

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLYDACH

YSGOL GYNRADD GATHOLIG SAN JOSEFF, CLYDACH

September 25th 2026

School Attendance: 92.3%

Reception: 83.6% Year 1: 98.2% Year 2: 96.8%
Year 3: 91% Year 4: 88.4% Year 5: 89.4% Year 6: 96.1%

Winning Class for Attendance:

Year 1 98.2%

Da iawn!

Upcoming dates:

Friday 25th September: 'Problem solving journals' (scrapbooks) will be sent home today with the first Numeracy problem of the year as part of our 'Parents/Carer National Numeracy Programme.

Tuesday 29th September: Years 3 – 6 visit to Sketty Mosque.

Friday 2nd October: 'Brighten Up' Cafod fundraiser – wear an item of bright clothes. Bring in £2 and a tin/packet of food for our Family Fast/Harvest collection.

FAMILY MASS – Sunday 4th October 10 am. This will be a Harvest Mass/Cafod Family Fast Mass and we will be asking for tins/packets for those who have less than us.

Thursday 15th October: Flu Vaccination Programme – Reception – Yr 6 in hall all day.

Monday 19th October: M & M Theatre production in the Hall: Jack & the Beanstalk.

Parents Evening – Foundation and Upper Phase all together. Years 3-6 teachers in the hall, Reception – Yr 2 teachers in Yr 1 Start 1:30pm until 6:00pm.

School Prayer

*We are together in Christ, Living Learning and growing.
Sharing peace and love.
May God help us through Catholic Education and let us be guided by St. Joseph who protected Mary and their Son Jesus.*

Amen

*Gweddî'r Ysgol
Rydym yn un yng Nghrist, yn byw,
Yn dysgu ac yn tyfu.
Yn rhannu heddwch a chariad.
Boed I Dduw ein helpu drwy
Addysg Gatholig a boed i ni gael ein harwain
gan San Joseff a fu'n amddiffyn Mair a'u mab Iesu.
Amen*



Our Virtues September & October



Faith-filled: We are faith-filled when we are living life as God inspires us to live it, putting the Gospel into action through our actions. We have to build on it every day through prayer.

Hopeful: We are hopeful when we are optimistic about the future, we trust ourselves and others, and we don't give up. Our faith teaches us that God is hope.



Month of Our Lady Of Sorrows

Who is Our Lady of Sorrows?

Our Lady of Sorrows is Mary, the Mother of Jesus. During September, we remember the times when Mary felt great sadness, especially when she saw Jesus suffer and die on the Cross.

Even though Mary was heartbroken, she stayed faithful to God and never stopped loving Jesus.



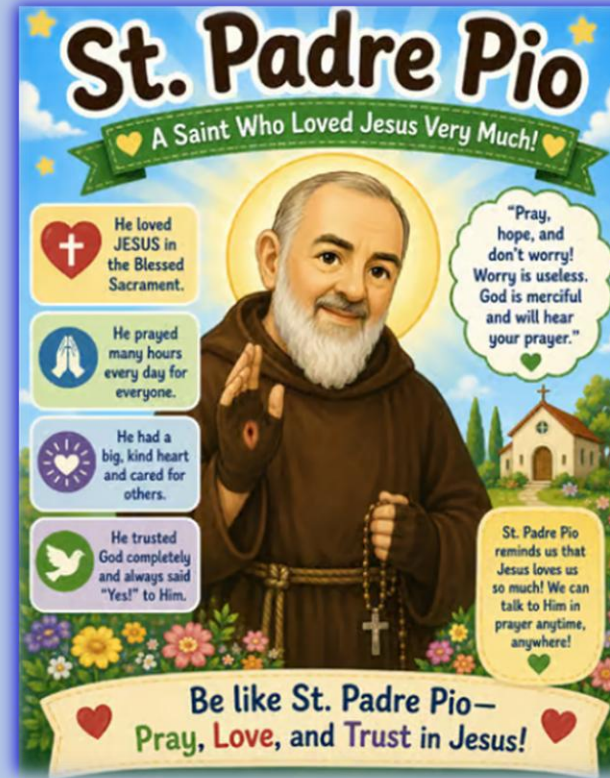
What Can Mary Teach Us?

