Reception Class Handbook

Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch

A warm welcome to the Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch family. We are confident that your child's time at our school will be a happy and memorable one.

First school experiences are incredibly important and valuable. Our aim in the Reception Class is to create a happy, welcoming and relaxed environment where all children enjoy valuable experiences while feeling safe.

We hope this handbook benefits you and answers many of your questions, and we look forward to working closely with you as a family.

Welcome

RECEPTION CLASS STAFF

TEACHER: MRS EVANS
TEACHING ASSISTANT: MRS HUGHES

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Starting in the Reception Class

Starting in the Reception Class is a day to remember and treasure, and a big step for many children. We try to make it as easy and as happy as possible for everyone.

Before the children start, there is a meeting for parents. Children are also welcome to come to visit the class, and meet the staff who will be teaching them. Children start school on different days in September to ensure the groups are small enough for staff to pay plenty of attention to them and help them settle in and become familiar with new faces.

Some may become upset when they say goodbye to you, but they will become familiar with the new routine fairly quickly. We understand that it is very difficult for you as parents to leave your children if they are not happy but children settle down much earlier after you leave, and they also need to get used to being in class without you. The staff do everything possible to settle all of the children. We look forward to establishing a close partnership with you as a family.

School Hours: 9:00 - 3:15

It is important that you come to school and pick up your child from the Reception Class on time, and let us know if someone different comes to collect. We will not allow your child to go home with anyone unfamiliar. Bring your child to the cloakroom door in the morning, which is next to the Nursery door. When you collect at the end of the day, we ask that you wait outside the fire exit of the classroom which is located on the school playground. We will safely transfer the children back to the parents / guardian, one by one. Access to the playground is via the large gate on the left side of the school.

A Typical Day in the Reception Class

Immersion in the Welsh Language

In the Reception Class, the children are immersed in the Welsh language. This means that only Welsh is used in the Class with and around the children. All provision is delivered through the medium of Welsh.

8:50 - Doors Open

9:00 - Registration and Singing Session

9:10 - Focus Tasks and Continuous Provision

10:00 - Play Time

10:20 - Milk and Snack Time

10:30 - Focus Tasks and Continuous Provision

11:45 - Lunchtime

12:45 - Registration and Mindfulness Activities

1:00 - Focus Tasks and Continuous Provision

2:00 - Play Time

2:15 - Reading Activities

2:45 - Singing / Storytime / Chats

3:15 - The End of the School Day

Preparing your Child

YOU CAN HELP BY ENCOURAGING YOUR CHILD TO…

- go to the toilet independently, wash and dry their hands. (It is very important that children understand the importance of washing hands well!)
- taking care of his/her belongings e.g. identifying their coat and putting it on a hook.
- dressing independently e.g. coat, t-shirt, sweater, cardigan, socks and shoes.
- identify his/her name so they can identify a coat hook.
- tidying up and taking responsibility of toys (they will be expected to do so at school).
- to eat independently e.g using a cup, knife and fork.
- to be polite, friendly and sociable– this will help them make friends and settle down.

You can also read books and watch Welsh language programmes with your child as often as possible

Clothing!

Learning through play is an integral part of a child's development. At school, we provide the children with an interesting and practical education making the best possible use of our surroundings in their learning.

Children enjoy and discover for themselves when the work is practical. While we will try our best to cover their uniform with an apron, it is inevitable that sometimes your child will come home with paint, glue or dirt on it.

- Please make sure your child's name is on each item of clothing. Unfortunately clothes will still get lost and mixed up, but with names on them it's much easier for us to try and find missing items of clothing.

- Dress your children in weather-friendly clothing. It's the clothing, not the weather that's unsuitable! We will try to get out in all weathers – rain, wind, sun, snow. Children are welcome to wear their wellies or sun hat to school.

School Uniform!

Uniforms can be ordered at YC Sports in Canton.

Physical Education

Children participate in P.E lessons on one day a week – we ask them to come to school on that day in their kit already. You will find out which day in September. We ask children to wear tracksuits/shorts and their house colour t-shirt. Any t-shirt will be fine until we share your child's house with you.

Spare Clothing

Accidents sometimes happen, don't worry! We will deal with them sensitively. We would appreciate it if you could send a bag of spare clothes with your child's name on it to the school please. The bag will stay on your child's hook.

Lots of Fun!

Drinks and Snacks

We kindly ask that you provide a healthy snack for your child each day. If you are providing grapes, please remember to cut them in half. We will provide each child with a small bottle of milk for free. We also ask all children to bring a bottle of water clearly labelled with their name.

It is important that you tell us if your child is allergies of any kind!

LUNCHTIME

All children in Reception have the right to receive free school lunches. Lunch must be ordered through Parentpay and you will be given details to sign-in in September.

Sickness and Absences

If your child is absent please call the school to report as soon as possible. While we stress the importance of good attendance, it is best to keep your child at home if they are unwell. We don't want them to pass on illnesses to other children or to staff!
We will endeavour to contact you if your child is ill at school.

MEDICATIONS

If the children need medication such as an Asthma pump during school hours you will need to complete a consent form and ensure your child's name is on the medication. We cannot give the children antibiotic or similar medicines during the day. You will be asked to call at the school to administer them or we would be grateful if you would try to time medication doses around school hours.

Communication

A close working relationship between school and home is extremely important and you can help your child in a variety of ways. The best method to support your child is to praise his/her efforts.

If you have any concerns about your child, please feel free to arrange a meeting with school staff at any time during the year.

