

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLYDACH

YSGOL GYNRADD GATHOLIG SAN JOSEFF, CLYDACH

October 16th 2026

School Attendance: 96.5%

Reception: 96.4% Year 1: 96.6% Year 2: 99.5%
Year 3: 98.8% Year 4: 92.2% Year 5: 99.6% Year 6: 98%

Winning Class for Attendance:

Year 5 99.6%

Da iawn!

Upcoming dates:

Monday 19th October: M & M Theatre production in the Hall: Jack & the Beanstalk. There is no cost to pupils for this, it is a school treat.

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. Please make sure your children are picked up from class at the correct time – staff will not be available to keep them, while you have an appointment, after the end of the school day.

Wednesday 21st October: Owain Glyndŵr Day. Pupils can dress up in red and/ or yellow or as a prince/princess! Please don't buy anything new.

Friday 23rd October: INSET DAY

Wednesday 4th November: Years 3 – 6 Urdd Outdoor Learning- Bushcraft.

Thursday 5th November: Outdoor Classroom Day

Wednesday 11th November: Service of Remembrance school Hall 2.00pm

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

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



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



Month of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

As the Feast of Our Lady
of the Rosary falls on
7th October, the whole month
of October is dedicated to the
Holy Rosary of the Blessed
Virgin Mary.

The Rosary is a special way of praying
and thinking about the life of Jesus.
It is a gift shared with us by
Mother Mary so that we can know
more about God's love for us.



FUN FACTS FOR KIDS!

Teresa of Ávila
A friend of God for everyone!

1 She was born in Spain!
Teresa was born in 1515 in a town called Ávila, in Spain.
Ávila is a beautiful walled city - and she loved it!

2 She loved God from a young age!
Even as a little girl, Teresa loved to pray. She often talked to God like a close friend.

3 She became a nun!
Teresa joined the Carmelite nuns and spent her life helping others to grow closer to God.

4 She started new convents!
Teresa was brave and full of energy! She helped to start many new convents (places where nuns live and pray).

5 She wrote special books!
Teresa wrote about prayer and how to be a friend of God. Her most famous book is *The Interior Castle*.

6 She is a saint!
Teresa of Ávila died in 1582, but her amazing example still inspires people today. She is a saint, and a Doctor of the Church (a very special teacher in the Church!).

SAINT TEACHER FRIEND HERO INSPIRATION!

You can be a friend of God too - just like Teresa!

Prayer Kindness Courage Makes a difference!

Small choices can make a big difference!

A big heart. A brave spirit. A life of prayer. Teresa of Ávila - still showing us the way!

Pray Be kind Be brave Be you!

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

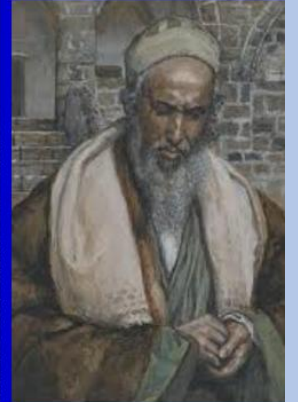
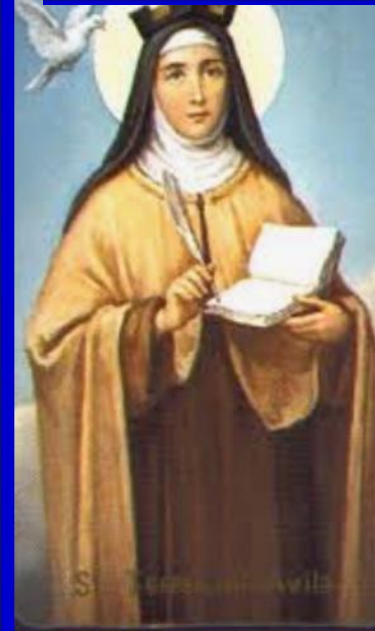
St. Luke was born in Syria and trained as a physician. He was also one of the most extensive writers of the New Testament. In addition to his gospels, he also wrote the 'Acts of the Apostles.'

