



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

[Garntegschool.office@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:Garntegschool.office@torfaen.gov.uk)  
[www.garntegprimary.co.uk](http://www.garntegprimary.co.uk)



Newsletter - 09<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Cylchlythyr - 09th Ionawr

Value for this half term is



Gwerth yr hanner tymor  
Croeso Yn Ôl

INSET DAYS

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Cluster Inset Day

Friday 17th July 2026  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

## Term Dates - 2025/2026 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

## Tesco Stronger Starts



Please can we ask you to support Garnteg Primary when visiting Tesco's Pontypool by adding blue tokens to our slot in the Stronger Starts box which is in front of the self-service check out. We are hoping to get lots of new outdoor and cooking resources for our pupils with the money we receive. Once again, thank you for your support.

## School Messaging and Communication

### Thank you to all parents and carers

We have had a good response to the messaging books at the gates in the mornings this has allowed quick and easy ways to pass on messages to classes.

Please remember parents will need to ensure with their child in the morning the gate pick up. The school can no longer take messages in the afternoon with a change of gate if this happens, parents will be responsible for walking to the correct gate pick up and your child will stay with the teacher until you collect.

### Important message for parents and carers:

We are in the process of updating our information on the school website to assist you all with making our information more accessible.

For example, all class handbooks and school prospectus can now be found on the class pages and main policy sections.

In the forthcoming weeks we will be sharing some information on new policies that have been written with you we would be grateful if you could give us your feedback on these as we publish them.

Class DOJO will still be used to upload other information on a weekly basis, but we hope this will give parents and carers another quick and easy channel to download documents and anything you should require.

The link to the website can be found below;

[Home | Garnteg Primary School](#)

The link to the school prospectus and policies and documents can be found below;

[School Prospectus | Garnteg Primary School](#)

[School Policies & Documents | Garnteg Primary School](#)

The link to the attendance policy can also be found below;

[Attendance Policy 2025-26](#)

### 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 for their registration mark and lunch choice. Late arrivals reminder this can affect your child's attendance as late after 9.30 will count as a half day absence.

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 of 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.

#NotInMissOut

### Citizens Advice Torfaen

👉 Community Support in School! 📱

Citizens Advice will be available in the school hall on Tuesday 20th January from 2-4pm. Their family advice project is here to provide support, answers, and guidance.

We hope to see you there; refreshments will be available! 🍪 ☕



**Brighter Futures  
Together  
South Wales**

Citizens Advice Torfaen provide confidential and impartial advice on a range of areas including:

- Debt
- Benefits
- Housing
- Employment
- Family

Working in partnership with local schools, we are pleased to deliver a family advice project which sets out an aim to tackle child poverty through delivery of advice and support to parents/guardians at schools across the county.

You can meet with our dedicated advisor at Garnteg Primary School on the following dates:

20/01/2026 02pm-04pm  
17/03/2026 02pm-04pm  
21/04/2026 02pm-04pm  
19/05/2026 02pm-04pm  
16/06/2026 02pm-04pm

Alternatively if you can't make it, give us a call:  
01633 973570  
WhatsApp  
07562685212

  citizens advice Torfaen

## 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

## Free Tuition at Noddfa Church

**FREE TUITION**  
**GET AHEAD**

Key Stage 2-4

MONDAYS 4-6PM

A drink and a snack when you arrive

LEARNING MADE FUN

Interactive sessions to help make learning fun. Games and Quizzes that will help you in every subject across the curriculum

HOMEWORK HELP

Come with questions and we can help you to answer them for yourself.

QUALIFIED TEACHERS

Volunteers from Noddfa Church with experience in teaching are giving up their time to offer free tuition.

[www.NoddfaChurch.com](http://www.NoddfaChurch.com)  
(Homeschoolers welcome)

## Talk to your children about Water Safety!

Flooding and ice in winter can be dangerous for children. Keep your children safe and talk to them about water safety.



### STAY AWAY FROM THE EDGE

- Keep back from slippery banks.
- Never walk or play on ice.
- Stick to well-lit areas and plan your walks during daylight.
- Avoid walking or driving through floodwater.



### KEEP CHILDREN AND PETS CLOSE

- Teach children to stay off the ice and avoid floodwater.
- Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.



### IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

- Keep calm and call for help.
- Float on your back until you feel calm, then try to climb out.
- If you cannot climb out, continue to float and keep your head clear of the water.



### IF YOU SEE SOMEONE IN TROUBLE – CALL 999

- Do not enter cold water, ice, or flood water to rescue someone.
- Assist from a safe distance. Use rescue equipment, something that floats or something that could help such as a rope or tree branch.



**ENJOY THE WINTER SAFELY!**



### FLOOD SAFETY UPDATES

Sign up for flood warnings on the  
[Natural Resources Wales website](#)

[naturalresources.wales/flooding/  
sign-up-to-receive-flood-warnings](http://naturalresources.wales/flooding/sign-up-to-receive-flood-warnings)

Stay informed about  
weather conditions  
and flood warnings.



