



St. Mary's Newsletter

8th October 2026

Croeso! Welcome!



Our Faith...

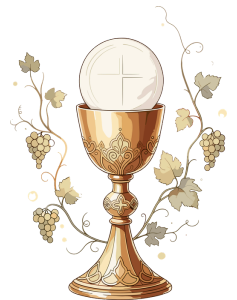
In the Gospel on Sunday, Jesus tells us another parable to try and explain what the kingdom of heaven is like. We will hear a story about a king who invites lots of different people to the wedding of his son. But some people choose not to come, so the king invited other people instead. Jesus is reminding us that God invites of us to be part of His family and to share in His love.

Our Faith in Action...

School Mass

Our first **School Mass** of the academic year will take place on **Sunday (11th October)** in St Mary's Catholic Church at 11am.

Please make every effort to join us to celebrate together in faith, give thanks and seek blessings for the year ahead.



Our **Mini Vinnies** met this week to discuss our Harvest fundraising efforts. Following the success of last year's collection, they have decided to invite the whole school community to donate non-perishable food items for our local Food Bank.

Over the next two weeks, please send donations into school, such as tinned foods, jars of food, pasta, rice, cereals and other packet foods.

We are very grateful for your continued generosity and support in helping those in need within our local community. Thank you. Diolch.

Look at Our Learning!



This term, we have introduced **Writing Spotlights**, an exciting new initiative designed to further develop and enhance writing across our school. Through these spotlights, children have more opportunities to engage in creative and extended writing while exploring a wide range of genres. They are explicitly taught the key literacy skills required before applying them independently in a high quality final piece of writing; using their best handwriting.

For our first Writing Spotlight of the year, every class has been focusing on diary writing. It has been wonderful to read such a diverse range of diary entries written from different perspectives, including themselves, characters from *The Wind in the Willows*, Noah from Noah's Ark, and many others. These writing opportunities have been carefully linked to both Domain and Religious Education learning, helping children to deepen their understanding while developing their writing skills.

We are incredibly proud of the creativity, imagination and effort shown by our pupils, and we look forward to sharing more examples of their excellent writing throughout the year.



Y4/5 have been learning about the **Ten Commandments**. They worked collaboratively to discuss the Commandments and then presented their ideas.



Y2/3 have been comparing **St Francis of Assisi** to **St Theodore of Guerin** using a double bubble thinking map. They thought carefully about the similarities and differences.

Y3/4 have made their own **compasses** and tested them on the yard. They thoroughly enjoyed making and testing their ships to see how much weight they could hold.



Y2 have been investigating **tones and shades**. They experimented with adding white and black to the original colour.

Y1 have been learning about vowels and then practised recording them in **shaving foam**!



Pod Enfys have been comparing objects to investigate 'heavier' and 'lighter'.



Our Atelier children **love** exploring in the sandpit.

NOTICES



Your child should have brought home their photograph proof (QR code) yesterday, and we will be sending home the sibling QR codes today.

I hope you will be delighted with the photographs.

It was a joy to see so many smiling, happy faces! 😊📷

Nativity Dates

Thursday 10th December (School Hall)
Atelier - 10AM | Years 1 + 2 - 1.30PM

Friday 11th December (School Hall)
Years 1 + 2 - 10AM | Atelier - 1.30PM

Tuesday 15th December (School Hall)
Years 3 + 4 - 10AM

Wednesday 16th December (School Hall)
Years 3 + 4 - 1.30PM

Thursday 17th December
Years 5 + 6 - 6PM- 7PM

• St. Mary's Catholic Church, Ewenny Road

Advance Notice

Nativity tickets will go on sale in November. Children will take part in their Nativity with their **YEAR GROUP**, not **CLASS**.

Please note that this year, the Year 5 and 6 Nativity will take place in **St Mary's Church**. We are delighted to have the opportunity for the children to share their Nativity in such a special setting. You will notice that there is only one date for Year 5/6 – the larger venue capacity means we are able to accommodate all families at a single performance. The Church provides the perfect atmosphere during **Advent**, a season when we prepare our hearts in joyful anticipation of the birth of Jesus 🕯️



This week's certificates were awarded for children who have **hope**. These children are positive role models who always look on the bright side and encourage others when things are difficult. They show trust in God through prayer and living out their faith each day. Da iawn pawb.

We welcomed **Bridgend Library** to our Assembly this morning. It was wonderful to see the number of children who took part in the **Summer Reading Challenge**! Well done and congratulations to all. We presented a huge group of children with certificates. Thank you to parents for supporting this initiative over the summer holiday – and for reading with your children over the break.



Parental Consultations



Parental Consultations will take place on **Tuesday 3rd** and **Wednesday 4th November**. As you are aware, last year, we introduced an online booking system to help make the booking process smoother and more convenient for both parents and staff.

