



GARNTEG PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hillcrest Garndiffaith Pontypool Torfaen NP4
7SJ
01495 742934

Garntegschool.office@torfaen.gov.uk
www.garntegprimary.co.uk



Newsletter - 19th December 2025

Value for this half term is



Gwerth yr hanner tymor Croeso Yn Ôl

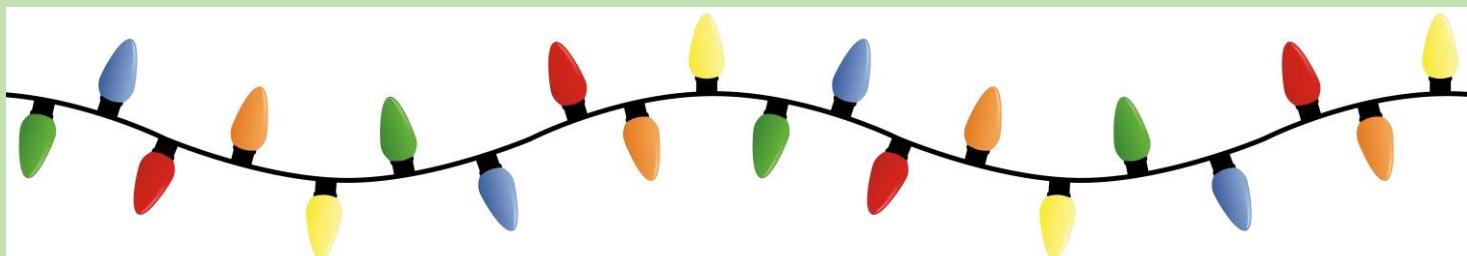
INSET DAYS

Friday 13th March 2026 - Cluster Inset Day

Friday 17th July 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Thank you all for the fabulous support you have given Garnteg this year. On behalf of the pupils, staff and Governors we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2025. Nadolig Llawen!



Carols Under The Arch 2025

Our pupils have been working closely with Noddfa Church making items to sell at Carols Under the Arch on Sunday 21st December 2025 at 7:00pm, pupils will also be singing. This is a wonderful carol service which unites the whole community. We hope to see you there!



