

Berriew Community Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Aberriw



School Prospectus

2014 - 2015

Llawlyfr Ysgol

"All staff work together successfully to create a welcoming, well-ordered, inclusive learning environment where pupils feel valued, respected and ready to learn"

Estyn Inspection Report (February 2014)

Berriew Community Primary School

Address	Berriew C.P. School BERRIEW Welshpool Powys SY21 8BA
Telephone	01686 640312
e-mail:	office@berriew.powys.sch.uk
website:	www.berriew.powys.sch.uk
Headteacher	Mr Sean Clarke
Chair of Governors	Mr P. Wilson
Vice-Chair	Mrs K. Carter
Correspondent	Mrs S.Hughes

**L.E.A – Powys**

Schools Service
Powys County Hall
LLANDRINDOD WELLS
Powys
LD1 5LG

Telephone: 01597 826000
Email: education@powys.gov.uk

Head of Schools

Mr Ian Roberts based at County Hall, Llandrindod Wells

Area Education Office

The Area Education Office
The Old College Site
Station Road
Newtown
SY16 1BE

Telephone: 01686 626395

Accuracy of information – The information in this booklet relates to the academic year 2014 to 2015 and is correct at the time of printing. It is possible that changes may be made before the start of, or during the school year, or in relation to subsequent years.

Contents

- 4 Welcome to Berriew School**
- 5 Governors and Staff**
- 7 Aims of the School**
- 8 General Information:**
 - 8 Admission Arrangements
 - 8 The School Day
 - 9 Class Organisation
 - 9 School Uniform and PE Kits
 - 9 Illness and Absence
 - 10 Transport
 - 10 Lunchtimes and Break times
 - 11 Transfer to Secondary School
- 12 The Curriculum:**
 - 12 Introduction
 - 12 The Early Years
 - 12 English
 - 13 Mathematics
 - 13 Science
 - 13 Information and Communications Technology
 - 13 History, Geography and Religious Education
 - 14 The Arts – Music, Art, Drama, Dance
 - 14 Design and Technology
 - 14 Physical Education
 - 14 Welsh
 - 15 Personal, Social and Health Education
 - 15 Special Educational Needs
 - 16 Extra Curricular Activities and Clubs
 - 16 Charging and Remissions for School Activities
 - 16 Complaints Procedure
- 18 Home and School:**
 - 17 Contacting School
 - 17 General and Medical Records
 - 17 Parents Evenings and Written Reporting
 - 18 Communication with Parents
 - 18 Homework
 - 19 Parental Involvement in School
 - 19 Breakfast Club
 - 19 Parent Teachers Association
- 20 And Finally...**
- 21 Appendix (loose sheets – updated)**
 - National Curriculum Results and Comparative Data (Key Stages 1 and 2)
 - Attendance Data
 - Calendar of Dates for Current School Year
 - Dinner Menu
 - Blank Medicine Request Forms
 - Home-School Agreement
 - Permission Forms for Transport and Internet Use

Welcome to Berriew Community Primary School

Our school is a friendly, country school, situated in the picturesque village of Berriew. It is surrounded by the beautiful Mid-Wales countryside though only five miles from Welshpool. The school building was originally opened in 1915 with forty-five children and two teachers. It has since been adapted to cater for about one hundred and fifty children. The grounds include hard play area, mature gardens and trees, wildlife area and a playing field.

The catchment area of the school is quite extensive. Many of the children travel on minibuses each day from the surrounding farms and hamlets. On leaving Berriew School at the end of year six, most children go on to Welshpool High School, although some parents choose other schools in the vicinity such as Llanfair Caereinion and Bishops Castle.

The children at Berriew School are educated in a friendly, family atmosphere, where every pupil is known as an individual by every adult. We believe that children should be excited and challenged by the work they do and aim to ensure that they are happy, confident and responsible during their time with us. The language of the school is English, and Welsh is taught as a second language.

If you are joining us for the first time, we welcome you as parents and look forward to a happy and successful association over the coming years. Please feel free to contact us at anytime.

This booklet provides information about our school, which we hope you will find useful. You will find out more about us by visiting our School Website. If you wish to visit the school, please get in touch to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Mr Phil Wilson

Chair of Governors

Mr Sean Clarke

Headteacher

Governors and Staff

The Governing Body

LEA representatives

Cllr D.Davies	Maesynant, Berriew	Tel: 640855
Mrs L. Tuffin	Cefn Garthmyl, Montgomery	Tel: 640120
Rev.P. Pike	The Vicarage, Berriew	Tel: 640223

Co-opted governors

Mr P Wilson (Chair)	2 Brynteg, Berriew.	Tel: 641909/07740 510666
Mrs S. Evans	Penycoed Uchaf, Berriew	Tel: 640686
Mrs J.Wilde	Cefn Blewog, Berriew	Tel: 640521

Community Council Representative

Mrs R.Morris	Belan Farm, Berriew	Tel: 01686 640871
--------------	---------------------	-------------------

Parent governors

Mrs M.Kirkham	Penyrhallt, Berriew	Tel: 640726
Mrs K.Carter (Vice-Chair)	Waen Heilyn, Berriew	Tel: 640691
Mrs K.Midmore	The Lion Hotel, Caerhowel	Tel: 668252
Mrs M. Woodall	Mount Pleasant, Belan School Lane	Tel: 01938 554864

Teacher governors

Mr S.Clarke	Headteacher
Mr M.Denton	Assistant Headteacher

Non-teaching staff representative

Mrs R.Hassanyeh	Fron y Cil, Berriew	Tel: 640450
-----------------	---------------------	-------------

Clerk to the Governing Body: Mrs S Hughes

Governors are happy for you to contact them about a particular issue if you wish.



