope with “deep faith, lively hope and active charity.” Classrooms were decorated with Jubilee bunting and paper chains to set the tone for the day, which began with activities linked to Universal Children’s Day and the UNCRC, followed by a reflective Gweddiwn. In the afternoon, pupils, staff, visitors from St Richard Gwyn High School, and later families, journeyed through a series of beautifully prepared Jubilee reflection stations in the hall, created by each of our classes. After listening to the meditations and prayers led by the Chaplaincy Government Group and singing the Jubilee song together, everyone explored the stations, celebrating themes of hope, joy, and faith across the school. The celebration concluded with pupils writing their own prayers of hope which they hung in our Prayer Garden, creating a meaningful end to a special day dedicated to unity, reflection, and the spirit of the Jubilee Year.



Catholic Social Teaching Calendar 2025 – 2026






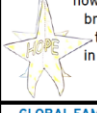





















We are delighted to share our Catholic Social Teaching Calendar for the year, which highlights the key themes, virtues, liturgical celebrations, and community actions that will guide our spiritual life and learning each term. This overview is designed to help families see the rhythm of the year at a glance and plan ahead for important events, feast days, and opportunities to live out our faith together. We look forward to journeying with you as we continue to grow as a community rooted in Gospel values and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

	Half Term A (Sept/ Oct)	Half Term B (Nov/ Dec)	Half Term C (Jan/ Feb)	Half Term D (Mar/ Apr)	Half Term E (Apr/ May)	Half Term F (June/ July)
Catholic Social Teaching Principle	Stewardship	Human Dignity	Subsidiarity	Solidarity	Common Good	See-Judge-Act
Pupil Profile Virtues	Eloquent and Truthful	Learned and Wise	Curious and Active	Intentional and Prophetic	Grateful and Generous	Attentive and Discerning
RED Branch	Creation and Covenant	Prophecy and Promise	Galilee to Jerusalem	Desert to Garden	To the Ends of the Earth	Dialogue and <u>Encounter</u>
Liturgical Year	Season of Creation St Vincent de Paul (27.9) St Francis of Assisi (4.10) October: Month of Our Lady of the Rosary	Advent Jubilee for Schools Celebration Day (21.11)	Epiphany Ordinary Time Jubilee Year of Hope	Lent/ Holy Week Reconciliation Feast of St David Feast of St Joseph	Easter May Procession	Ordinary Time
Secular Calendar	Black History Month International Day of Peace (21.9)	Switch Off Fortnight Anti-Bullying Week	RSPB Schools Birdwatch Children's Mental Health Week (10.2.26) Safer Internet Day	Big Walk and Wheel World Book Day (5.3.26)	Literature Festival	Healthy and Confident Week School Sport Survey
Awareness	Fairtrade Fortnight CAFOD Family Fast Day CST Exhibition and Celebration of Learning Show Racism the Red Card	Universal Children's Day	Rights Respecting Focus Week	World Water Day	Deforestation Free Schools Earth Day (22.4.26)	Refugee Week/ A Day of Welcome World Oceans Day (8.6.26)
Fundraising/ Products	Local Charity: Vale Foodbank Harvest Collection	Global: CAFOD World Gifts (Creative and Enterprise Christmas Challenge)	Local Charity: Martha's Dancing Heart or similar	Global: CAFOD Lent Appeal (Big Lent Walk)	Local Charity: Noah's Ark Appeal	School based: F&F – Colour Run F&F – Summer Fair
Community/ Action	Launch Government Groups/ Action Plans Pre-loved Uniform Stall	Local: Carols for the Elderly Parish Advent Service F&F Christmas Cards F&F – Christmas Fair	Pre-loved Uniform Stall	Local: Distribution of Toiletries to hospitals/ Nursing homes	Pre-loved Uniform Stall	Government Groups to have completed their See-Judge-Act plans
Across the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feast Days of various saints included in the Prayer and Liturgy Annual Plan of Provision - Work of School Parliament and Government Groups including working towards the Global Goals and UNCRC - Mini Vinnies and CAFOD Live Simply Award - School of Sanctuary and Young Interpreters 					

Advent Calendar 2025

As we begin our journey through Advent, we invite families to use our Mission Together Advent Calendar at home as a way of praying, reflecting, and preparing for the birth of Jesus. Each day offers a small activity, scripture prompt, or global reflection to help children grow in faith, hope, and love during this special season. We hope it supports you in making Advent a meaningful and prayerful time for your family.