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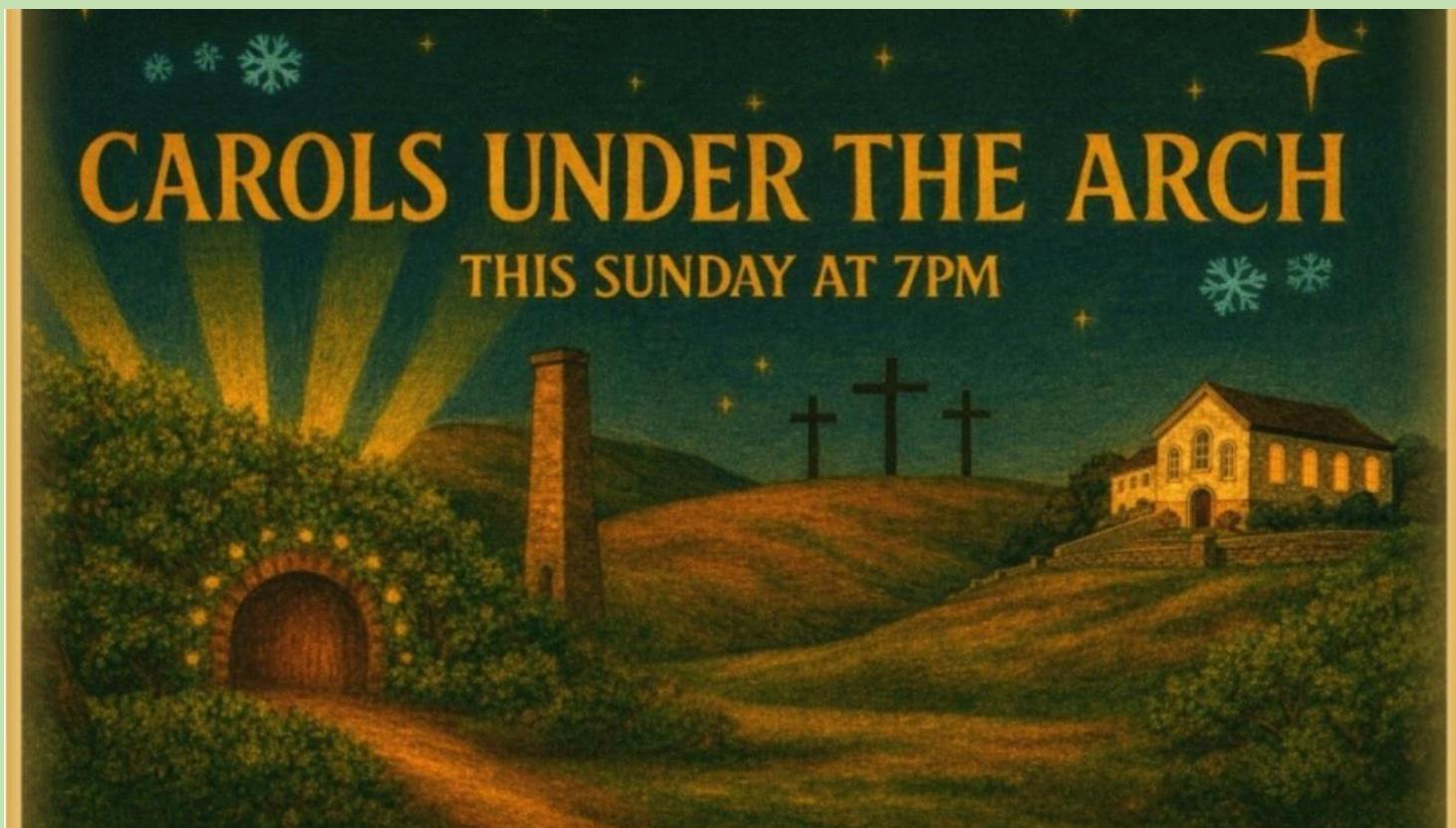
Sunday 21 December 2025 at 19:00 GMT

Carols Under the Arch 2025

Church Road,, NP47 EF

Carols Under The Arch 2025

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Term Dates - 2024/2025 Academic Year

Term	Term Begins	Half Term Begins	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Monday 01.09.25	Monday 27.10.25	Friday 31.10.25	Friday 19.12.25
Spring	Monday 05.01.26	Monday 16.02.26	Friday 20.02.26	Friday 27.03.26
Summer	Monday 13.04.26	Monday 25.05.26	Friday 29.05.26	Monday 20.07.26

Attendance Winners *

Da iawn to our amazing attendance winners who had 100% attendance for the Autumn Term! 56 of them each received a certificate and a prize for their amazing efforts this term. Pupils with most improved attendance for Autumn term also received certificates and a prize. Congratulations to you all! Keep up your hard work and resilience, we are so proud of you all! #NotInMissOut

Attendance in school time

A reminder of the importance of good attendance as we begin the Spring term.

Everyday counts!

If pupils arrive at 9:00 and after, please can all parents & carers take them to the school office so they can be taken to the classrooms from the school reception.

Please contact the school office as soon as possible from 8.20am to inform of your child's absence. The office phonelines can be extremely busy, please use the absence line 1 and leave a message with your child's name, class and reason absence.

The Welsh Government recommends that family holidays are taken outside school terms as this counts as a school absence even if it is authorised or un-authorised and this effects pupils' attendance.

Torfaen guidance and Welsh Government state that all learners should have attendance between 100% and 95% anything below will be monitored by the school and the Local Authority Education Welfare officer.

You must make a formal request to the Headteacher to take children on holiday during the school term this will then consider the reasons for the holiday, the pupil's past attendance, and the effects the absence will have on the pupil's learning.