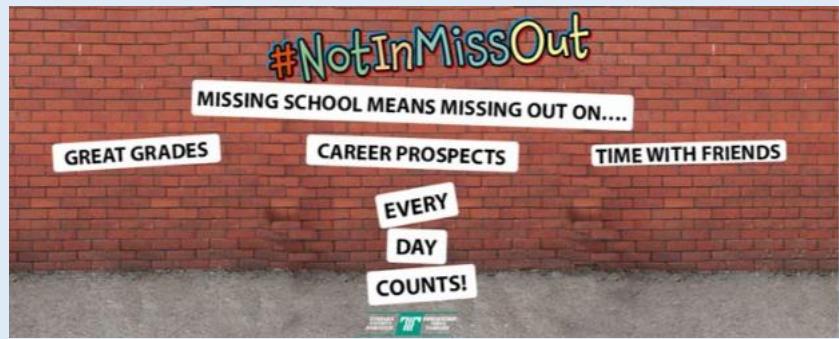


### Attendance Winners 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Congratulations to Nursery Mrs Rogers & Miss Bones/Mrs Attewell who were both foundation phase attendance winners for the last week of term with 83.93% 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	84.58	0	84.58	3 / 4	93.91	5	95.98
Reception	91.04	1	91.04			6	94.17
		2	93.30	4	96.88	7	96.55
1	93.30						
1 / 2	94.57	3	94.20	5 / 6	90.16	8	96.55
		4	94.92			9	90.73
				5 / 6	93.97	10	96.67
						11	94.40

Class	Target by end of year	Current percentage to date
3	95	91.51
4	95	91.17
5	95	92.38
6	95	92.22
7	95	94.87
8	95	88.80
9	95	92.93
10	95	93.24
11	95	92.40

### Seren Yr Wythnos

Foundation Phase		Key Stage 2	
Class	Seren Yr Wythnos	Class	Seren Yr Wythnos
Nursery - Mrs Rogers	AM- Raven-J PM-Amelia	Dosbarth 5 - Mr Key	Joey
Dosbarth 1 - Mrs Lewis	Finley	Dosbarth 6 - Miss Williams	Gracie
Dosbarth 2 - Miss Dalton	Noah	Dosbarth 7 - Mr Phillips	Amalie
Dosbarth 3 - Miss Bones / Mrs Attewell	Ava-Rose	Dosbarth 8 - Mrs Ngwenya	Easton
Dosbarth 4 - Miss Brooks	Darcie M	Dosbarth 9 - Mrs Emanuel	Chianne
		Dosbarth 10 - Mrs Lee	Presley
		Dosbarth 11 - Mrs Parker-Evans	Esmee

Meithrin – Wythnos Wych pawb! It has been lovely to hear about your Christmas break and the wonderful things you did with your families. The children have settled well back into the routines of nursery and were excited to meet the new children who joined us. We can't wait to learn about Wales in our new topic 'Cymru Wych!' Just a quick reminder that snack is £1.00 per week and ensure that all clothing has your child's name clearly written on. Have a lovely weekend.

Dosbarth 1 – Our Reception class has settled beautifully into our new topic, *Cymru Wych!* It's been wonderful to see how much everyone has grown in confidence and independence since the start of the year. The children have loved sharing their holiday adventures with their friends and teachers—there's been so much enthusiasm and fantastic storytelling! We're all very excited to explore more about our local area and Wales and what makes it such a special place. Have a lovely weekend, and don't forget to keep up to date with the latest news and reminders on our weekly newsletter.

**Dosbarth 2** - Dosbarth Dau have had a first week back to school. We have begun to explore our new topic 'Dragons Roar and Children Soar'. We have thought of our questions and look forward to delving deeper into our topic. We are beginning to explore the tale of The Red Dragon, acting our key parts and talking about the characters in the tale. What a wonderful start to our literacy work. In Mathematics, we have collected our own data asking the question 'Beth wyt ti'n hoffi?' to find out which season is our favourite in Welsh. Have a wonderful weekend 😊

**Dosbarth 3** - Da iawn Dosbarth 3, what an excellent first week back. We have been so excited to learn about our new topic 'Dragon's roar, Children soar!' This week, we have been exploring our new myths and legends stories, acting out different scenes and talking about the characters. We have also been collecting data on how we travel to school and recording results in different ways.

Gwaith da! Have a lovely weekend 😊

**Dosbarth 4** - Bendegedig Dosbarth 4! What fantastic first week back to school. We have been very excited to look at our Welsh myths that include castles and dragons ready for our school trip on the 29<sup>th</sup> January. We have also been able to use how we come to school this week and create our very own data charts to show the most popular method of transport. Have a lovely weekend.

