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| Description: New Image | GARNTEG PRIMARY SCHOOL  Hillcrest Garndiffaith Pontypool Torfaen NP4 7SJ  01495 742934  head.garntegprimary@torfaen.gov.uk  www.garntegprimary.co.uk |

**Lythys – Newsletter –21st October 2020**

**This half term our value is “perseverance”**

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

**Annwyl Rhieni**

**Thank you all for your continued support and for a very successful half term. There have been so many wonderful activities your children have completed in classes and at home linked to pupils’ wellbeing and academic achievement. We really appreciate you supporting your pupils with their continued online learning at home which in turn, compliments learning in school. We hope you all have a restful half term, enjoy spending time with each other and keeping safe.**

**We have continued to put a few reminders on the newsletter for this week. For your convenience our newsletter will continue online via all previous communication channels, school website, twitter, class dojo.**

**Important Dates for your diary**

**Inset Days for this academic year 2020-2021**

**October 22nd & 23rd 2020**

**January 4th 2021**

**July 19th & 20th 2021**

**Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October – half term**

**School re-opens – Monday 2nd November**

**National Fire Break**

**The First Minister of Wales has announced a short fire break from this Friday 23rd October to Monday 9th November.**

**Attached are links to the Welsh Government press release and FAQ, which include how this affects Childcare, Schools, FE Colleges and our Universities.**

[https://gov.wales/national-coronavirus-fire-break-to-be-introduced-in-wales-on-friday](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.wales%2Fnational-coronavirus-fire-break-to-be-introduced-in-wales-on-friday&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cb0b93a3f64b54e1aa23608d8742eebc5%7C2c4d0079c52c4bb3b3cad8eaf1b6b7d5%7C0%7C0%7C637387092148489290%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TlghAnqussznQGLjMvKI8fstxKXoZNQc6ThCmV3UPVk%3D&reserved=0)

[https://gov.wales/coronavirus-circuit-break-frequently-asked-questions](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.wales%2Fcoronavirus-circuit-break-frequently-asked-questions&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cb0b93a3f64b54e1aa23608d8742eebc5%7C2c4d0079c52c4bb3b3cad8eaf1b6b7d5%7C0%7C0%7C637387092148499244%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=3isq6YYUwdkvXKtizVVmErfBbF%2FVAT5MREJbrJepZLs%3D&reserved=0)

**Autumn Safety advice from our Police Liaison Officer**

**The latest COVID-19 regulations mean that we can’t perform many of our traditional engagement activities – such as community pumpkin carving events, spooky station visits and the delivery of leaflets to houses as well as our School Liaison Officer assemblies entitled ‘Operation BANG’.**

**This year, our messages will primarily be delivered over social media and will focus on the following themes:**

1. **The “not everyone sees the fun” line remains in place to ask people to be considerate of others.**

1. **We will have our “no callers, please” tagline present to reiterate that people shouldn’t knock doors and approach others.**

1. **We will highlight that Police will be patrolling our communities and cracking down on anti-social behaviour.**

1. **We will also promote a** [**#PicYourPumpkin activity pack**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gwent.police.uk%2Fen%2Fnewsroom%2Fresources-for-children%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cf5179411b4514818c0ac08d8759f5ed1%7C2c4d0079c52c4bb3b3cad8eaf1b6b7d5%7C0%7C0%7C637388674633605247%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=c5LOXOIgKtM%2FCkHAbQfkS5N3yixuINn0L7iAMBnzWJs%3D&reserved=0)**, which parents/children can download from our website.**

**We would like to invite** c**hildren/parents to access the Gwent Police links below which has the official posters that may be downloaded along with an activity pack for the children to print and complete if they so wish.**

[https://www.gwent.police.uk/en/newsroom/operations-campaigns/halloween-and-bonfire-night-2020/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gwent.police.uk%2Fen%2Fnewsroom%2Foperations-campaigns%2Fhalloween-and-bonfire-night-2020%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cf5179411b4514818c0ac08d8759f5ed1%7C2c4d0079c52c4bb3b3cad8eaf1b6b7d5%7C0%7C0%7C637388674633615201%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CqeiT4qgEz5Whvpo8Cvy5rifJCMha7sqvX4dvwcLoX4%3D&reserved=0)

[https://www.gwent.police.uk/en/newsroom/resources-for-children/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gwent.police.uk%2Fen%2Fnewsroom%2Fresources-for-children%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cf5179411b4514818c0ac08d8759f5ed1%7C2c4d0079c52c4bb3b3cad8eaf1b6b7d5%7C0%7C0%7C637388674633625157%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Y08ZJlCxrEslDwouexheER36KeFwMD90aN5hwDDjYPU%3D&reserved=0)

[**www.schoolbeat.org**](http://www.schoolbeat.org) **is another valuable police website where activities for Year 4 & 5 pupils and information for parents, regarding Anti-social behaviour and stranger danger can be found.**

**Important changes to NHS Services in Gwent**

**Please see below important information from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, who provide NHS healthcare services to our families.**