- ☀ To trust God when life is difficult.
- ☀ To be brave when we are worried or sad.
- ☀ To care for others who are hurting.
- ☀ To stay close to Jesus every day.
- ☀ To pray when we need help.

Virgin most sorrowful, pray for us.

The feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows is celebrated annually on September 15.

- It honours the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Sorrowful Mother.
- It highlights her deep pain and suffering during the life, passion, and death of Jesus Christ.



On September 23rd the Church celebrates the Feast of St Padre Pio.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina, more commonly known as 'Padre Pio,' is one of the most extraordinary and fascinating saints of modern times. With an incredible amount of miracles attributed to him, we look to Padre Pio as the patron saint of healing.



Please come along for a school and parish family celebration of Harvest. We will be offering our collections from our 'Be Bright' Family Fast Day and Harvest Food Bank collection.

Please send in a packet or tin for those less fortunate than ourselves.

"When we share the harvest, we spread the warmth."

On Friday 2nd Oct pupils can wear something bright to school and bring in a donation please for Cafod Family Fast Day.

Please don't buy anything new – bright socks or a bright headband is plenty!



Mad Science Workshop!
Who is signing up for the after school club!
All the information is on the leaflet that went home





AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB

Spark Their Curiosity

Mad Science SW is a community interest company that ignites children's curiosity and love of science through fun, hands-on, curriculum-linked clubs, held right at your child's school, they're the perfect way to explore STEM, spark imagination, and inspire discovery.

REGISTER & BOOK TODAY!

fice@madscienceSW.co.uk • 01792 348205 • www.madscienceSW.co.uk

AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB

HERE AT
YOUR
SCHOOL

The Club
Mad Science After School Clubs provide the perfect mix of fun, interactive, educational content. Taking aspects of physics, chemistry and some biology to engage and excite all children enrolled. Our hands-on, enquiry based sessions encourage independent learning skills and discovery at their pace. They'll be immersed in a fully unique and different topic each week during the course, so there's plenty to explore as they get to grips with key science concepts and fun STEM based explorations.
They'll have so much fun, they forget they're learning

Club Information

**St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School
MONDAY**

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th November
7th December 2020

**DEADLINE:
5TH OCTOBER**

SECURE YOUR SPOT, AVAILABLE PLACES LIMITED,
6 Week Course for £54

BOOK ONLINE: LINK IS CASE SENSITIVE!
<https://madscienceSW.ipalbookings.com>

Booking



Scan QR code to access registration.

1. Create your parent account
2. Add your child's details
3. Book Your Course

1 Hour
per week on the school day

All Staff
Enhanced DBS
Outstanding Trained

All Materials
& Consumables
provided

**Spark Their Curiosity
REGISTER & BOOK TODAY!**

Celebrating 10 years of Sparking Imagination with our hands-on science experiences. Mad Science SW, your trusted leader in STEM enrichment, driven by excitement, innovation, and a passion for discovery.

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Year 4 enjoyed an exciting and informative trip to Oystermouth Castle to work on their essential question: 'Should people in power decide what needs protecting?'



Years 1 – 6 enjoyed Welsh bilingual Games sessions this week from the Urdd.





A huge thank you to all of our amazing Teaching Assistants who work so hard for all of our pupils every day. We all appreciate you very much.



Growing Independent Learners for Life

Our Vision



At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we believe education is about much more than reading, writing and maths. Our role is to help children develop the skills, confidence and resilience they need to thrive, both now and in the future.

One of the most important things we can teach children is how to become independent. Independence is not simply about doing things on your own. It is about learning how to make decisions, solve problems, persevere when things are challenging and take responsibility for your own learning.

Parents may have noticed that we are increasingly encouraging children to take ownership of many aspects of their day. In our younger classes, rolling snack encourages children to make choices, manage their time and develop self-help skills. Through continuous provision, children are given opportunities to explore, create, investigate and engage in meaningful learning experiences independently. Across the school, enquiry-based learning encourages pupils to ask questions, investigate ideas and find solutions for themselves rather than always relying on adults to provide the answers. We want children to become curious learners who are confident in thinking for themselves.