He was one of 'the seventy' and worked with St. Paul, traveling to Rome and converting Jews and pagans to Christianity. He was also with Paul during several of his confinements.

Luke is also credited with being a prolific painter, creating many works of Mary and Jesus.

St. Luke is known as the patron saint of artists, physicians and surgeons.

He died at age 84 in Boeotia.



Updates of the week:

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

<https://www.stjosephscatholicps-swanea.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



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.

Election of Parent Governor



Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school and governors, we would like to say a huge thank you to the three parents who applied for the role of Parent Governor and we appreciate their help and support.

There are 156 families in the school, all receiving one vote. We received 58 ballots papers and the results of the ballot is as follows:

Harriet Williams - 9 votes

Charles Betney - 21 votes

Sharon Barnes - 28 votes.

Therefore, Mrs Sharon Barnes has been elected as the new Parent Governor as St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Clydach.

The role of a Parent Governor helps to bring the views and experiences of parents and carers to work alongside the Governing Body and school leadership team, to continue to develop our school.

Year 6 led a beautiful Rosary assembly this week for pupils, parents, staff and governors. They told us lot about the meaning of the rosary and created some lovely prayers. All pupils took home a rosary to pray with, for the month of 'October of the Holy Rosary'.



Year 4 played in a 6 a side football festival at Pure Football this week. They won 3 games and lost 3. All players had a superb attitude and excellent teamwork.



Shw mae Day! A huge diolch to Mrs Weaver and the Criw Cymraeg for helping us to celebrate.



We will be having a belated celebration of Owain Glyndŵr Day on Wednesday 21st October.

Pupils can dress up in red and/ or yellow or as a prince/princess!

Please do not buy anything new!!!!

Owain Glyndŵr Day is a celebration of the Welsh national hero held annually on 16th September. Owain Glyndŵr was the last native Prince of Wales and the founder of the first Welsh parliament. On 16th September every year, thousands in Wales celebrate the life and legacy of the “rebel” Prince of Wales.



SWANSEA PARENT CARER FORUM COFFEE MORNINGS



NOVEMBER 11
Wednesday

10am - 12
Evolve Early Help Hub
Gorseinon
Pontarddulais Road
SA4 4FE

DECEMBER 16
Wednesday

10am - 12
Scout & Guide HQ
Bryn Road
SA2 0AU

JANUARY 13
Wednesday

10am - 12
Evolve Early Help Hub
Gorseinon
Pontarddulais Road
SA4 4FE

FEBRUARY 16

10am - 12
Manselton Community Centre
Elgin Street
SA5 8QE

JOIN OUR PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP
"Swansea Parent Carer Forum"

and
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
swanseapcf.org/join-us



"IT'S NOT CALLED CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR"

Wednesday 3rd February
Scout & Guide HQ, Brynmill
Anytime from 0900 for a prompt 0930 start
Finishes 1230

Just for parent carers, this informative workshop is back!

The 'what' the 'why' and the 'how can we help' when children communicate their needs via their behaviour.

Dr Judith Storey is a clinical psychologist working in community paediatrics in Swansea Bay University Health Board. Judith will use a Positive Behaviour Support Framework to try and answer the 'what' the 'why' and the 'how can we help' when children communicate their needs via their behaviour.