If the request is declined, it will be classed as unauthorised, and you may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

#NotInMissOut

School Messaging and Communication

Important message for parents and carers:

From January 2026 the school will be refining its general electronic and messaging systems during the school day due to the volume of electronic messages received by class teachers during teaching time with their class and outside of school hours the direct DO JO messaging to teacher function will therefore no longer be available from the new year January 2026. All other functions will still be available. This will be replaced with a new extension line number for urgent messages into the office in school line and Staff members on each lower and upper school gates in the morning to take any urgent messages. Any other correspondence remains the same and we ask that any appointment for contact will always be through the main office or with staff at drop off and pick up times when staff are available.

To assist both yourselves and the school communication team we ask that you complete the short data form informing us of the regular contacts that may pick up your child on a regular basis this will aim to cut down the amount of messages during the school day informing pick up times. The information will be added to the pupil contact sheet for your child. This will enable the teachers and office to identify key parents and home time adults etc quickly. Thank you in advance for completing the form and sending it back to us.

Christmas Raffle

Da Iawn to all the winners chosen in the raffle, we hope you enjoy your prizes. A huge thank you to everyone who supported our school with purchasing tickets and for the wonderful donations we received. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Diolch yn fawr!

Guess the Sweets Competition

Thank you for entering our Nursery guess the sweets competition during our Christmas Market. The winner was Hunter in Nursery who was the closest to the total of 255!

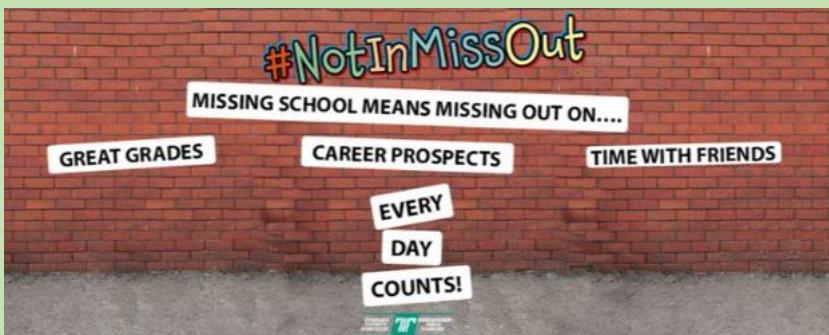
Wellbeing Training Sessions

We are looking to hold some wellbeing training sessions in school during the Spring Term. We would like to know which sessions you are most interested in attending. Please see the below link to a short survey.

Wellbeing Training Sessions Survey

Online Safety Tips





Attendance Winners 08th - 12th December 2025

Congratulations to Nursery Mrs Rogers who were foundation phase attendance winners for last week with 72.73% and Dosbarth 7 Mr Phillips in KS2 with 92.41%

WELL DONE! DA IAWN!

This week's attendance figures are

Year	% overall	Class	Percentage	Year	% overall	Class	Percentage
Nursery	83.93	0	83.93	3 / 4	87.69	5	84.29
Reception	71.86	1	71.86			6	90
		2	68.93	4	90	7	92.41
1	75.71					8	86.90
1 / 2	73.91	3	83.93	5 / 6	88.50	9	89.67
		4	71.88			10	90.67
				5 / 6	89.48	11	88.62

Class	Target by end of year	Current percentage to date
3	95	91.36
4	95	90.97
5	95	92.19
6	95	92.12
7	95	94.78
8	95	88.95
9	95	93.05
10	95	93.05
11	95	92.29

Meithrin – Wow what a fantastic term you have had in nursery. You have learnt so many new skills and friends. It has been an absolute pleasure for us to get to know you. We would like to thank the parents and carers for the support that you have given us throughout the term and you playing such an active part in the children's learning. Just a reminder that snack is £1.00 a week. All that is left to say is that we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Dosbarth 1 – Our Reception class has worked incredibly hard this term, showing fantastic progress and enthusiasm in everything, we do. We have all grown so much in confidence, taking on new challenges with big smiles and positive attitudes. It's been wonderful to see everyone becoming more independent—whether it's putting on our own coats, writing our names, or exploring new learning activities. We are so proud of how far we've come and how much we've achieved together this term! We wish you a lovely Christmas and New Year. 