Another important part of developing independence is our outdoor learning provision. When learning outdoors, children are often faced with real-life challenges that require teamwork, creativity and resilience. They learn to assess risks, solve problems, adapt their thinking and persevere when things do not go to plan. These experiences build confidence in a way that is difficult to replicate within the classroom. Children are also encouraged to take on leadership roles within our school community. Whether serving as School Councillors, Digital Leaders, Eco Committee members, Mini Vinnies, Cŵyl Cymraeg representatives or taking responsibility for classroom jobs, pupils learn that they can make a positive contribution to school life. These opportunities help children develop responsibility, confidence and pride in their achievements.

Developing independence can sometimes mean allowing children to struggle a little before stepping in to help. While it may feel quicker for adults to do things for them, children gain confidence when they realise they are capable of completing tasks themselves. Every small success contributes to building self-belief and resilience.

How Parents Can Help at Home

You can support your child's independence by:

- Giving them simple responsibilities around the home.
- Allowing them to solve small problems before offering help and learn from making mistakes.

These small opportunities help children develop confidence and a sense of responsibility that will benefit them throughout their lives. At St Joseph's, we are proud to be developing children who are becoming increasingly independent, resilient and confident learners. By working together, home and school can help ensure that every child develops the skills they need to flourish, both now and in the future.



***"Teach me and I may forget. Show me and I may remember.
Involve me and I learn."***



We are making lots of exiting changes to our Teaching & Learning and to our school's curriculum.

All our staff are working really hard to encourage pupils to become more independent, take responsibility for their own learning and to contribute their ideas to what they are learning and why.

Every class from Reception upwards are now working on 'Essential Questions' within an Enquiry Cycle which promotes inclusion, curiosity, resilience and scaffolds thinking.



Updates of the week:

On our school website important dates are on the calendar and photos are on the

<https://www.stjosephscatholicps-swanseaco.uk/>

News & Events' area. You can also keep up to date with events on our school Instagram page.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DZ9_t7dotBV/?igsh=OGdpOXNsbHdsb3F4



Flu Vaccination Programme 2026/2027

This is the information we have been asked to share, by the School Nursing Department.

As we approach flu season, we want all families to have the information they need to help protect their children's health.

Flu can spread quickly in school environments and can cause serious illness in children. This autumn, all school children from Reception to Year 11 (inclusive), will be offered a free and quick, nasal spray flu vaccine at school.

The flu nasal spray vaccine is safe, painless, and helped protect over 220,000 school-aged children in Wales last year.

Giving consent for your child to have the flu vaccine, helps keep them healthy reducing the risk of illnesses that could disrupt their learning, play and your family life.

The nasal spray flu vaccine is the recommended vaccine for children and young people, but if they can't have the flu vaccine or you'd prefer a gelatine-free vaccine, they can have the flu vaccine by injection instead.

Give your consent for your child's flu vaccine to help keep them healthy this winter.

For more information about the flu vaccination visit: www.phw.nhs.wales/flu vaccine

Thank you for supporting your child and our school community.

[2026/27 School Nasal Flu Vaccination form – Fill in form](#)

<https://youtu.be/KIbPEFRJz1o>





Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to let you know that we are launching a new home learning initiative using National Numeracy resources alongside our new Problem-Solving Journals.

At St Joseph's, we believe that developing strong numeracy skills is about much more than learning facts and methods. We want our children to become confident, resilient, independent problem-solvers who are willing to have a go, explain their thinking and learn from mistakes. A strong partnership between home and school is key to achieving this.

How the programme will work:

National Numeracy Activity Books (Problem Solving Journals) will be sent home once a fortnight on Fridays. Please complete the activities together over the weekend or early in the week. Books should be returned to school by Wednesday each week. Children will complete practical, open-ended problem-solving activities with support from family members. We encourage children to record their ideas in any way that works for them, using drawings, diagrams, calculations, photographs or written explanations.

Working Together:

However you might feel about maths, you can make a huge difference to your child's numeracy learning. Research consistently shows that talking about everyday maths helps children develop confidence and positive attitudes towards maths and problem solving.

