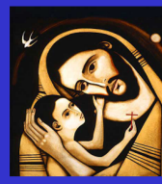
ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLYDACH

YSGOL GYNRADD GATHOLIG SAN JOSEFF, CLYDACH

October 2nd 2026

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
Gweddi'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



School Attendance: 92%

Reception: 85.7% **Year 1**: 98.2% **Year 2:** 96.9%
Year 3: 86.1% **Year 4:** 87.2% **Year 5:** 95% **Year 6:** 91.6%

Winning Class for Attendance:

Year 1 98.2%

Da iawn!

Upcoming dates:

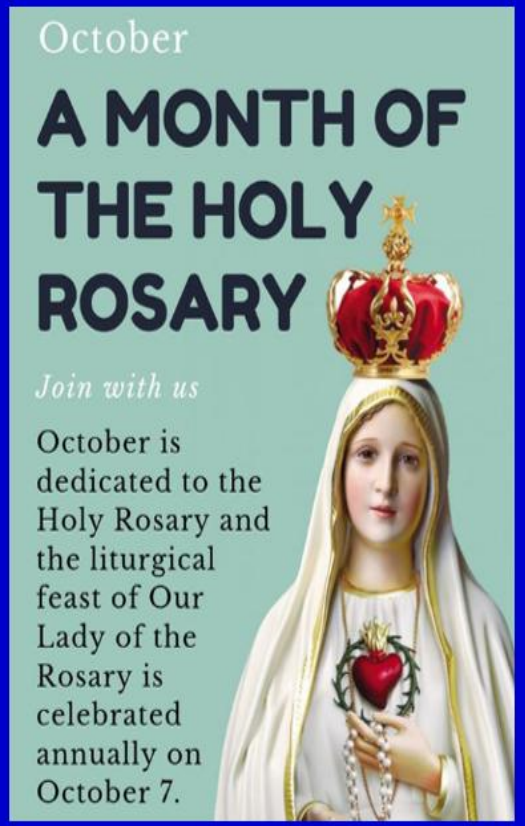
Friday 2nd October: 'Brighten Up' Cafod fundraiser – wear an item of bright clothes. Bring in £2 and a tin/packet of food for our Family Fast/Harvest collection.
FAMILY MASS – Sunday 4th October 10 am. This will be a Harvest Mass/Cafod Family Fast Mass and we will be asking for tins/packets for those who have less than us.
Wednesday 7th October: Yrs 4 & 5 Girls Rugby Taster on field with Vadre Girls Rugby coach – gym kit.
Wednesday 14th October: Blessing of the Rosaries Assembly (led by Yr 6) School Hall 2:00 pm

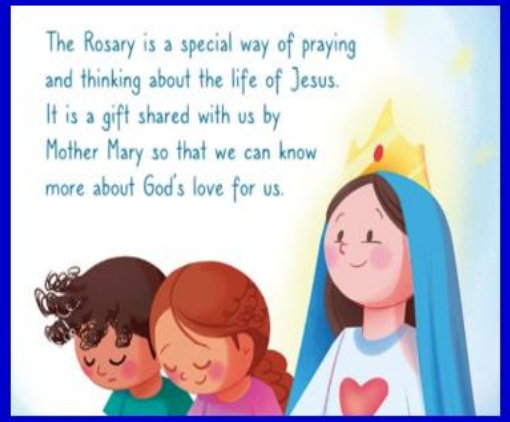
Thursday 15th October: Flu Vaccination Programme – Reception – Yr 6 in hall all day.
Monday 19th October: M & M Theatre production in the Hall: Jack & the Beanstalk.
Monday 19th October: Parents Evening – Foundation and Upper Phase all together. Years 3-6 teachers in the hall, Reception – Yr 2 teachers in Yr 1 Start 1:30pm until 6:00pm.
Friday 23rd October: INSET DAY