Dosbarth 2 – Dosbarth dau, you have climbed to sparkle this term. You have challenged your independence, worked to develop your writing skills and expanded your math's skills. We have enjoyed our first term as a year one class and look forward to seeing you after the Christmas break. Diolch yn fawr to families for your support, please continue to support your children to return their reading books and homework challenges throughout the Spring term. Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year. 

Dosbarth 3 - Da iawn dosbarth tri for a wonderful Autumn term! 😊 We have enjoyed our topic, 'Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn' and have learnt many new skills. We have made new friends and settled well into our classroom. We are excited to see what our new term will bring. Diolch to families for your continued support. We wish you a lovely Christmas and New Year. 🎄

Dosbarth 4 - WOW!! What a fantastic term we have had! You have really shown maturity this term and have settled into year two perfectly. We are so proud of your efforts so far and your Christmas concert made you shine like the stars you are! Thank you for your continued support parents/guardian. Have a wonderful Christmas with your families and we will see you in the new year!

Dosbarth 5 & 6 - Diolch yn fawr for another wonderful week, and the end of a fantastic Autumn Term. This week we have enjoyed writing our own Christmas stories, our class parties and solving Christmas maths problems! Have a wonderful break, a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year! We will see you back on 5th January for our new topic 'The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music'.

Dosbarth 7 - What a wonderful term we have had in Dosbarth 7. Well done on being the attendance winners for the term in KS2 and for being top of the living tracker for the last 3 months! Enjoy your holiday. We will soon be preparing for our class assembly in January and starting our new topic, The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music. Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Dosbarth 8 - What a wonderful term we have had in Dosbarth 8! The children have all worked so hard and have already made great progress, we are so proud of all of them! We are looking forward to our new topic for the Spring term - Myths and Marvel. Thank you for your continued support and we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year! 😊

Dosbarth 9 - What a fantastic term we've had, we are so proud of all your efforts. A reminder that swimming will commence the first week back, have a wonderful Christmas.

Dosbarth 10 - A big well done to the whole class for working so hard in our topic United in Difference. You have made Mrs Cox and I very proud. We wish you a magical Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dosbarth 11 - A huge well done to the class for such a wonderful first term in year six. You have worked so incredibly hard and made us extremely proud. We cannot wait to start our new topic -Myths and marvel, I know you are keen to start researching. Have a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in 2026. 😊

Community Notices

CAKE AND COMPANY

On Christmas Day

Join us on Christmas Day in a warm, welcoming space to relax, chat, and enjoy a slice (or two!) of something sweet with a cuppa.

Victoria Village Hall, Cwmavon Road, Abersychan, NP4 8PU

Christmas Day 3pm-5pm

Funded by UK Government www.torfaentalkscic.org.uk/cake

TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH  AWDDESEF SIROL TORFAEN

PRE-SCHOOL CARE & EDUCATION
GOFAL AC
ADDYSG TRWY'R IAITH CYMRAEG

ALL DAY CHILDCARE 9-3, WHICH CAN INCLUDE.....
GOFAL PLANT DRWY'R DYDD 9-3, YN CYNNWYS.....

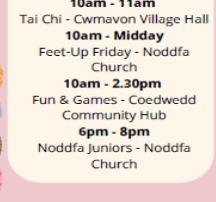
CHILDREN FROM 2 YEARS OLD
FREE 12.5hrs AVAILABLE ON THE FLYING START SCHEME
PLANT O 2 OED 12.5awr LLEFYDD AM DDIM TRWY DDECHRAU'N DEG

CHILDREN FROM 3 YEARS OLD
COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM LOCAL NURSERIES SERVICE
YOU CAN USE WITH THE 30 hour CHILDCARE OFFER WALES
PLANT O 3 OED - GWAISANETH CASGLU PLANT O FEITHRIN BRYN ONNEN NEU
CWMFFRWDOER, GALLWCH DDEFNYDDIO GYDA CHYNNIG GOFAL 30awr
PLANT CYMRU

PLUS EARLY BIRD START AT 8.30
AND LUNCH CLUB
ADDITIONAL CHARGES APPLY

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PHONE 01495 773302

● WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN ● GARNDIFFAITH AND ABERSYCHAN

