

GARNTEG PRIMARY



GARNTEG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hillcrest Garndiffaith Pontypool Torfaen NP4 7SJ

01495 742934

head.garntegprimary@torfaen.gov.uk

www.garntegprimary.co.uk



Lythys - Newsletter - 11th December 2020

This half term our value is: Co-operation

Important Dates for your diary

Change of Notice - Important Dates

School closes for pupils Wednesday 16.12.20

Blended learning 17th & 18th December

INSET DAY 4th January

School starts back 5.1.21

The Draw for our special raffle will be on Monday 14th December - good luck everyone!

Dear Parent/Carer,
Annwyl Rhieni

What a wonderful week we have had at Garnteg. Pupils have enjoyed a fabulous Christmas dinner, sparkling class parties and special visitors delivering presents to classes.

Blended Learning Announcement - Friday 11th December

Statement from Cllr Richard Clark, Torfaen Council's Executive Member for Education

Following Welsh Government's announcement and based on the latest advice from the Chief Medical Officer, secondary schools in Torfaen will move to blended learning for the final week of term as part of a national effort to reduce coronavirus transmissions.

Primary schools will continue teaching in school until Wednesday with blended learning taking place only on Thursday and Friday, the last two days of term.

This is not an early Christmas holiday and we would encourage all parents and pupils to reduce contact with anyone outside their home. Act now, so you don't invite Coronavirus into your home this Christmas.

Admission to Reception Class - September 2021

For parents/carers not applying online - Paper copies must be returned to school with birth certificated and Council Tax Statement to verify date of birth and home address

Late Arrivals

Please ensure pupils arrive before 9.30am, we are sorry, but we are unable to accept pupils into school after the gates close.

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.

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

Christmas Activities at Garnteg

As a school we would like to say a big thankyou to our school canteen staff and **Torfaen Catering** for another super Christmas dinner and for arranging the party food boxes for all our pupils. Both were a huge success with the pupils and staff.

We would also like to say a big thankyou to **Greenmeadow Golf Club Cwmbran** for arranging for our special visitors to help deliver pupils' Christmas presents yesterday.

Christmas Videos for Parents / Guardians

Classes are preparing festive videos to share with you in replacement of Christmas concerts this year. These will be shared with parents on Wednesday 16th via YouTube links on Class Dojos and Twitter.

Carols Under the Arch (online)

Children will be receiving a Christmas pack from Noddfa Church and Victory Church today, a big request not to open them until the carol service online on Sunday 20th December at 7:00. Pastor John has included the link below for pupils, staff and parents to view.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sBai6XXc74&feature=youtu.be>

Due to Covid restrictions, this year Carols Under the Arch led by Noddfa Church and Victory Church Blaenavon will take place on line on Sunday 20th December at 7:00. The service will also include contributions from pupils at Garnteg, with pupils playing instruments and solo singing. We will update you with the link to the service very soon.

Collecting pupils at end of the day

Can we remind parents/carers that when they are collecting pupils from the main gates at the end of the day they need to stand inside the cones. Staff will not be able to release pupils to parents/carers stood on the roundabout or waiting in cars. This is paramount for the safety of all our pupils and parents. We appreciate your support with this.

Important New Guidance from Welsh Government on the use of face coverings in schools

Dear Parents,

Wearing of face coverings (primary)

The Welsh Government has updated its guidance on the use of face coverings in schools.

To reduce the risk of transmission amongst parents and relatives, please wear masks when visiting school, and at drop-off and collection areas. Maintaining clear social distance at the school gates will also reduce risk and set a good example to pupils.

If you have a secondary school aged child, be aware that face coverings should now be worn by year 7 and above pupils in all areas outside the classroom and be worn on dedicated school transport for year 7 and up.

Please follow these guidelines and encourage your child to follow theirs too.

Along with regular hand washing/sanitising and social distancing, this will reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 at school as far as possible.

They have been made stronger to keep you and your families as safe as possible. They are based on new advice from Welsh Government's Technical Advisory Group, as we learn more about the way COVID-19 is transmitted.

Thank you for your help in doing all we can - together - to keep ourselves and others safe.

Important updates Garnteg Covid response

Please can parents/carers check for updates and letters which have been sent this week on Class Dojos and pupils' Hwb accounts.

There are also updates and letters to parents on our school website this week:

<http://www.garntegprimary.co.uk/>

Useful links for parents in identifying symptoms of Covid

<https://www.facebook.com/educationwales/videos/394609874843267/>

Torfaen CBC information for parents

<https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/AboutTheCouncil/HomepageStories/Coronavirus/Education/Return-to-School-FAQs.aspx>

Communities for Work

The Communities for Work and Communities for Work Plus projects are here to support you back into employment through access to and support with job opportunities, training, interview and CV support and breaking down barriers such as transport or childcare.

For more information, like our page on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @cfwplustorfaen or contact 01495 742131 or 01633 648312. Visit our website: www.cfwplustorfaen.co.uk

Please Support the Welsh Blood Service



Please help the Welsh Blood Service by donating blood if you can

The link to the Torfaen page on our website is <https://wbs.wales/YCCwmbbran> No walk-in slots are available, all donors will need to book an appointment. Only 3% of the population in Wales donate blood, so new donors are always needed.

We so appreciate your help!