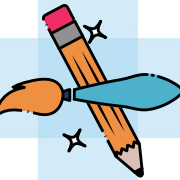


BOOKING ESSENTIAL

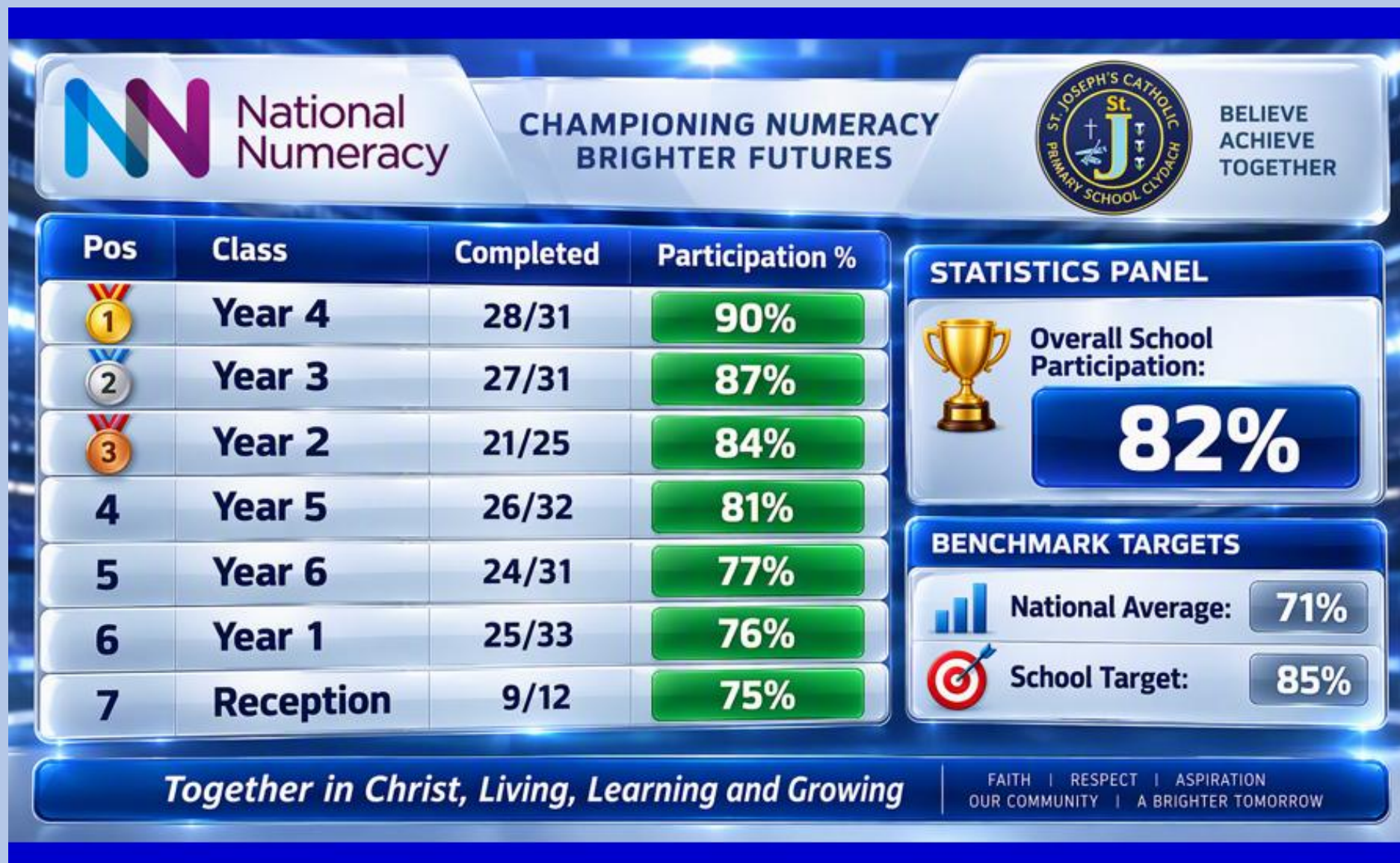
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/its-not-called-challenging-behaviour-tickets-1976611339726?aff=oddtcreator&mc_cid=6fa35ead3e&mc_eid=896ebe17b8

Merit Award & 'Seren Yr Wythnos'



Class	Seren Yr Wythnos	Merit Award
 Nursery		
Reception	Emyrson	Arabella and Harley
 Year 1	Sienna	Amgen and Henry
Year 2	Lola	Josiah and Betsiah
Year 3	Bebe	Srge and Ivy
Year 4	Matthew	Janina and Luca
Year 5	William	Evan and Tori
 Year 6	Jiya	Erin and Niia

Well done to all of the families that took part in this. The feedback was very positive and everyone enjoyed spending time together problem solving. If you didn't take part last time have a go with today's problem! Huge thanks to Mr Maddock and all staff for enabling this home/school partnership work.



Growing Independent Learners for Life

Our Vision



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Clydach

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, Cŵm 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 exciting 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.