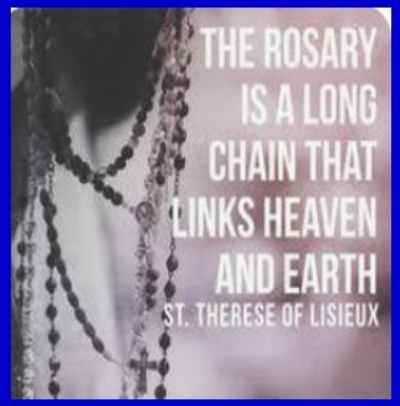
Our Virtues September & October

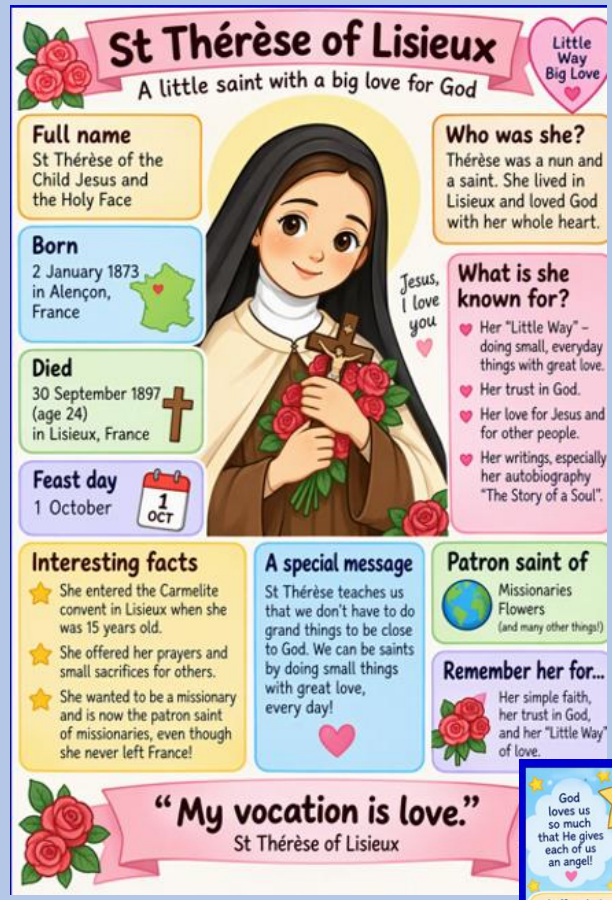
Faith-filled: We are faith-filled when we are living life as God inspires us to live it, putting the Gospel into action through our actions. We have to build on it every day through prayer.
Hopeful: We are hopeful when we are optimistic about the future, we trust ourselves and others, and we don't give up. Our faith teaches us that God is hope.

October
Month of the Holy Rosary









Updates of the week:

On our school website important dates are on the calendar and photos are on the https://www.stjosephscatholicps-swansea.co.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

BISHOP VAUGHAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

This year marks six decades of Catholic secondary school provision in Swansea! With Bishop Vaughan Catholic School having opened in 1966, 2026-27 represents its 60th Jubilee Year!

To mark this special milestone, a commemorative **Jubilee Magazine** and accompanying **online archive** are currently being produced, celebrating the rich history and enduring legacy of the school. We warmly invite current and former pupils, staff, governors, clergy, parents and friends of Bishop Vaughan to contribute photographs, documents, memorabilia, anecdotes and personal recollections that help tell the story of our school through the generations. These treasured memories will help create a lasting record of the people, events and achievements that have shaped Bishop Vaughan over the past sixty years.

Contributions can be sent to **BishopvaughanH@Hwbcymru.net**, or if you would like to discuss potential material for inclusion, please contact **Mrs E.J. Gwyther** on **01792 772006**.

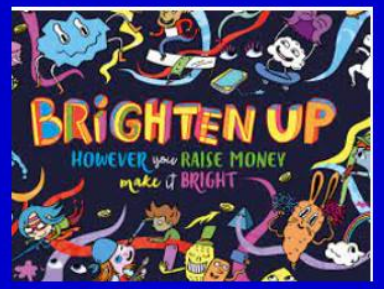
Bishop Vaughan have recently commenced their year of Jubilee celebrations. The next event in this programme will be a **Sixtieth Jubilee Mass** celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Mark O'Toole. This will take place on **Friday 6th November at 6.30pm in Bishop Vaughan's Main Hall**.