Our booking system opened on Monday 28th September. I encourage you to book an appointment if you have not already done so to discuss your child's wellbeing and progress during the first half term with their class teacher. Thank you.

* Wellbeing * Attainment * Effort * Attitude

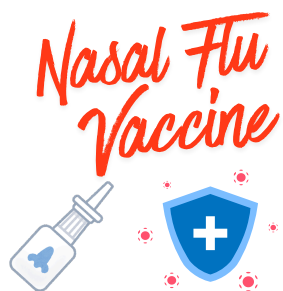
THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER



We are a vibrant community, proud of the many cultures, languages and traditions that make St Mary's such a special place. United Nations Day gives us an opportunity to celebrate our diversity, learn from one another and recognise that we are all part of God's global family.

If you would like to contribute a **culinary delight** for our afternoon celebration, please get in touch with the **Friends of St Mary's**. **It is essential that you contact them before bringing any food to the event to ensure that a full list of allergens is available.**

Further details can be found on the poster attached at the end of the newsletter. Thank you in advance for your continued support. And a big thank you to the **Friends** for their support.



The School Nursing Team will visit school on **Monday 19th October** to offer pupils the **Fluenz Nasal Flu Vaccine**. The NHS recommends that your child gets the vaccine to protect against Flu. This consent form must be completed by a parent or a guardian with parental responsibility for the child. For current information about the Nasal Flu Vaccine please click here [About the flu vaccine - Public Health Wales](#).

CLICK HERE >

[E-Consent Form](#)

Forms must be complete by 12pm Friday 16th October. Forms received after this deadline **will not be processed**, and your child **will not be vaccinated** at that session.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Sunday 11th Oct	School Mass	St Mary's Catholic Church at 11am – School Uniform to be worn.
Monday 19th Oct	Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Y6)	Details on Dojo and further information above.
Thursday 22nd Oct	United Nations Celebration Day	Children are invited to wear National dress/colours to school. See poster 'attached'.
Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd Nov	Parental Consultations	Booking link: https://bookings.cloud.microsoft/book/StMarysParentalConsultations2026@hwbwave15.onmicrosoft.com/?
Thursday 19th November	School Disco	Details to follow.

*Wishing you a lovely weekend.
Mrs. Azzopardi*



As a Catholic Family, we will do our best; to live and learn as Christ taught us.

Llangewydd Road, Bridgend, CF31 4JW **Telephone:** 01656 815560 **Email:** head@stmaryscps.bridgend.cymru **Website:** www.stmaryscatholicprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Rachel Azzopardi, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH. **Deputy Headteacher:** Mrs Kathleen Williams, BEd (Hons).



ST. MARY'S PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS

Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th November

Click [here](#) to book.



Please ensure that you select the correct '**service**' for your child.
You must then **select the correct teacher** for your child to see their availability. Do not leave as 'Anyone' as you will not successfully book a slot with your child's teacher.

Join us for important discussions about your
child's progress.



UN DAY

Thursday 22nd October 2026

A stronger
world
together
♥

Celebrate the wonderful cultures and countries
that make up our community!

Different
people
Brighter
tomorrows
♥

As with previous years, our UN Day celebration
depends on your generosity in donating culinary delights
to showcase all the wonderful different cultures
and countries.

Can you help?

If you are able to make or buy a dish
to represent your country, we would
love to hear from you.

Please contact us by
Friday 16th October 2026 on:

✉ friendsofstmarys950@gmail.com

📱 Text 07817 286861



A full list of allergens will be needed
for each dish donated.

Let's celebrate diversity through
food, friendship and community! ♥

Thank you for your support.



PEACE

PEOPLE

PARTNERSHIP

A BRIGHTER

TOMORROW



RESPECT
UNDERSTANDING
KINDNESS
A STRONGER
WORLD



One world ♥ Many cultures ♥ Brighter futures

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• Please note that this year's Nativities will be in Year Groups, not classes. Tickets will go on sale towards the middle of November.



INSET DAYS

26/27

Our remaining INSET Days for this year are as noted below. Please note that the school will be closed to pupils for Staff Training.



Monday 4th January
Monday 15th February
Friday 30th April
Monday 19th July
Tuesday 20th July



Dates for the diary!



We are looking for volunteers to help with the following events



22nd October
UN Day Celebrations
12:50 - 3:30pm



19th November
School Disco
(2 sessions Mini disco 4:15 - 5:15
and main disco 5:15 - 7pm)



10th & 11th December
AM or PM sessions
15th December AM
16th December PM
17th December evening in St Mary's Church.



Please let us know if you can help
by messaging Del on
07817286861.