**When the new Grange University Hospital, in Cwmbran, opens on 17th November 2020, the way you access urgent healthcare will change – it is vitally important that you understand these changes for you and your family.**

**Please visit our website for full information about these changes**

**(**[**https://abuhb.nhs.wales/.../clinical-futures-caring-for.../**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fabuhb.nhs.wales%2F...%2Fclinical-futures-caring-for...%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C3acc5ade7c814b9f3dfb08d875a5089c%7C2c4d0079c52c4bb3b3cad8eaf1b6b7d5%7C0%7C0%7C637388698950940589%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=yTO4N%2ByIc7SaLVZBxGeyQHm4ZoGDcXkroH%2FxJlYTXU4%3D&reserved=0)**).**

**A dedicated information leaflet on children and maternity services can be found at** [**https://abuhb.nhs.wales/files/clinical-futures/clinical-futures-information-leaflets/children-and-maternity-layout-1-pdf/**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fabuhb.nhs.wales%2Ffiles%2Fclinical-futures%2Fclinical-futures-information-leaflets%2Fchildren-and-maternity-layout-1-pdf%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C3acc5ade7c814b9f3dfb08d875a5089c%7C2c4d0079c52c4bb3b3cad8eaf1b6b7d5%7C0%7C0%7C637388698950945567%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=rW5I143oaDGAsYhN7n%2Fui5apLWen9kS6a%2BgWr0RNbX8%3D&reserved=0)

**Please also look out for a printed A5 booklet which will be posted to your home in the coming weeks.**

C**ommunity Support Officers visit**

**Community Support Officers (CSOs) 332 Back & 340 Davis attended the school last week with regards to concerns about dangerous parking during peak school times.**

**CSOs felt that the visit was successful. Many parents observed the parking requirements in the immediate area which had a positive impact on the safety of the children who attend the school. We ask that this positivity continues so that both children and residents remain safe.**

**Parents and children also actively engaged with us and provided a positive image of the school and wider community – we are looking forward to working with the school more when circumstances allow.**

**Please continue park safely and courteously – diolch yn fawr!**

**CSO 332 Back & CSO340 Davis**

**Emergency Contact Numbers**

**Please update the school office if you have changed your mobile number or if any of your child’s emergency contact numbers have changed. This is highly important should we need to contact you in the event of an emergency, or your child becomes ill in school.**

**Pupil Absence**

**If your child is absent from school, please would parents/carers ensure they telephone the school office on 01495 742934 by 9.30am to advise us of the reason for the absence. Please leave a message on the answerphone if you are unable to speak to a member of the office staff.**

**Internet Safety**

**As our home learning tasks will be shared with you online this year, we ask parents to be vigilant about how their children are using our online platforms such as Hwb Classes and Teams etc. Please ensure that work that is being uploaded to these platforms is checked to ensure it is appropriate. We ask that pupils and parents follow the terms of our acceptable use agreements which can be found on the school website** [**http://www.garntegprimary.co.uk/garnteg-e-safety-documents/**](http://www.garntegprimary.co.uk/garnteg-e-safety-documents/)

**Free online safety courses for parents are available from the National Online Safety website:**

**Ages 4-7 -** [**https://nationalonlinesafety.com/courses/online-safety-klass-for-parents-and-carers-ages-4-7**](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/courses/online-safety-klass-for-parents-and-carers-ages-4-7)

**Ages 7-11 -** [**https://nationalonlinesafety.com/courses/online-safety-klass-for-parents-and-carers-ages-7-11**](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/courses/online-safety-klass-for-parents-and-carers-ages-7-11)

**There are also many free guides available for parents/carers relating to online safety, including Top 10 Tips to Keep Your Child Safe Online**

[**https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/what-parents-need-to-know-about-online-content-10-tips-to-keep-your-children-safe-online**](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/what-parents-need-to-know-about-online-content-10-tips-to-keep-your-children-safe-online)

**More guides can be found here** [**https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides**](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides)

**If parents/pupils are experiencing problems accessing Hwb or Class Dojos can you please contact the school so we can support you with this.**

**Healthy snacks**

**We would like to remind parents and pupils that we are a healthy school and therefore, will be monitoring snacks that children bring in. Please refrain from giving your child large quantities of unhealthy food such as chocolate, biscuits and crisps. Fruit, vegetable bags, healthy cereal bars and low-sugar yoghurts are acceptable.**

**We would also like to remind parents and pupils about the importance of not sharing food in school, especially during these times where hygiene is paramount. Diolch yn fawr.**

**School Lunch menu**

**The school lunch menu can be downloaded from the following website. If you click on the daily meals you will see many responses stating why our School Council 2019-20 enjoyed those meals.**

[**https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/EducationLearning/SchoolsColleges/Schoolcatering/School-Menus.aspx**](https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/EducationLearning/SchoolsColleges/Schoolcatering/School-Menus.aspx)

**Our School Council also feature in the LACA catering magazine pages 13-16, representing Torfaen, well done to our School Council!**

