

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLYDACH

YSGOL GYNRADD GATHOLIG SAN JOSEFF, CLYDACH

October 23rd 2026

School Attendance: 95.2%

Reception: 100% Year 1: 94.7% Year 2: 94.2%
Year 3: 98.4% Year 4: 89.8% Year 5: 97.7% Year 6: 96.8%

Winning Class for Attendance:

Reception: 100%

Da iawn!

Upcoming dates:

Friday 23rd October: INSET DAY

Monday 2nd & Tuesday 4th November: Clubs start back – new lists. Pupils will need to have returned new forms and money to access the clubs for the next half term.

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

Thursday 5th November: Outdoor Classroom Day

Monday 9th November: 3 - 6 Council's Water Safety Team assembly

Tuesday 10th November: Fire Service sessions - Yr 5 & Yr 2.

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

Thursday 26th November: Road Safety Assemblies

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.



He was one of the most-traveled world leaders in history.

The first-ever Pope to visit a mosque.

St. Pope John Paul II had the third-longest tenure.

He was a was a playwright and actor.

He received the sacrament of Reconciliation from Padre Pio.

He survived a shooting.

Feast day: 22 Oct

St. John Paul II



John Paul II
Karol Wojtyła
 Highly influential, charismatic.
 A conservative pope

18 May 1920
 Wadowice (Poland)

1946
 1978 - 2005
 Almost 27 years

2 April 2005
 (Age: 84)

1 May 2011
 by Benedict XVI

The healing of French nun Marie Simon-Pierre, stricken with Parkinson's disease

Healing of a gravely ill woman after she prayed to him

Accelerated Beatification process launched one month after his death

27 April 2014

Birth

Priest

Pontificate

Death

Beatification

Miracles

Canonisation

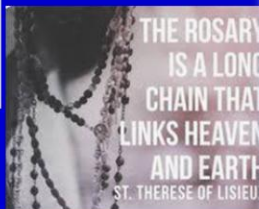
October: Month of the Holy Rosary



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.



Saints Simon and Jude

Friends in Faith, Courage and Hope

Two Saints
 One Mission
 Many People Helped!

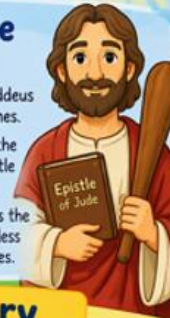
Saint Simon
 "The Zealot"

- Called "the Zealot."
- He may have originally belonged to a Jewish nationalist or resistance movement before following Jesus.



Saint Jude
 (Thaddeus)

- Also known as Thaddeus or Judas son of James.
- He is the author of the New Testament Epistle of Jude.
- He is widely known as the patron saint of hopeless and impossible causes.



Traditions and History

28 OCTOBER

Shared Feast Day

The Catholic Church and other Christian traditions celebrate them on the same day because they traditionally preached and did missionary work together – often believed to be in Persia and Mesopotamia.



Missionary Work

Tradition tells us that Simon and Jude travelled together, sharing the good news of Jesus in places such as Persia and Mesopotamia.



Martyrdom

Tradition states that both were martyred on the same day in Persia.

- Simon is often depicted holding a saw (as tradition holds he was sawed in half).
- Jude is depicted holding a club (having been beaten with one).



Relics

Their traditional relics rest inside St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Saints Simon and Jude, pray for us!
 Help us to be brave, faithful and never give up – even when things seem difficult. ❤️

FEAST OF SAINTS
 SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES
 OCTOBER 28





This week marks the **60th anniversary of the Aberfan Disaster**, one of the saddest events in Welsh history. On **21 October 1966**, a coal waste tip collapsed above the village of Aberfan near Merthyr Tydfil and a huge wave of coal slurry rushed down the mountainside, destroying homes and part of Pantglas Junior School. Tragically, **144 people lost their lives, including 116 children**.

We remember Aberfan because so many children, families and teachers were affected. It reminds us how precious life is and how important it is to keep people safe. The disaster also led to changes in safety rules to help prevent similar tragedies from happening again.

Questions for Discussion

- Why is it important to remember events from the past?
- How can communities help one another after a difficult event?
- What does it mean to show respect when remembering people who have died?
- How can we help make our school and community safe?

Loving God,

We remember the children, teachers and families of Aberfan. Hold them in your loving care.

Help us to be kind, caring and thankful for one another.

May we always work together to keep everyone safe.

Amen.

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!