When completing activities together, you might like to follow the school LOOK, THINK, DO, TELL problem solving framework and ask some of the following questions:

What do we need to do?

What information do we have?

What do we need to find out?

Would any equipment help?

What do you notice when...?

Shall we make a guess and see if it works?

What could we do if we get stuck?

If we were doing this again, is there anything we could do differently?

Make It Your Own

You can adapt these activities to suit your family's interests and use whatever items you have available at home or while out and about. Children might choose to:

Take photographs

Draw pictures

Write calculations

Create diagrams

Record their ideas in creative ways

There is no single "correct" way to show thinking. The most important thing is the discussion and problem-solving that takes place together. Please use the comment boxes provided in the books and journals to reflect on your discussions, strategies and discoveries. We love reading about the different approaches families take when solving problems together.

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited to strengthen our learning partnership with parents and carers and to help every child develop the confidence, resilience and positive disposition needed to succeed in numeracy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your class teacher.

Kind regards, Mrs Mort

Today (Friday 25th September) we are launching our **"Parents carer national numeracy programme"** Which is a Schools & Families Programme by the charity [National Numeracy](#) and is an initiative designed to boost number confidence and engagement among children, parents, carers, and school staff.

Please read the information. Your children will be bringing home 'National Numeracy Activity Books' once a fortnight and it is important that you take some time as a family to improve your child's Numeracy.



How we feel about maths



Information for parents & carers

However you feel about maths, you're not alone.

Some parents and carers try to avoid maths in their daily lives. For some, the thought of helping children with maths homework fills them with dread. Adults often experience worry, stress or fear around numbers.

If you feel this way about maths, it is not unusual. You can still support your children with their maths learning – but you may find it more comfortable to do so if you overcome your fears. And these feelings can be overcome.

Why is it common to feel anxiety around maths?

There are lots of reasons why someone could feel anxious about maths:

- Bad experiences at school
- Feeling under pressure
- Fear of failure
- Being told they're not a maths person
- Lack of support

These reasons are often beyond our own control. They do not truly reflect our abilities.

If you feel anxious about maths, it doesn't mean that you are unable to learn.

Tips for feeling differently about maths

- **Talk about your feelings about maths.** Finding a supportive person to talk to about your feelings and worries can often help overcome anxiety. You might learn that lots of people feel the same. But be sure to have these conversations away from children – always try to be positive about maths around them.
- **Challenge your own beliefs.** Think about why you don't feel good about maths. Are those reasons fair? For example, does finding maths hard at school mean that you'll always be bad at it?
- **Try not to compare yourself to others.** Maybe you find maths harder than some others do, or feel that other people have better maths skills than you. Learning is not about being better than others, but about improving on your own skills and confidence.
- **Reduce pressure.** You don't have to rush and you don't have to show anyone else what you're doing. Other people knowing if we are getting things wrong can sometimes make us panic. It's ok to learn at your own pace – maths is not a race! You can learn without pressure by using resources like the National Numeracy Challenge: www.nnchallenge.org.uk/fmt
- **Set realistic goals.** Don't expect yourself to become a maths professor overnight. A little bit of learning on a regular basis can help you improve at a steady pace.

Pointing out maths in the real world



Information for parents & carers

We all use numbers every day, whether we think about it or not. Maths is not just for the classroom.

Spotting maths in the real world helps children understand this. It helps them see why it's useful to learn maths. And it's something you can do to support your child's maths learning outside of school.

There are all sorts of ways to bring number skills into things you already do with your child.

For younger children

There are lots of places to find maths in day-to-day life.

Here are a few you could try.

Around the house

Cooking: try recipes, measure ingredients and set the timer together.

Time: talk about how long it takes to get to school, what time we need to be there, what time we need to leave the house.

Size and shape: use plasticine or building bricks to make different shapes; order them by size.

In the newspaper: look for where numbers are used in news articles, adverts, weather forecasts, job adverts. Talk about how numbers are used in money, percentages, probability, graphs and charts.

Games

Card games: lots of card games involve numbers. Try playing matching games or snap, or draw cards and aim to get as close to 21 as possible without going 'bust'.