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
10 am - 11am Yoga - Cwmafon Village Hall Baby & Me - Millennium Hall 10 am - Midday Drawing & Talking - Coedwedd Community Hub 12.30 - 2.30pm Open art session - Coedwedd Community Hub 1pm - 3pm Wellbeing Through Stitch - Cwmafon Village Hall	10 am - 11am Couch to 5km - Coedwedd Community Hub 10 am - Midday Coffee Morning - Trinity Methodist Church 10.30am - 11am Tai Chi Talywain OAP Hall 11.30am - 12.30pm Body Weight Exercise Class - Millennium Hall Midday - 2pm Lunch club - Talywain Rugby Club 2.30pm - 4.30pm Pensioners Club - Victoria Village Hall	10 am - 11am Tai Chi - Millennium Hall 10am - 2.30pm Men's shed - Coedwedd Community Hub 2pm - 4pm Prize Bingo - Victoria Village Hall Cwmafon & Blaenavon Crafters - Cwmafon Village Hall 6pm - 8pm Noddfa Teens - Noddfa Church 8pm - 10pm Old Time Modern Dancing - Millennium Hall
THURSDAY		
10am - 11.30am Shelite (gentle exercise class) - Millennium Hall 10am Start Wellbeing Walk - Coedwedd Community Hub 10am - Midday Art for Everyone - Cwmafon Village Hall 12.30pm - 2.30pm Little Feet (parent and baby group) - Noddfa Church 1.30pm - 3.30pm Knifty Knitters - Millennium Hall		
		

The Millennium Hall are running 3 warm hubs on a weekly basis for the next few months.

Monday: 11am - 2pm will be just a warm hub (free refreshments and somewhere to go and have a chat)

Wednesday: 1pm - 4pm will be a film club (free to attend)

Saturday: 11am - 2pm will be a family film club (free to attend)

Victoria Village Hall:

Thursday: Cake and Company 11am - 1pm (free refreshments)

Coedwedd Community Hub

Coedwedd Community Hub offer sessions in our local community for adults, including DIY, Chat and Snack and Craft and Relax. Please visit their website to find out more.

[Coedwedd Community Hub | Home | Stanley Road, Gardiffaith, Abersychan, Pontypool](http://CoedweddCommunityHub.co.uk)





theatre
ADHOC
presents

ROBIN HOOD

BLAENAVON'S MERRIEST PANTOMIME

DIRECTED BY HEATHER JACKSON
WRITTEN BY LYNDON HOUSE
PRODUCED BY ANDREW PIPPEN

Blaenavon Workmen's Hall

BOOK YOUR TICKETS AT
theatreadhoc.co.uk

PERFORMANCE DATES 2025

Friday 12th December | 7PM
Saturday 13th December | 2PM & 7PM
Sunday 14th December | 2PM

TICKETS FROM

Adult £12
Concessions £8
Group of Four £32

Design by Jason Bradfield

GARNSYCHAN PARTNERSHIP
Putting your ideas into action
CHARITY NO. 1147232

Pantry will be OPEN
Thursday 20th November
10am at
Garnsychan Partnership
Community Resource Centre
NOW BASED AT CIRCULATE FURNITURE RECYCLING
Join us every Thursday and fill your basket
with 12 items from a selection of:

- Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
- A variety of household cupboard staples
- Herbs & Spice Refills
- Fridge & Freezer items
also available!

NEW
Delivery service NOW
available for the Abersychan & Gwendraeth Ward

- £7 Collection
- £10 Delivery

Find us at:
Unit 14, Gilchrist Thomas Industrial Est.
Blaenavon NP4 9RL
01495 774453



CHRISTMAS STAY & PLAY!

Come along and join us for a magical festive Stay & Play session!

THERE ARE LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE, SO BE SURE TO BOOK EARLY TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!

20TH DECEMBER
12PM – 2PM
GARNDIFFAITH MILLENNIUM HALL

£10 PER CHILD | ADULTS GO FREE

Book with Kings Castles on Facebook

Featuring:

Santa himself, handing out selection boxes to every child
Christmas arts & crafts
Snowman & reindeer mascots
Festive music
Bouncy castle, soft play, ride-ons, games & more!