**Dosbarth 5** - Da iawn for a fantastic first week back! We are so excited to continue our learning in our new topic 'The hills are alive with the sound of music'. New home learning logs have been sent out for home learning tasks this term. Please can you check you have your home learning logs if these have not been returned to school this week. Have a lovely weekend!

**Dosbarth 6** - Da iawn everyone for a fantastic first week back. We are so excited to learn more about our new topic 'The hills are alive with the sound of music'. You have given some fantastic ideas this week and we are looking forward to exploring the topic further. New home learning logs have been sent out for home learning tasks this term. Please can you check you have your home learning logs if these have not been returned to school this week. Have a lovely weekend!

**Dosbarth 7** - We are very excited in Dosbarth 7 as we have started to plan our class assembly this week. We have been learning songs and writing our script and can't wait to perform to you on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Our topic this term is 'The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music' and the new learning log will be sent out on Friday. Have a lovely weekend...

**Dosbarth 8** - Happy New Year to everyone! A fantastic first week back this week in Dosbarth 8. We have explored our new topic 'Myths & Marvel' and shared ideas for things we would like to learn this term. If you have any unwanted superhero books we would be very grateful to have them for our classroom 😊 have a wonderful weekend!

**Dosbarth 9** - Blwyddyn newydd Da - Happy new year! We have had a fantastic first week back and the children are loving starting our new topic "Myths and Marvel". Just a reminder that Year 6 are still swimming until half term and then Year 5 will be taking over. More information will be sent out regarding swimming closer to the time. Have a wonderful weekend all.

**Dosbarth 10** - Happy new year everyone! We have had a fantastic first week back and the children are loving starting our new topic "Myths and Marvel". Just a reminder that Year 6 are still swimming until half term and then Year 5 will be taking over. More information will be sent out regarding swimming closer to the time. Have a wonderful weekend all.

**Dosbarth 11** - A very happy new year to you all, what a wonderful start we've had to 2026. You have been completely immersed in our new topic 'Myths & Marvel' and worked enthusiastically. Please remember your swimming kits next week, we only have a few weeks left. All children have brought home new learning log challenges this weekend, we look forward to seeing the wonderful work you produce.

## Community Notices

### ● WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN ● GARNDIFFAITH AND ABERSYCHAN

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>10 am - 11am</b> Yoga - Cwmavon Village Hall <b>Baby &amp; Me - Millennium Hall</b> <b>10 am - Midday</b> Drawing & Talking - Coedwedd Community Hub <b>12.30 - 2.30pm</b> Open art session - Coedwedd Community Hub <b>1pm - 3pm</b> Wellbeing Through Stitch - Cwmavon Village Hall	<b>10 am - 11am</b> Couch to 5km - Coedwedd Community Hub <b>10 am - Midday</b> Coffee Morning - Trinity Methodist Church <b>10.30am - 11am</b> Tai Chi Talywain OAP Hall <b>11.30am - 12.30pm</b> Body Weight Exercise Class - Millennium Hall <b>Midday - 2pm</b> Lunch club - Talywain Rugby Club <b>2.30pm - 4.30pm</b> Pensioners Club - Victoria Village Hall	<b>10 am - 11am</b> Tai Chi - Millennium Hall <b>10am - 2.30pm</b> Men's shed - Coedwedd Community Hub <b>2pm - 4pm</b> Prize Bingo - Victoria Village Hall <b>Cwmavon &amp; Blaenavon Crafters - Cwmavon Village Hall</b> <b>6pm - 8pm</b> Noddfa Teens - Noddfa Church <b>8pm - 10pm</b> Old Time Modern Dancing - Millennium Hall	<b>10am - 11.30am</b> Shelite (gentle exercise class) - Millennium Hall <b>10am Start</b> Wellbeing Walk - Coedwedd Community Hub <b>10am - Midday</b> Art for Everyone - Cwmavon Village Hall <b>12.30pm - 2.30pm</b> Little Feet (parent and baby group) - Noddfa Church <b>1.30pm - 3.30pm</b> Knifty Knitters - Millennium Hall	<b>9.30 - 10.30am</b> Pop in & Play (family with pre-school children) - Millennium Hall <b>10am - 11am</b> Tai Chi - Cwmavon Village Hall <b>10am - Midday</b> Feet-Up Friday - Noddfa Church <b>10am - 2.30pm</b> Fun & Games - Coedwedd Community Hub <b>6pm - 8pm</b> Noddfa Juniors - Noddfa Church



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://Coedwedd Community Hub | Home | Stanley Road, Gardiffaith, Abersychan, Pontypool)



**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, Garsydfal, NP4 6LH  
Every Tuesday at 10am

**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.

**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

07908 215952    aled.walker@torfaen.gov.uk

**TorfaenWORKS**  
Torfaen yn GWEITH  
Uwydraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**£0 COST**

**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.

**Whats 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

**halo**

Kindest Regards,

Mrs Roche & all the staff at Garnteg Primary School