Building blocks: talk about the size and shape of the blocks and make patterns.

I Spy: play the game by spying numbers and shapes.

Board games: try games like Connect 4, Snakes & Ladders, Monopoly or any games that involve throwing dice to move around the board.

Out and about

Number hunt: find as many numbers as you can on signs, in shops, on doors or buses, etc.

Counting: count the things you can see – how many people are in the queue? How many red cars can you spot?

Plan journeys: talk about distance, time and directions.

Estimate: talk about the local area and estimate how many houses are on the street, how many people live in the town, or how far away the nearest town is.

Hobbies

Sports: talk about the numbers in your child's favourite sports. How many goals or points are needed to win or to get promoted? Talk about time, distance, shapes on the pitch, etc.

Dance: count the beats in the music and point out the shapes, patterns and symmetry dancing makes.

Television: look out for numbers in popular TV shows. Point out how contestants measure ingredients on baking shows. Add up the scores on dancing shows.

Where else could you look for numbers in everyday life?

Pointing out maths in the real world



Information for parents & carers

For older children

Beyond school, adults use maths in lots of ways. Talking about this can help older children see the value of learning maths.

Here are a few examples.

Careers

All jobs: everyday maths skills are needed for things like arriving on time, understanding payslips, working with schedules and using budgets.

Healthcare: maths is needed for making drug calculations, understanding patient data and taking readings.

Construction: workers need number skills for taking measurements, understanding scale and proportion, and following plans.

Design (graphics, fashion, interiors, etc): using shapes, recognising patterns, understanding measurements and units, scale and proportion, and following plans are all needed in design work.

Money and finances

Budgeting: understanding your income and expenses, knowing what you can afford, and making choices about what to do with your money is important for everyone.

Credit and savings: maths skills are useful for understanding interest rates and other terms and conditions on credit cards, loans and saving accounts.

Taxes: self-employed people or people who own businesses need number skills to fill in a tax return, and even employed people need maths to understand the rate of tax they should be paying.

University

Study: students on every course will need to use number skills in some way – whether it's making calculations, understanding research and statistics, conducting studies and analysing results, or simply managing time, word counts and mark schemes for assessments.

Budgeting: students living away from home will need to understand their income and outgoings to manage loans and grants, rent, tuition fees and living expenses.

Where do you use maths in your work or daily life? What does your child want to do after they leave school? What number skills will they need for that?

Talking positively about maths



Information for parents & carers

It's important to be positive about maths around children. The way we talk about maths makes a big difference to how they see it.

Saying things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school" might make your child start to think like that too. And sometimes we say things that give the wrong idea without realising.

Here are some things people sometimes say and ideas for what we could try instead:

What people sometimes say	What children hear from this	What we could try instead
"I can't do maths and I get on just fine." Or "I was never any good at maths at school either."	"Maths isn't important and you can get by without it. It's just a school subject and it won't be useful in real life." These beliefs may lead to children not engaging with maths at all.	"I found maths hard too, but if we keep working at it we can get it."
"It's ok, you're more of a creative person than a maths person."	"Only some people are good at maths and you're not that sort of person, so there's no point trying to get better at it." This can make children believe that their ability is fixed and that skills cannot be learnt. It doesn't encourage them to keep trying.	"We can all be good at maths if we keep trying with it." "It's ok to find it hard – that doesn't mean you're bad at maths. Let's keep working at it."

Talking positively about maths

Information for parents & carers



What people sometimes say	What children hear from this	What we could try instead
"This is easy, you should be able to get this one right."	"If you find this difficult, you must be stupid." Putting pressure on children to get things right first time can make them worry about maths and get scared by it. It's good for children to know that making a mistake is not a bad thing. Mistakes can help us learn.	"I think we have got this part of the problem right, let's have another go at getting to the answer."
"Well done for getting that right. You're so clever."	"Clever people always get things right. If you don't get things right then you're not clever." Praising a child for being clever or having a talent can make them think that maths learning comes from a natural ability rather than through hard work. If getting it right makes you clever, then children might start to think that making a mistake means they're not clever – and this can stop them trying in case they get it wrong.	"That was a tricky one, well done for sticking with it."

