

GARNTeg PRIMARY



GARNTeg PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hillcrest Garndiffaith Pontypool Torfaen NP4 7SJ

01495 742934

Garntegschool.office@torfaen.gov.uk

www.garntegprimary.co.uk



Newsletter - 7th January 2022

This half term our value is: Understanding

Cylchlythyr - 17th December 2021

Yr hanner tymor hwn ein gwerth yw:Deall

Important Dates for your diary

Additional Jubilee Day - 29th April 2022

Inset day - 27th May 2022

Inset days - 21st and 22nd July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,
Annwyl Rhieni/Sy'n ofalwyr

Happy, Healthy New Year everyone, we hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break. It has been fabulous welcoming the children back and starting our new exciting topics in class this week.

LFT Tests for pupils

Here is a link to order LFT tests online for pupils if you are unable to access any through the local pharmacy. <https://gov.wales> Get our App: edsp.co/app. If you are still unable to receive an LFT test for your child, Primary schools have a very small supply available for emergency testing. Further supplies of tests will be available from schools during the next week.

Message to parents from Torfaen Education Service

Dear parents and carers

Happy New Year - I hope you and your families are well and you had an enjoyable Christmas.

Over the Christmas period, there have been a number of Welsh Government decisions which will impact all schools in Wales and your child's headteacher will be in touch to explain how they will affect you.

Some changes will affect all pupils and I thought it might be helpful to set these out ahead of the return to school.

Testing

There will be far greater use of lateral flow tests (LFT) this term. Secondary aged pupils and all school staff will now be asked to test every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If they have a positive LFT result they will be required to book a PCR and isolate.

If your child is identified as a close contact of a positive case, they will be required to do a LFT every day for 7 days. If the result of the daily test is negative, they should continue to attend school.

If you are a parent of a primary aged pupil, you can obtain LFT tests online by visiting <https://gov.wales/get-rapid-lateral-flow-covid-19-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms> or from participating local pharmacies, a list of which can be found in the link. If you are unable to do this, primary schools have a very small supply available for emergency testing.

Staff Shortages

The impact of Omicron has meant there are increasing numbers of staff in businesses and public services across Wales that are required to isolate after contracting the virus. Over the Christmas period this has been impacting the Health Service and many parts of the economy. Before Christmas

we were able to keep almost all of our schools open to all learners consistently, but we must now face the possibility that some classes, or year groups may have to close over the coming weeks.

Headteachers are assessing the situation in their own schools but, as you can imagine, the situation on positive cases changes on a daily basis. Our school staff have been spending the first two days back in school planning on how they can maintain face to face learning in school whenever possible. The council and head teachers are also keen to keep breakfast clubs and planned after school activities in place too.

One challenge facing headteachers is the time they have to make decisions following the result of a positive test from staff. This may result in you receiving really short notice that your child cannot attend school that day. We appreciate this can be very difficult and we ask your patience and understanding through this very disruptive period while the virus spreads extensively.

Schools are considering changing the start and finish times of school to allow more time in the morning to contact parents should learners need to stay at home. Your school will contact you as early as physically possible if they need to make such a change so it will be vital to check for messages from the school.

Free School Meals

The intention is that the school catering service will continue to operate as normal through this period. Systems are in place to ensure children who cannot attend school because they have Covid will receive a direct payment as per previous arrangements. Although we aim to maintain catering services in school, it is possible we may also experience staff shortages in these teams and if this happens we will again aim to provide notice and make direct payments to the families affected.

Testing and Tracing

Anyone with a positive test result should follow the isolation rules set out at gov.wales/self-isolation. As you're aware, there has been a huge rise in case numbers over the last few weeks and the Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) service is very busy at present. You may be contacted by text message and asked to complete a form online. This online form gathers data about who your child has seen and where they have been during their infectious period. Unfortunately this is a standard form so will ask a series of questions which do not naturally fit your child's circumstances. For the questions on the form listed below - we would be grateful if you provide the following information:

- Are they employed? Please answer YES
- What is their employment status? Please select STUDENT
- What is their main place of employment? Please add your child's SCHOOL.

This information is very important as it helps advise the school of a positive case quickly and helps provide advice to contacts identified by you and your child. If this information is missing, there will be significant delays in us providing advice to the correct peoples so your cooperation would be gratefully appreciated.

Please be assured that we will do our very best to minimise disruption to learners and to you throughout this period.

Yours sincerely

Dermot McChrystal

Chief Officer, Education & Lead Director for Children and Young People

Risk Assessment Covid 19

A copy of our current Covid 19 Risk Assessment is available on our website under the information zone tab.

Election of Parent Governor

We are looking to appoint a Parent Governor to our Governing Body, if you would like to apply, please contact school by Friday 14th January and we will send you the relevant form to complete.

Help with Fuel Costs

The Welsh Government have recently announced a one-off payment of £100 to help families towards the fuel cost they have to pay.

The scheme is open to households where one member is in receipt of certain welfare benefits. They must have been claiming these benefits at any time between 1 December 2021 and 31 January 2022.

The benefits are

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Working Tax Credits
- Either you or your partner must also be responsible for paying the energy bills for the property.
- Only one payment per household can be paid.