Current and former pupils, parents, staff and governors, as well as our partner primary schools and parish communities, are warmly invited. We hope that this will bring together past and present members of the Bishop Vaughan family to honour our shared heritage and celebrate the future with hope and gratitude.

Restart a Heart in schools is an annual educational campaign and mass-training initiative that teaches students how to perform lifesaving skills. Lots of classes took part in this training on Thursday.

Yr 6 Girls Rugby had a great session on the field with Nicky from Vadre Girls Rugby. Next Wednesday its Year 3 & 4 girls' time.

Congratulations to the pupils who completed the 'Summer Reading Challenge'. They were presented with their medals, certificates and prizes by Clydach Library Manager.



We brightened up for Cafod's Family Fast Day and raised £270!!!! We also nearly filled the stage with tins and packets of food.

Thank you do much for your generosity. ***"When we share the harvest, we spread the warmth."***

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.

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

Years 3 – 6 had a great experience visiting Sketty Mosque. Everyone was very welcoming and we tasted special food, smelt special perfume and tried on special clothes!

Pope Leo XIV, like Popes before him for over 25 years, has visited mosques.

Pope Leo XIV visits mosques during his travels to build bridges of friendship and peace. Following a tradition started by previous Popes over 25 years ago, he visits these sacred spaces to show deep respect for our Muslim neighbours and to teach us that people of different faiths can live together in harmony.

By standing side-by-side with other religious leaders, the Pope sends a powerful message to the world—and to our children—**that peace begins with listening and learning from one another.**

At-Home Reflection:
"The Pope shows us how to be a good friend to people who have different beliefs. What is one way we can show kindness or respect to others at school or in our neighbourhood this week?"

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLYDACH
YSGOL GYNRADD GATHOLIG SAN JOSEFF, CLYDACH

"Together in Christ, Living, Learning and Growing"
"Byw, dysgu a thyfu, gyda'n gilydd yng Nghrist"

Headteacher: Mrs M. Mort Telephone: 01792 8424292
www. https://www.stjosephscatholicps-swansea.co.uk
Email: St.Josephs.RCPrimary.school@Swansea-edunet.gov.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Every school needs to have a lockdown procedure that is used when we need to keep all children and staff secure in the building, in the event of an outside incident. We will practice the procedure at least annually with children so that they would know what to do should we ever need to use lockdown. This is done sensitively with children so as not to cause any distress, in the same way that school would practice the Fire Evacuation Procedure.

Lockdown procedures are important and would be used in response to an internal or external incident, which could be a threat to the safety of staff and children in the school. Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, these may be:

1. A reported incident, disturbance in the local community

2. An intruder on the site

3. A warning being received regarding an incident local

4. A major fire in the vicinity of the school

Our procedure aims to minimise disruption to the learning environment whilst ensuring the safety of all pupils and staff.

If necessary, parents/carers should be notified as soon as practicable to do so via the messaging service that there is a lockdown situation, they should be given enough information about what will happen so that they are reassured that everything possible is being done to ensure their child's safety:

- *they should not contact the school as this will tie up the phone lines;*
- *they should not attend school as this could interfere with the emergency services access to school and they may put themselves in danger;*
- *they should wait for the school to contact them about when it is safe to collect their children.*

Pupils will not be released to parents during a lockdown.

I hope that we will never have a situation where we would need to use lockdown but we all feel safer knowing that we have procedures in place for any eventuality that would keep our children safe.

Mrs Mort
(Headteacher)

We will be practising our Lockdown procedure next week.

Unfortunately, this is a mandatory part of safeguarding procedures within a school now.

Please speak with your children about this so that are aware of what is happening and why and reassure them it's just a practise – like a fire alarm practise!

In school we will be talking about this during the week to prepare the pupils. We will be and trying to make it more of a fun activity than scary one – despite its seriousness.

Thank you in advance for your help and support.

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

We have launched 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.

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, Criw 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.