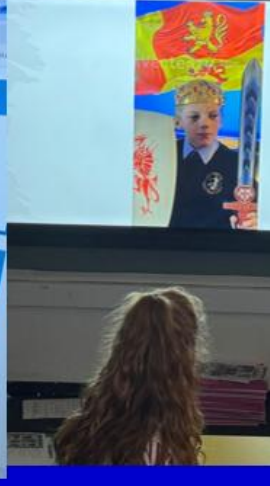
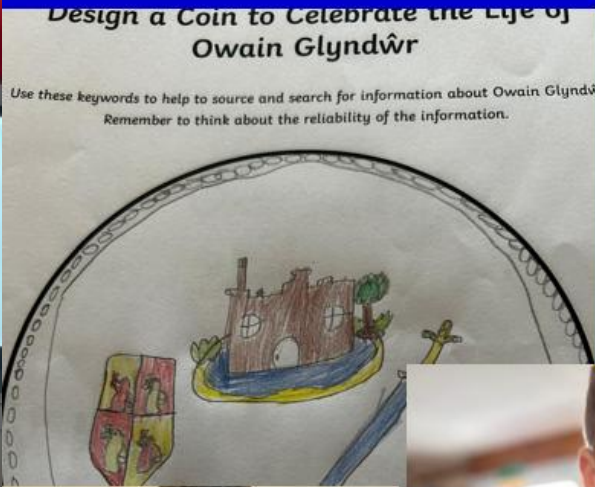
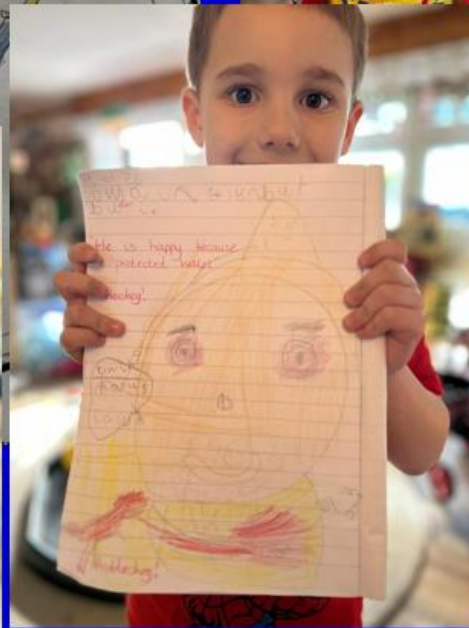
To mark this special milestone, a commemorative **Jubilee Magazine** and accompanying **online archive** are currently being produced, celebrating the rich history and enduring legacy of the school. We warmly invite current and former pupils, staff, governors, clergy, parents and friends of Bishop Vaughan 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.

We celebrated a belated Owain Glyndŵr Day on Wednesday 21st October. We dressed up in red and/ or yellow or as a prince/princess! 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.



A Giant Success! Jack Takes the Stage



We had a lovely start to the week with a visit from M & M Productions. All classes were treated to a live 'Jack and the Beanstalk' show.



Well done to Yr 6 boys in their Pure Football tournament.



We have the Road Safety Team coming in after half term to talk to the children about being safe on the roads.

As parents you can help keep your children safe by discussing the information on this poster with your child.

Thank you.

Books
Brighter
Futures



School Council Library Audit

What We Found Out!

A
Library
for
everyone!



Good News!

Every class from Reception to Year 6 has a library that all children can use and enjoy.



What We Did



More Information Books

You would like more books about:



Science



Sport



Dinosaurs



How to
make and
do things



Films and
computer
games

You Also Asked For...



Funny
books



Rhyming
books



Joke
books



Comics



Playscripts



Diary-style
stories

Favourite Story Types



Fairy tales

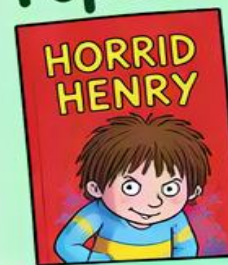
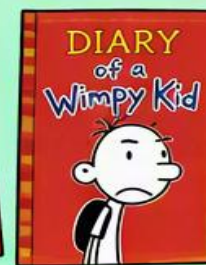
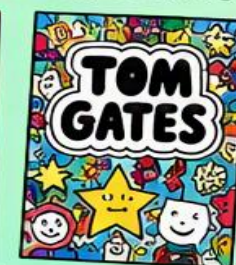


Adventure
stories



Princess
stories

Popular Authors and Series



Books in Our Home Languages



We would also like books in our home languages so everyone can enjoy reading and share stories from different cultures.

Hello

Hola

नमस्ते

Bonjour



Next Steps

The School Council will share your ideas with staff and help find ways to make our class libraries even more exciting, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone!