Autumn Term: Parents' Evening to discuss how your child is settling in.
Spring Term: Open evening - an opportunity for your child to show you his/her work and class.
Summer Term: An opportunity for you to make a Parents' Evening appointment to discuss the written report.

DOJO

We use an app called Class Dojo to communicate with you and share photos of the children's work. Any important information or messages will be sent to you through Dojo, and you can also contact the teachers in the same way. You will receive an e-mail so you can log into your child's class Dojo in September. You'll also receive the Headteacher's weekly newsletter through the app.

Aims and Objectives

"The objective of under-five education is to produce happy, confident and inquisitive children who are interested in life and passionate about all challenges."

We try to do this by creating a safe and inviting environment; valuing the efforts of children; and introducing differentiated, inclusive and practical activities that encourage independence.

PROGRESSION STEP 1

Reception children usually work at Progresion Step 1 of the Curriculum for Wales. Children are taught through hands-on activities under the direction of the adult, through experiences, and ideas initiated by the children. Play is important for children to develop skills such as perseverance, observing, focusing and social skills among other things. We regularly assess the children's development and plan activities as a result.

Languages, Literacy and Communication

Children are encouraged to communicate through speaking, listening, writing, reading, creative play and role play. Children are encouraged to use Welsh through all activities during the day.

How you can help:

If you are worried about how to help, you're welcome to talk to your child's teacher! If your child takes an interest in writing remember to call the letters by their phonetic sound and you will get information on letter formation from the class teacher. There are suitable programmes for the children on S4C every day. Give them praise for making an effort. Be a positive role model of why learning is necessary, for example show that you are one who enjoys reading, and that reading and writing have a purpose.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Children are given a range of practical experiences to promote their mathematical knowledge, skills and concepts in areas such as shape, space, pattern, weight, measures, number and money.

How you can help:
You can highlight everyday mathematical concepts, for example numbers on doors, counting when walking, money at the shop. You can count socks in the washing basket or highlight shapes around the place!

Humanities

Children learn about the world around them e.g. people who help us, nature, history and geography; using diverse sources of information; the concept of time; the seasons, food and they learn about diverse cultures.

How you can help:

Highlight the world around them so that opportunities arise day by day. Please discuss simply if possible.

Health and Wellbeing

We try to develop the children into individuals who can create relationships with others. They will have the opportunity to do this through play and other activities as individuals, pairs, groups and as a whole class. We encourage them to communicate with others and to be confident, independent and responsible. They will also develop fine (e.g. using a pencil), and gross (e.g. jumping) skills through a variety of activities.

How you can help:
Talk positively with your child about friends, activities etc. Encourage them to be independent and responsible e.g. to tidy up toys, dress themselves and share. Children can develop fine motor skills by using a pencil, paint brush, dough, cutting with scissors, closing buttons or bottles. They can develop gross motor skills by throwing, catching or kicking a ball, jumping, riding a bike and climbing.

Expressive Arts

In this area of learning, children make drawings and crafts choosing a variety of materials and appreciating the work of others. They enjoy music by singing, listening to music and playing a simple instrument.

How you can help:
Give your children opportunities to experiment with a variety of materials e.g. pencils, crayons, collage material, scissors and glue. Encourage your child to sing, listen to a variety of music and to play a simple instrument. Give them opportunities to play imaginary for example with a doll, and dress up clothes.

Science and Technology

This area of learning draws on the disciplines of biology, chemistry, computer science, design and technology, and physics to deepen learners' knowledge and understanding of the world.

How you can help:
Curiosity about science and technology encourages us to ask questions about the world around us. Take a walk and talk about the world around us to arouse curiosity. Give them plenty of opportunities to play, build and experiment with toys.

Questions!

What are the benefits to my child of being bilingual?

- Research shows that children who speak more than one language can think more creatively and flexibly.
- There are economic benefits to being bilingual, especially when looking for a job in Wales.
- Speaking another language opens doors to a variety of different opportunities and activities.
- It offers the opportunity to experience a different culture and two worlds of experience.
- It can help people feel part of Wales and increase their feeling of belonging.
- Two languages = twice the choice and twice the opportunities.

Is Welsh a difficult language to learn?

- No! With support any child can learn Welsh.

Do children mix between the two languages?

- In the beginning some children will use a mixture of both languages but will soon be able to distinguish between the two languages. They answer in the language the person speaking to them uses.
- Research shows that the ability to speak more than one language improves children's ability to learn and use languages in general.
- Recent results also suggest that children receiving bilingual education can do better in subjects across the curriculum including English.

If one parent speaks Welsh, how can they help?

- This is a common situation in Wales. It is important that the parent who can speak Welsh speaks Welsh with the child as much as possible. It is also important that you show a positive attitude towards the language. Show that you enjoy speaking Welsh and your child will too!

How will the parent who cannot speak Welsh feel and how can they help?

- Most children love to explain what is said in Welsh!
- It's important that they support the child and take an interest.
- It can be helpful for your child to discuss in English what they have learned in Welsh.

I like to read with my child, do you have to read in Welsh?

- No, it's reading with them that matters. Once your child has learned to read they will use the same skills to read in both Welsh and English.

Apiau addas i'r Cyfnod Sylfaen / Suitable apps for the Foundation Phase.

Tric a Chlic	Llyfrau Magi Ann	Cyfri gyda Cyw	Cyw a'r Wyddor	Daisy the Dino
Alun yr Arth	Beebot	Celf gyda Sam	Puppet Pals	Apiau arall Cyw
Llythrennau (Big Clic)	Rhifedd (Big Clic)	Dilynwch ni ar Drydar Follow us on Twitter @SiarterIaithPC		

We look forward to meeting you and making fond memories with your child.