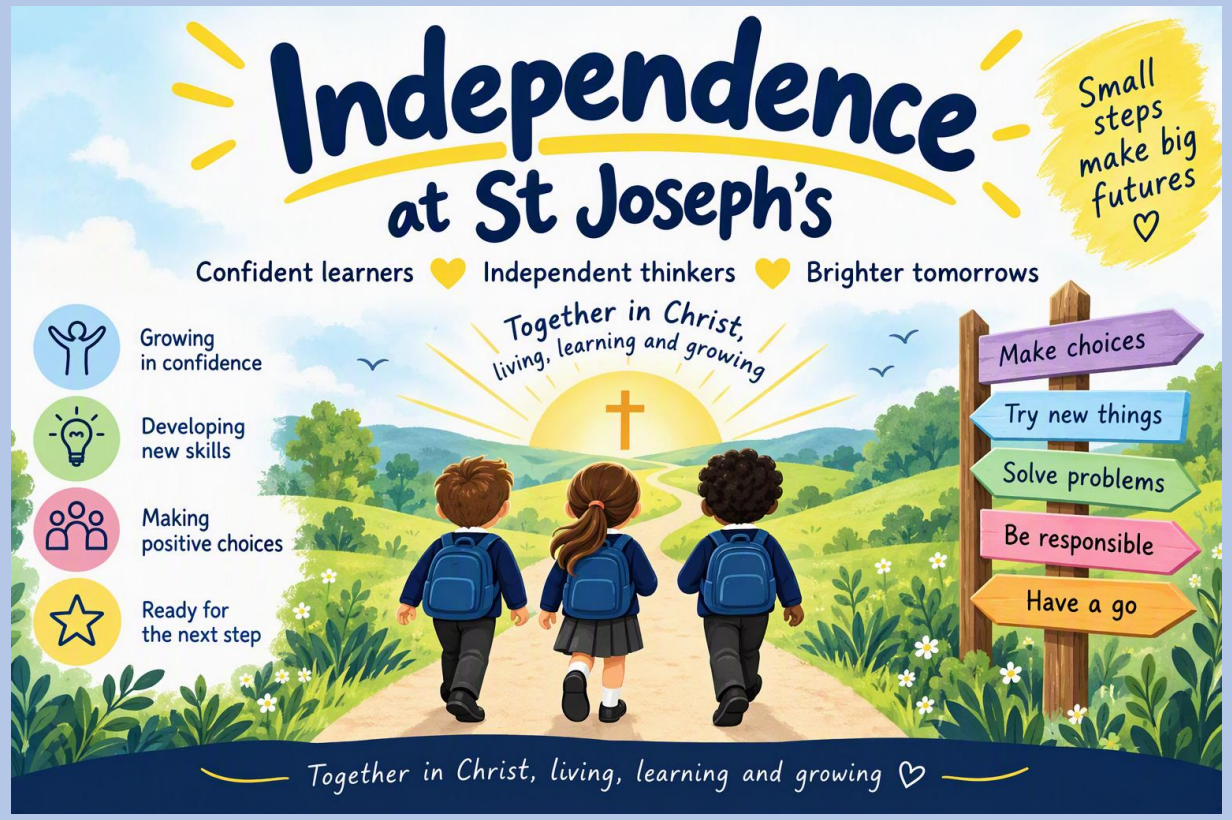
These small opportunities help children develop confidence and a sense of responsibility that will benefit them throughout their lives. At St Joseph's, we are proud to be developing children who are becoming increasingly independent, resilient and confident learners. By working together, home and school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