Mission Together Advent Calendar 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1st Sunday of Advent Today's reading from the Prophet Isaiah speaks of a time when people will hammer swords and spears into what? + Isaiah 2:1-5</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p>An Advent wreath's circular shape and evergreen leaves are signs of God's unending love. What might the candles be a sign of?</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Advent is a waiting time. Waiting for good things isn't easy, but prayer helps. Today, ask God to help you wait patiently for Christmas Day.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>Listen to our Advent carol <i>We are Waiting</i>.* Try learning the carol, as a way to help you get ready for Jesus!</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>GLOBAL FAMILY FACT: During Advent in the Philippines, homes are decorated with paper lanterns called Paroles. They are to light the way for Jesus.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>Make a Mission Together <i>Star of Hope</i> today, and think about how you can bring hope to others in Advent.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>Write an Advent prayer or poem. Try to include the words: <i>Advent, hope, wait, light, God, Jesus, love.</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>
<p>2nd Sunday of Advent Today's reading from the Prophet Isaiah speaks of God's kingdom. How does the prophet describe God's peaceful kingdom? + Isaiah 11:1-10</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>In this 2nd week of Advent we think about peace. Today spend a moment remembering children who live in war zones. Ask God to keep them in His care.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>One way we prepare for Jesus is by being peacemakers. Make a Mission Together <i>Peace Paper-chain</i>. On each link write ways you can build peace.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>Listen carefully to the carol <i>Silent Night</i>. This peaceful carol once stopped soldiers fighting. Try singing along, too.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>Make peace today. Say sorry to someone you may have upset this week; or forgive someone who has upset you.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>GLOBAL FAMILY FACT: Tomorrow is the feast of St Lucy. In Denmark, children join candle-lit processions to honour St Lucy, and as a sign of the light that Jesus brings.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>Today, find somewhere peaceful to sit and thank God for the people who love and care for you.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>
<p>3rd Sunday of Advent Today's reading from Isaiah speaks of the joy that God's love brings. How can you share that joy today? + Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>Yesterday was <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>. <i>Gaudete</i> means <i>rejoice!</i> The pink candle lit on the Advent wreath is also a sign of joy. Why is there a growing sense of joy?</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>GLOBAL FAMILY FACT: Mauke is an island in Oceania. As Christmas nears, Christians there share the joy of Jesus' birth by giving food hampers to strangers.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>Today, make a Mission Together <i>Joyful Paper Angel</i> and think about how you can share the joy of Jesus' birth with others.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>Joy is easy to pass on! Look out for people who are lonely today and invite them to play.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p>Singing helps us to feel joyful – especially when we sing with others. Try singing the carol <i>Joy to the World</i> today.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p>Today, say a prayer for children who are sad or lonely. Ask God to help you share His joy with them.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>
<p>4th Sunday of Advent In today's reading from the Gospel of St Matthew, what does God's angel say to Joseph? + Matthew 1:18-24</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p>Christmas is a time for welcoming visitors – Jesus himself is coming! Today, ask your parents if you can help them get things ready for Christmas Day.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>Around the world, billions of people are preparing for the birth of Jesus. Today, say the <i>Our Father</i> for those in our global family who need God's help today.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p>GLOBAL FAMILY FACT: In DR Congo (Africa), people of all ages will take part in big nativity plays this evening. Can you share the Christmas story with someone today, too?*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p>Rejoice! Jesus is born! Remember to thank God, and your family, for all the gifts their love brings.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p>Cross symbol + refers to scriptures found in our <i>Advent Celebrations of the Word</i>. Asterisks * refer to assemblies, craft activities, and sing-along carols. Download all for free at MissionTogether.org.uk</p> <p>Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission Registered Charity No. 1056651</p> 	

Dates for the Diary



December

1st – Creative and Enterprising Christmas Challenge Week
 2nd – Emma Richards, Town Mayor of Penarth visiting
 3rd – Year 4 Educational Visit to Techniquet
 3rd – Advent Service at St Richard Gwyn High school, 4pm
 4th – Year 3 Educational Visit to Techniquet
 4th – St Richard Gwyn High School Debating Team to visit St Joseph's Debating Team
5th – F&F Christmas Fair – Home Clothes Day
 6th – Christmas Choir to sing at St Augustine's Christmas Tree Festival

9th – Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert 2pm
 10th – Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert 10am
 11th – Nursery and Reception Christmas Celebration 10am
 12th – Christmas Choir to sing at Ty Dewi Sant Residential Home
14th – Advent Service (Led by Years 3 and 4) – 2pm, St Joseph's RC Church.

December

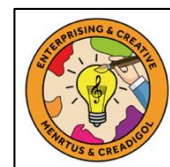
15th – Termly St Joseph's 100 Club Draw – See ParentPay for details
 15th – Choir to sing at Parkside House Residential Home
15th – Christmas Market 3.00pm
 16th – Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
 17th – Christingle Service
 18th – F&F Christmas Scavenger Hunt
 19th – Final Day of the Autumn Term – Home Clothes Day
 19th – F&F Christmas Disco (during school time)

January

5th - INSET Day
 6th – First Day back for Pupils
11th – Joint Youth Mass with St Richard Gwyn High School, St Joseph's RC Church, 9.30am to celebrate the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope.

Four Purposes of the Curriculum – Enterprising and Creative Contributors!

Nursery	Hanson Wu	Year 3	Jackson Ward
Reception	Demi Daly	Year 4	Andrea Nithin
Year 1	Eli Ledsam	Year 5	Layla James
Year 2	Afan McAuley	Year 6	Dylan Hooper



Weekly Good News Awards

Mrs Taylor's Good News stickers are for pupils who have shown excellent recall of knowledge and vocabulary in their retrieval practice sessions in Science, Humanities and RE.



Congratulations to this week's winners!

Nursery	Fergus McDermid Rowan Keenan Jaxon Gully Nancy Perkins	Year 3	Edward Best Jonah Hickman Charlie Moreton Freyja Leonard - Smith
Reception	Zain El Hammoud Otis Williams Frankie Leach Lily Davey	Year 4	Caleb Cummings Noah Davies Scarlett Chan Marcus Riju
Year 1	Ellen Jones Cara Pegg Harri Dibble Regan Ruckley	Year 5	Leo Ledsam Dylan Wareham Fletcher Mulchinock Alphonsa Manayani
Year 2	Benjamin Hooper William Hoover Theo Davies Doris Perkins	Year 6	Ashton Ruckley Macsen Blyth Harper Leilani Goodall Aoife Burge

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