Meic Helpline



Home - Meic

Welcome to Meic. Meic is the helpline service for children and young people up to the age of 25 in Wales. From finding out what's going on in your local area to help dealing with a tricky situation, Meic will listen even when no-one else will.

www.meiccymru.org

My Name is Dean Flowers I am the Engagement Support Officer at ProMo- Cymru.

This is a Project funded by Welsh Government for Children and Young People in Wales.

At ProMo-Cymru we run the Meic Helpline, Meic is the National Information, advice and advocacy helpline for Children and Young People aged 0-Up to and including the Age of 25,

<https://www.meiccymru.org/>

BookSlam / Darllen Dros Gymru Reading Challenge

BookSlam / Darllen Dros Gymru are well-established annual reading competitions aimed at the primary school sector in Wales and co-ordinated by us, with the support of a network of regional co-ordinators, local authority library services and Education Department officers.

The main aim of the challenge is to promote reading for pleasure in Welsh and English and to encourage children to discuss books and stories, thus raising levels of literacy. Feedback received from past participants clearly shows that the BookSlam / Darllen Dros Gymru:

- contributes to developing positive long-term attitudes towards reading
- supports the development of emotional literacy
- aligns with the requirements of the Welsh-language Charter and the new Curriculum for Wales

Here's a short video to explain: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QNJ9zAlo3M&list=PL-zsya-jaQxtcHNJhoSOULpysuMHrKysd>

Pupil of the week - in class

Foundation Phase		Key Stage 2	
Class	Pupil of the Week	Class	Pupil of the Week
Nursery - Miss Hudspeth	Xander &Leia	Class 7 - Mrs Lewis	Caden
Class 1 - Mrs Ngwenya	Shania	Class 8 - Miss Paske	Zac
Class 2 - Mr Key	Jacob G	Class 9 - Mrs Rogers	Florence
Class 3 - Miss Bones	Harrison	Class 10 - Mrs Messore	Louis
Class 4 - Miss Brooks	Brooklyn	Class 11 - Miss Grimmas	Charlie
Class 5 - Mrs Lee	Faye	Class 12 - Miss Williams	Harley
Class 6 - Miss Carroll	Archie	Class 13 - Mrs Parker-Evans	Chloe
		Class 14 - Mr Phillips	Darcy

Nursery- Diolch yn fawr Meithrin for another fantastic week! We love seeing your home learning tasks and getting your grown-ups involved with cooking in the kitchen. Please continue to upload your pictures and videos to your J2e folders. If you have lost passwords for Hwb or Class Dojo or just need support to access the resources please just let us know. Have a lovely weekend

Dosbarth 1 & 2 - Wow! What a busy week of Christmas activities we have had! We have loved celebrating with you at our Christmas party, Christmas dinner and even creating our own Christmas video! You have all been super busy making your lovely crafts, cards and calendars and we are very proud of you for your hard work. This week we have sent home another copy of your Class Dojo and HWB login information, if anyone has any problems please let us know. We would also like to say a huge diolch yn fawr for the lovely home learning we have been receiving this week, well done everyone! Have a lovely weekend!

Dosbarth 3 & 4 - Another amazing week in Dosbarth 3 & 4, we have been busy with our Christmas party, creating our Christmas crafts and our Christmas video that we can't wait to share with you next week. If you are having any problems accessing Dojo or Hwb, then please let us know. A big thank you for all of your home learning photos, we love seeing them and the children have been awarded Dojos. Have a lovely weekend.

Dosbarth 5 & 6 - What a brilliant week we have had, our lovely Christmas Dinner, our Christmas party and our Polar Express Activity. Thank you everyone and well done! Have a lovely weekend.

Dosbarth 7 & 8 -

Diolch yn fawr to our amazing children in Blwydden 3. We have had another brilliant week of getting tasks completed, Christmas parties and have been busy little elves getting all our Christmas crafts completed. Thank you once again for all your photos and emails of your child's work. We love to see what they are doing at home too. Please could you let us know if you are having trouble accessing HWB or Class Dojo, so we can send log in details home with the children to help you access the tasks online. Thanks once again. Have a wonderful weekend.

Dosbarth 9 & 10 - Another fantastic week in Blywydden 4. We have been getting into the spirit of Christmas with our crafts-you have produced some super creative work. Thank you to parents and guardians for uploading the children's work on class dojo and HWB. All children are looking forward to sharing with you the Christmas concert that they have produced with you. Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Dosbarth 11 & 12 -

Wow what a fantastic week in Dosbarth 11 & 12! We have really enjoyed our Christmas parties and were so impressed by the dancing and participation of all involved. Our classes have been very busy completing Christmas craft this week and are looking forward to sharing our Christmas video 'Dosbarth 12's Christmas Extravaganza' with you! Please could you let us know if you are having trouble accessing HWB or Class Dojo, so we can send log in details home with the children to help you access the tasks online. Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Dosbarth 13 & 14

Thank you for all your hard work with our blended learning this week. You have done so well! You should all have received your packs this week with your activities and presents in. Mr Phillips class will be having an online party on Monday morning. Mrs Parker-Evans class we hope you enjoyed your online party this week. Relax now and enjoy the weekend. We look forward to working with you online again next week. Diolch yn fawr!

Kind regards,

Mrs S E Roche & all the staff at Garnteg Primary School