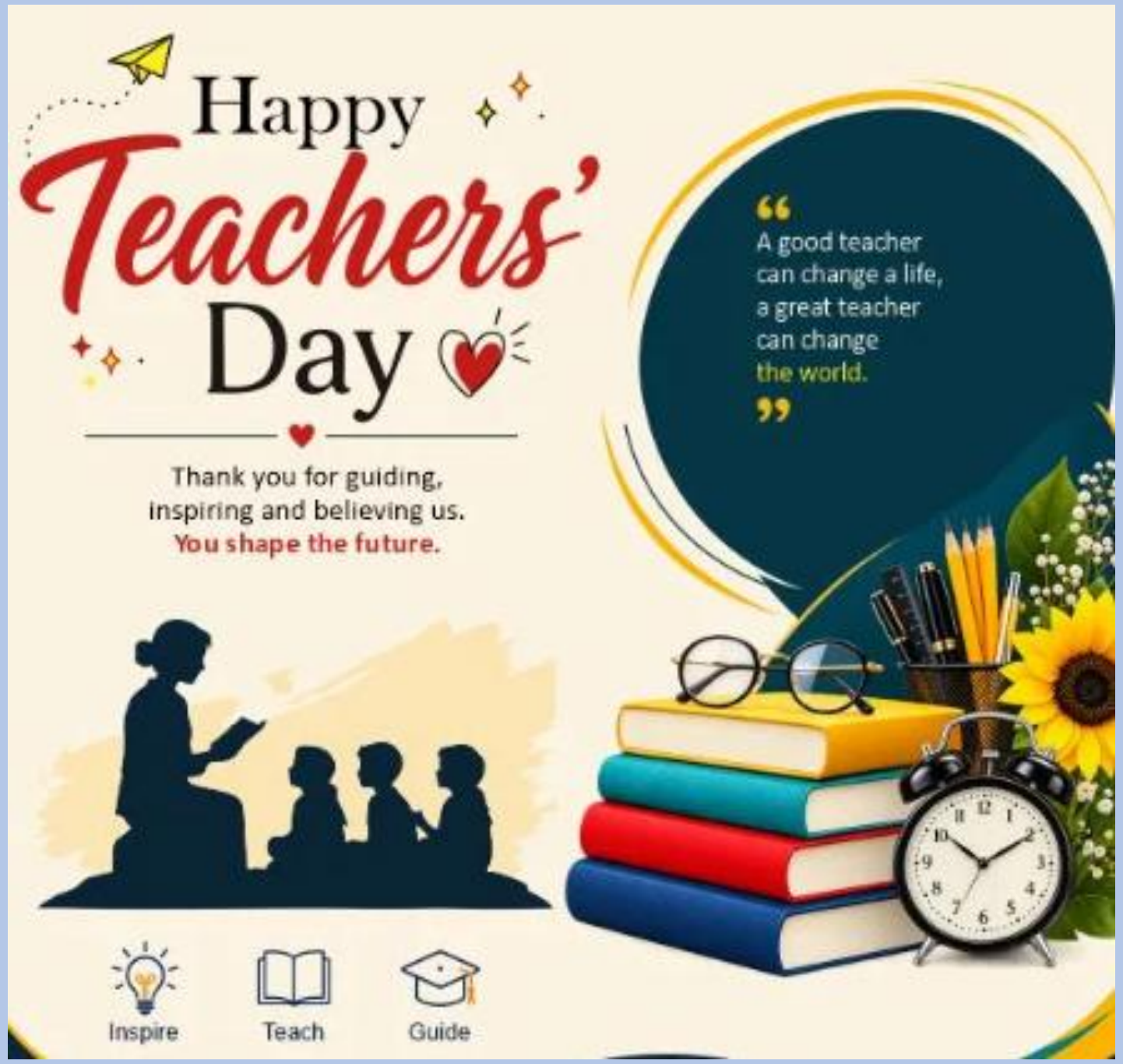
"Teach me and I may forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn."

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.





It is World Teacher's Day next week on October 5th.

We said a huge thank you today to all of our wonderful teachers who go out of their way to help us:
'Live, Learn and Grow'.

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/fluvaccine

Thank you for supporting your child and our school community.

2026/27 School Nasal Flu Vaccination form – Fill in form

https://youtu.be/KIbPEFRJz1o

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

M. Mart

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.

Merit Award & 'Seren Yr Wythnos'

Class	Seren Yr Wythnos	Merit Award
Nursery		Jac and Jacob
Reception	Derick	Mila and Florence
Year 1	Blaise	Aizel and Ezra
Year 2	Roisin	Elias and Gabriel
Year 3	Elsie	Roza and Aleeach
Year 4	Alexis	Annviya and Angelin
Year 5	Osian	Enoch and Mika
Year 6	Macsen	Darcey and Cari