Happy
Reading!

Together in Christ,
Living, Learning and Growing



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.





National
Numeracy

CHAMPIONING NUMERACY
BRIGHTER FUTURES



BELIEVE
ACHIEVE
TOGETHER

Year Group	Week2	Winner	Comment (optional)
Reception	21/10/26	Penny Liu	Talking to mummy and daddy about your homework!
Year 1	21/10/26	Florrie Cridland	Fantastic creative problem solving this week.
Year 2	21/10/26		
Year 3	21/10/26	Daniel O'Grady	Excellent Snowflake Problem Solving – involving all the family.
Year 4	21/10/26	Angelin Lijo	Great work solving the problem and using her ICT to present her findings.
Year 5	21/10/26	Lowri	Excellent estimating skills, when solving how many steps on an average day
Year 6	21/10/26	Niia Niipin	Fantastic family involvement in this week's problem solving

Together in Christ, Living, Learning and Growing

FAITH | RESPECT | ASPIRATION
OUR COMMUNITY | A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Merit Award & 'Seren Yr Wythnos'

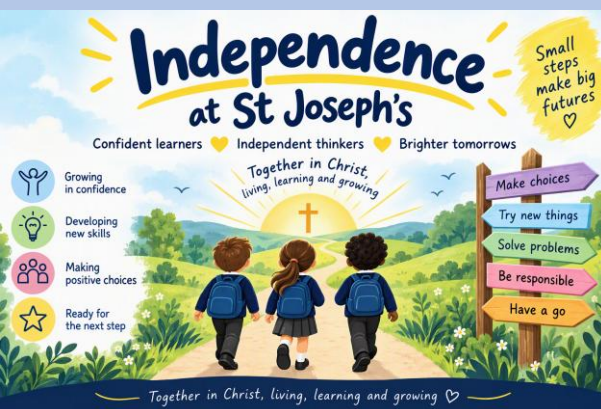


Class	Seren Yr Wythnos	Merit Award
 Nursery		Rayden and Aoife
Reception	Mila	Emyrson and Kwangu
 Year 1	Hannah	Ivanny and Luca
Year 2	Joshua	Devjot and Lola
Year 3	Noelia	Oliver and Agatha
Year 4	Amelia	Junior and Aisling
 Year 5	Enoch	Elliot and Willow
Year 6	Reggie	Euan and Lucas

We are making lots of exiting changes to our Teaching & Learning and to our school's curriculum and are encouraging our pupils to be independent learners.

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.



How to be an INDEPENDENT LEARNER

Believe Try Learn Grow Be curious ♥ Be brave ♥ Be independent ♥ Be your best! You can do it!

Before I Ask an Adult...

- LOOK**
Look at the board, displays and learning resources around me.
- THINK**
Think carefully about what I already know.
- DO**
Have a go and do what I can by myself first.
- TELL**
Tell an adult what I have already done or tried.
- CHECK**
Check my work and improve it if I can.

Independent Learners...

- Get their own equipment.
- Use classroom resources first.
- Keep trying when learning is challenging.
- Learn from mistakes.
- Think before asking for help.
- Take responsibility for their learning.
- Explain what they have already done.
- Tell adults how they have tried to solve a problem.

I Can...

- ★ Explain what I have already done.
- ★ Tell an adult what I found difficult.
- ★ Use mistakes to help me improve.
- ★ Keep going when learning feels tricky.
- ★ Find different ways to solve a problem.
- ★ Be proud of my effort.

Our Independence Challenge

Before asking an adult, I will try 4 things myself!

1 **LOOK**

2 **THINK**

3 **DO**

4 **TELL**

Remember!
Great learners don't give up.
They **LOOK, THINK, DO and TELL!**
Mistakes help us learn.
Effort helps us grow.
Every challenge makes us stronger.

Independent learners make a brighter tomorrow! ♥

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."

School age vaccination catch-up sessions

Available to book now

Monday 26th October	The 104, 98 Broughton Avenue, Blaenymaes, Swansea, SA5 5LN	9:00 - 16:00
Wednesday 28th October	Gorseinon Hospital - Day Room, Brynawel Road, Gorseinon, Swansea, SA4 4UU	9:00 - 16:00
Friday 30th October	Port Talbot Resource Centre (next to Morrisons) - Room 304, Moor Road, Port Talbot, SA12 7BJ	9:00 - 16:00



[SBU Immunisation Booking Form](#)

The School Nurses have sent the link above if anyone wanted to book their own appointment.

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