[**https://secure.viewer.zmags.com/publication/d049e5af#/d049e5af/14**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure.viewer.zmags.com%2Fpublication%2Fd049e5af%23%2Fd049e5af%2F14&data=02%7C01%7CChristine.Jones%40torfaen.gov.uk%7C8ae72492808e4dcbb06308d854d241b6%7C2c4d0079c52c4bb3b3cad8eaf1b6b7d5%7C0%7C0%7C637352609299912376&sdata=wg7G1GfHIpy7ID18y7JVStP%2Fe4kfR%2BMU1N5y8LHlGzQ%3D&reserved=0)

**Useful links for parents in identifying symptoms of Covid**

[**https://www.facebook.com/educationwales/videos/394609874843267/**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Feducationwales%2Fvideos%2F394609874843267%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cf4c9bd0c447b40e0d09b08d85bb14076%7C2c4d0079c52c4bb3b3cad8eaf1b6b7d5%7C0%7C0%7C637360164125534058&sdata=JtmYx64lfsDKi6Eluar5oRnPsb8rlgDJRY7lBlz79pM%3D&reserved=0)

**Torfaen CBC information for parents**

[**https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/AboutTheCouncil/HomepageStories/Coronavirus/Education/Return-to-School-FAQs.aspx**](https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/AboutTheCouncil/HomepageStories/Coronavirus/Education/Return-to-School-FAQs.aspx)

**Collection at the gates at the end of day - no early arrivals please**

* Can we remind parents that we cannot release children to parents waiting in cars as there is a lot of movement on the roundabout and children’s safety is paramount.
* Also parents/carers need to ensure that when they can see their children with their teacher(s), they need to move forward into the coned square in front of the gates for staff to release the pupils. We cannot allow pupils to meet parents on the road/roundabout outside the school.
* **Once pupils have been dropped off/collected, can we ask parents to immediately move away from the gates/coned area so that other parents can drop off/collect their children safely.**

**Nursery-**  Da iawn Meithrin for your hard work this half term. You are all settling well into daily routines and forming new friendships. Please continue to tag me in pictures on Twitter so I can see what you get up to over the break. Diolch yn fawr for all your efforts with home learning. Enjoy your half term, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

**Dosbarth 1 & 2 -** Da iawn Reception for such a fantastic first half term. We have been so pleased with how you have all settled into Dosbarth Un and Dau and we look forward to continuing our topic, ‘Seasons Come, Seasons Go’ when you return. For your home learning this week, please choose another challenge from our home learning web which is available on class dojo and our twitter page and let us know how you get on! We have been so impressed with your home learning so far and love hearing about your adventures. Have a lovely half term and see you all soon!

**Dosbarth 3 & 4 –** A huge bendigedig to all children in Dosbarth 3 & 4 for their fantastic hard work this half term. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into our topic ‘On the Move,’ and can’t wait to see you again after half term to carry on with our learning. You have all climbed to sparkle! A big thank you to parents who have continued to support us, we really appreciate it. Stay safe and enjoy the break.

**Dosbarth 5 & 6** - A massive ffantastig to all of the children in Dosbarth 5 and 6 for their continued hard work this half term. We have all thoroughly enjoyed our topic ‘explorers of the outdoors’ and have loved going to the forest school area and completing lots of outdoor activities. A great big thanks goes to all parents/carers who have supported us with homework logs, there will be a new set of homework activities after half term, and a specific half term set of activities for the children to have a go at. Have a lovely restful half term, stay safe all.

**Dosbarth 7 & 8**

Da iawn Blwydden 3 for a successful half term. It has been a brilliant start to the school year! We have been so busy and you’ve all completed amazing work! We will set spellings, Big Maths and a piece of Remembrance art work for the half term break. Dojo point will be given. Have a wonderful break!

**Dosbarth 9 & 10**

A huge well done to all the children in Year 4. It has been a fantastic start to the school year. We have had a very busy few weeks and the children have been amazing. They have all really engaged in class and are thoroughly enjoying our topic ‘Fly me to the Moon’. We hope you all have a lovely half term, stay safe and everyone in Year is looking forward to more super work next half term!

**Dosbarth 11 & 12**

Da iawn to all children in Dosbarth 11 and 12 for an excellent start to the term! You have all worked super hard and are thoroughly enjoying our topic ‘Kaleidoscope’. We have been so impressed by the homework uploaded to Hwb Classes and J2E so far this term and look forward to seeing what you create in the next half of the term! A big diolch yn fawr to all the parents and carers that have continued to support us, we really appreciate all you do. We hope you all have a lovely half term break, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

**Dosbarth 13 & 14**

Congratulations for a wonderful first half term. We really hope you enjoy your break. Please take a look at the two competitions posted on dojo and hwb classes, these would be a fantastic thing to do over the next week. Reminder that P.E will be on the first Monday back so kits will be essential as we will be training for a virtual sports hall athletics competition. You may also wish to bring hats and gloves as we will be outside. Again have a restful break and stay safe!

**Kind regards,**

Mrs S E Roche & all the staff at Garnteg