Whatever our own feelings about maths, being positive about maths can make a real difference to children's progress.

Improving your own skills and confidence

Information for parents & carers



However you feel about maths yourself, you can still help your child be positive about maths. Whatever your number skills are like, you can still support your child's maths learning.

But some people feel more comfortable about doing that by working on their own number confidence too. And this doesn't have to mean going back to the classroom!

The National Numeracy Challenge is an online learning tool for adults who have low confidence in their maths skills: www.nnchallenge.org.uk/fmt

You can register for free: all you need is an email address and a password. When you have signed up, you can take a quick check of your skills. This usually takes around 10 minutes.

The quick check isn't a test – it's just to help the Challenge find the best resources and support for you. In the quick check:

- The questions focus on everyday maths – the skills you use in real life
- There are no time limits on any questions or the quick check as a whole
- Everything is kept confidential, so you don't have the pressure of other people knowing how you answer
- You only get asked enough questions to find the support you need – if you're finding it difficult, the questions won't get harder
- You can save your progress as you go, so you don't have to complete it all in one go.

After doing the quick check, you will see some online resources. These resources:

- Are based on the questions you got wrong in your quick check – helping you focus on the areas you need to improve
- Are at the level you're working towards, so they will be challenging but not overwhelming
- Offer lots of choice: everyone learns in different ways, so if you don't like the first one, you can choose another one that suits you better.

When you have used some resources and feel ready, you can have another go at the quick check. This will give you more resources and help you see if you've improved.

Remember – you don't have to be a maths genius to help your children with maths! But becoming more confident with numbers can only be a good thing. Even if you find things difficult, you are showing your child that everyone can learn and get better at maths – and finding things hard is a normal part of the learning process, for both adults and children.

We now have a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join St Joseph's Governing Body.
Forms are available at the office. Thank you.



Parent Governor Elections

Dear Parent / carer

Swansea Council
School Governing Bodies
Election of Parent Governors

I am writing to inform you that a vacancy has occurred for a parent governor for your child's school and you are invited to submit a nomination for the post of parent governor.

Any parent of a registered pupil at the school, at the time of the election, is eligible to be a parent governor and to hold office for four years even though your child may leave the school in the meantime.

If you are eligible and wish to be nominated as a parent governor, you should complete the form (next page) **You can ask for copies at the office.**

The completed form should be returned to the box provided at the school, not later than **Monday 5th October 2026.**

Please note it is your responsibility to ensure that the nomination is placed in the box.

If there are more nominations received than the number of vacancies for parent governors, then an election will take place. Voting papers will be sent to all parents with children at the school.

With effect from September 2013 the Welsh Government require all new governors to attend mandatory training within one year of taking up the post. Training courses for governors are provided free by the Authority and information is also circulated from time to time regarding courses arranged by outside bodies, for which a fee may be payable.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher



Swansea Council

School Governing Body Nomination Form

Election of Parent Governor at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clydach

Name of Nominee			
Address:			
Postcode		Telephone number	
Parent of			

I (Headteacher)

confirm the nominee is a parent of a pupil registered at

.....School.

Signature.....

(to be completed by office)

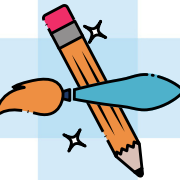
Candidates are invited to provide brief details in support of their nomination, which may be circulated on any ballot form (do not exceed 50 words). This is not a compulsory requirement, however, can help to inform parents in the event of a ballot taking place.

We have two new 'Trim Trails' for our yards. An Infant Trim Trail in the Foundation Forest Area and a Junior Trim Trail in the Junior Yard. They have caused much excitement!



Merit Award & 'Seren Yr Wythnos'



Class	Seren Yr Wythnos	Merit Award
 Nursery		Levi and Josie
Reception	Penny	Eddie and Phoebe
 Year 1	Esther	Fatima and Frank
Year 2	Roisin	Sophia and Evan
Year 3	Milo	Aimee and Sam
Year 4	Mason	Demetrius and Matthew
Year 5	Evan	Marina and Martha
 Year 6	Beatrice	Mollie and Tillie