To receive the payment an application form must be completed online by following the link below

https://iweb.itouchvision.com/portal/fp=customer:category_link:::::CUID,LANG:DOFFE45602CC1C02631CE05433A140C1A8C014E1,EN&P_LANG=en

If they do not have access to the internet, then it can be completed over the phone by calling our Customer Care team on 01459 766570 or 01495 766430 but we are urging people to apply online due to the amount of applications we anticipate receiving.

Applications open on 13th December 2021. All applications must be received before the 18 February 2022. Payments for successful applications will be made from January through to end of March 2022.

We have already received a few applications so if parents have already applied on-line they do not need to reapply

Please note that the parents do not need to be in receipt of Free School Meals to qualify for this payment just one of the benefits listed above for the period in question.

Gwent Music

Gwent Music sessions for Guitar and will re-commence and Brass sessions will also take place on Thursday 13th January for pupils registered. If your child receives this provision, please remind them to bring in their instruments into school on Wednesday ready for their sessions on Thursday.

Happen Survey

In January pupils in years 4,5 and 6 will be asked to complete a short survey on their health and well-being as part of our primary school health network - HAPPEN (www.happen-wales.co.uk). They will be asked questions such as how active they are, how well they can concentrate, what activities they would like to try in school and how happy they are in school and with their friends. The results will be used to ensure that our pupils are healthy, happy, confident individuals.

<https://happen-wales.co.uk/information-sheet/>

Information about this survey can be found in the links above. If you **do not** wish your child to take part in the survey, please complete the form and return it as indicated within the information sheet.

We look forward to hearing your children's views.

Pupil of the week in classes

Foundation Phase		Key Stage 2	
Class	Pupil of the Week	Class	Pupil of the Week
Nursery - Mrs Attewell	All of our rising 3's for settling in so well.	Class 7 - Miss Williams	Charlie
Class 1 - Mrs Ngwenya	Mason	Class 8 - Miss Bones	Eli
Class 2 - Miss Brooks	Lewis	Class 9 - Mrs Lewis	Jacob
Class 3 - Mr Key	Jacob C	Class 10 - Miss Paske	Sophia
Class 4 - Miss Brown	Jake W and Tomos P	Class 11 - Mrs Rogers	Logan, Florence
Class 5 - Mrs Lee	Leo T	Class 12 - Mrs Messori	Mali
Class 6 - Miss Carroll	Aniyah	Class 13 - Mrs Parker-Evans	Libbie
		Class 14 - Mr Phillips	Chelsea

Nursery – We have had a wonderful two days back in Nursery. Our rising threes have settled in really well and made lots of new friends. We are so excited to start our new topic and can't wait for lots of fun! Don't forget to keep an eye out on twitter and class dojo for updates and pictures. Have a lovely weekend! 😊

Dosbarth 1 & 2 – Welcome back Dosbarth un and dau! We have missed seeing you every day and are so excited that you're back in school with us again. We have been really busy already talking about new topic ideas and each class has come up with their own topic name. If we could ask for recycling to be brought in that would be really helpful. We hope you've had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a very happy new year.

Dosbarth 3 & 4 – Welcome back Dosbarth 3+4 and Happy New Year! What a lovely first couple of days we have had, exploring our ideas around our new topic 'Around the World in 62 Days'. The children have been thinking carefully about questions that they would like to explore this term in our learning. We will continue to post updates on our class dojo and twitter pages and our PE days will continue to be on a Wednesday each week. Have a lovely weekend!

Dosbarth 5 & 6 – What a wonderful first few days we have had together learning all about our new topic "Recycling is my Superpower!" Keep an eye on our twitter and class dojo for updates and to see what we have been up to. Just a reminder that PE is on Monday for class 6 and Thursday for class 5. Have a lovely weekend 😊

Dosbarth 7 & 8 – Welcome back Dosbarth 7 & 8, we have made a fantastic start to the term. We have enjoyed exploring ideas for our new topic 'Guardians of the Globe,' and setting ourselves new targets for the year. We will continue to update you through Twitter and Class Dojo, so be sure to check for updates regularly. PE days are Monday and Thursday for Dosbarth 8 and Monday and Friday for Dosbarth 7. We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Dosbarth 9 & 10 – Da iawn Blwydden Pedwar for a brilliant start to our new term. We have loved starting our new topic, 'We've got the write to grow.' Just a reminder to have a look on Twitter and Class Dojo for events, reminders and announcements. A reminder that children are invited to wear PE kits on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Have a lovely weekend and keep safe. Diolch 😊

Dosbarth 11 & 12 – Well done Dosbarth 11 and 12 for a super start to our new term. You have enjoyed starting our new topic. Just a reminder to continue using my maths, bug club and J2blast to practise your skills. Also children are invited to wear p.e kits Mondays and Fridays (class 12) and Wednesdays and Fridays (Class 11). Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Dosbarth 13 & 14 –

Lovely to see you all back in school after the Christmas break. We have enjoyed planning our new topic and are looking forward to starting our work next week. Reminder that PE will still be on a Wednesday and Friday this half-term. Welcome back, enjoy your weekend and see you all in the classroom on Monday.

Mrs Roche & all the staff at Garnteg Primary School