Let's make it a Christmas to remember!



Primary
Talks in Torfaen for
Parents & Caregivers
Autumn 2025

A series of talks are available for parents & caregivers of children who are nursery or primary school age (1-10 years old) in Torfaen.

Talks are targeted towards **ALL parents** - to help you best support your child's development & emotional well-being.

Talks will take place online using **Microsoft Teams** and are delivered by **NHS Psychologists**.

Monday 10th November
9:30 - 10:30am
Supporting your child's emotional wellbeing

Monday 17th November
9:30 - 10:30am
Supporting your child's development

Monday 24th November
9:30 - 10:30am
Supporting your child to have a positive relationship with screens & devices

Monday 1st December
9:30 - 10:30am
Supporting your child to have a positive experience of going to school (and prevent 'school avoidance')

If you would like to book on to these talks please **click on the link below or scan the QR code**

<https://forms.office.com/e/6MQAq9AMnn>



Torfaen Family Information Service

Free and impartial advice for parents and carers

Torfaen Family Information Service
Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deulwedd

Providing information and support on a wide range of topics, such as **childcare, education, health, money and fun activities** for families with **children and young people aged 0-25**.

We can help you explore:

- Childcare options; Flying Start, Childcare Offer and nursery education
- Welsh medium education
- Activities, clubs and family fun
- Careers in childcare

TorfaenFIS.org.uk FIS@torfaen.gov.uk 0800 0196 330
Facebook: @TorfaenFIS for all the latest news and updates

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Torfaen County Borough Council (4084)



Coffee Morning

Thursdays
10 AM -
Midday

Trinity Methodist Church

Looking for a friendly space to connect, chat, and unwind?
Come along to our local coffee morning in Abersychan — a relaxed and welcoming gathering where neighbours become friends over a hot brew and a biscuit or two.
Trinity Methodist Church, High Street, Abersychan, NP4 7AB



TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GARNSYCHAN PARTNERSHIP

'Free'
Couch to 5k Programme

A relaxed beginners running programme.
Meeting at Garsychan Partnership, 55 Stanley Road, Garndiffaith, NP4 6LH
Every Tuesday at 10am

What will this offer me?

- ✓ Improves physical health with a gradual approach
- ✓ Connect with people on a similar journey
- ✓ Learn strength and mobility exercises that can support your running journey

When & where will this be?

-Meeting at Garsychan Partnership
-Every Tuesday morning at 10am
-Refreshments provided post session at Garsychan Partnership premises

Overview

The couch to 5k is a guided NHS programme that supports someone who wishes to build up towards running 5km. This programme is intended for beginners, easing them into running over 9 weeks. This coached group programme will tailor advice to each person's ability. Including further guidance on strengthening exercises to prevent injury and improve overall fitness.

To register your interest please contact Aled using the contact information below.

 07908 215952  aled.walker@torfaen.gov.uk

**INTRODUCTION
TO BECOMING A
SWIMMING INSTRUCTOR**

WANT TO MAKE A SPLASH IN YOUR CAREER?
TRY TORFAEN WORKS' NO COST TASTER SESSIONS.

**No previous
experience needed**

Halo Leisure Torfaen are looking to recruit and train Swim instructors.
Could you be the next?

If you are confident with basic swimming techniques, over 16, and a
Torfaen resident this taster course could be for you.

What's on offer

- Swim Wales Safeguarding training
- Customer Service training
- 5 taster sessions to explore the role
- Experience a real swimming lesson
- Funding available to complete the L2 Instructors training
- Guaranteed Interview with Halo

Contact us for more information and to check your eligibility

01633 647 743
employability@torfaen.gov.uk

TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH **HALO**

Kindest Regards,
Have a wonderful Christmas and new Year , Stay safe and
enjoy all festive activities look forward to seeing you all in the
New Year . Nadolig Llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda !

Mrs Roche & all the staff at Garnteg Primary School