The Staff

Head Teacher	Mr Sean Clarke
Acting Assistant Head	Mr Matthew Denton
Class Teachers	Mrs Elen Conlin, Miss Bethan Liquorish, Mrs Lindsay Clarke
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Rachael Hassanyeh, Mrs Christine Trow
Learning Support Assistant	Miss Mair Schmeinck
Welsh Teacher	Mrs Cheryl Andrew
Secretary	Mrs Sarah Hughes
Cleaner in Charge	Mrs Jackie Starke
Cook in Charge	Vacant
Kitchen Assistant	Mrs Charlotte Brown
Lunchtime Supervisors	Mrs Debbie Evans, Miss Mair Schmeinck
Breakfast Club	Supervisor – Mrs Debbie Evans Assistant – Mrs Rachael Hassanyeh



Aims of the School

Starting at a new school, whether you are a four year old nursery child or a new child in the area, can be a difficult time. We try to make new members of our community feel welcome and part of the school. Making new friends is important. The children in our area have a deserved reputation for being kind and helpful, and they soon make new children feel at home.

Of course, settling in can take time, especially for young children. A new school is a new challenge. We do everything we can to make school life interesting and stimulating. We seek to develop the highest standards and progress for each child by providing quality learning experiences in all curriculum areas and by placing emphasis on their spiritual, moral and social development. Hopefully, everyone who joins our school will soon feel an important and valued member of our community.

The aims of our school are to:

- Create and maintain a happy and purposeful atmosphere within a safe environment
- Help each child to develop independence and self-reliance by building self-esteem.
- Demonstrate and encourage positive attitudes and values, self discipline, a sense a responsibility, respect and care for self, for others and their environment.
- Nurture the children's sense of awe and wonder and develop their curiosity, imagination and enjoyment in discovering new things.
- Value the children's individuality within a framework of co-operation.
- Develop the full potential of each child, at a pace relevant to their stage of development.
- Deliver, through a broad and well balanced curriculum, the knowledge, skills and understanding required now and for their future.
- Ensure that all the children are actively involved in their learning.
- Foster and encourage each child's role as a member of a developing and sustainable society.
- Raise children's awareness and appreciation of their own and other cultures.
- Forge and maintain strong links between school, home and the local community.
- Make effective, thoughtful and imaginative use of physical, personal and financial resources.

The ethos of the school and values are summed up in the new school logo – 'Reach for the Stars'

General Information

Admission Arrangements

In Powys a child maybe admitted to school from the start of the term in which a child has their fourth birthday, as set out in the chart below;

If your child is 4 between	They can start school in
1 st January – 31 st March	The Spring Term (January)
1 st April – 31 st August	The Summer Term (April)
1 st September – 31 st December	The Autumn Term (September)

They can start on either a full or part-time basis. This flexibility is important in order to meet the needs of individual children. However, children are welcome to join us at any stage of their primary education. Our current admission limit is 17.



Cooking experiences in our Nursery and Reception class

The School Day

Breakfast Club	8.00am – 8.45am
Morning Session;	
Infants	8.55am – 12.00noon
Juniors	8.55am – 12.15pm
Afternoon Session	1.15pm – 3.30pm
Morning break-time	10.30am – 10.45am

The children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 take an afternoon break of 10 minutes at approximately 2.30pm

Class Organisation

At the present time there are 4 classes at Berriew School. They are as follows:

Class 1	(Nursery/Reception/Year 1)	Mrs Elen Conlin
Class 2	(Yr 2 & Yr 3)	Mr Sean Clarke / Mrs Lindsay Clarke
Class 3	(Yr 4 & Yr 5)	Mr Matthew Denton
Class 4	(Yr 6)	Miss Bethan Liquorish

We employ 2 full-time Teaching Assistants, Mrs Rachael Hassanyeh and Mrs Chris Trow and one Special Needs Teaching Assistants, Miss Mair Schmeinck.

School Uniform and P.E. Kit

Children are expected to wear sensible, comfortable clothing and footwear at school, taking into account the activities they take part in each school day e.g. running about at playtime, science and technology, art etc. They may opt to wear the voluntary school uniform of a bottle green sweat shirt, bottle green hooded sweatshirt, bottle green cardigan, white or bottle green polo shirt. Information on costs and sizes are available from the school secretary, with whom you may place an order. We encourage children to have indoor pumps to change into when in the classroom.

We discourage the wearing of jewellery as it can be dangerous when playing, and can get lost. If your child has pierced ears then studs must be worn.

Children will also need a simple **P.E. Kit**. This consists of a T-shirt, shorts and a pair of pumps. An emerald green PE T-shirt and black PE shorts are available to purchase in school. Trainers are necessary for junior children for outdoor activities. A tracksuit may be worn in colder weather.

We have swimming lessons at the Flash Leisure Centre, Welshpool. If parents wish their children to wear swimming goggles they should sign a form stating that they take full responsibility for any accident that may occur as a result of this wish. The relevant form can be obtained from the School Secretary.

Please ensure that items of clothing are labelled with your child's name – particularly sweatshirts, P.E. kits and coats. We do have a lost property basket, so if you are missing an item do come and have a search through.

Illness and Absence

All staff are trained in basic first aid procedures. If more serious accidents occur parents may be asked to collect their children. If this is not possible an injured child may be taken to a surgery or casualty unit if we consider that this is necessary and the parents contacted.

In the case of absence we would appreciate a note of explanation or a phone call by 9:30am. For reasons of safety we ask that parents notify school at the beginning of a period of absence. This takes away any worries on our part that a child may have set off for school but not arrived. It also allows us to keep up to date our register of unauthorised absences. By informing the school of the reason for absence you ensure that we do not put your child down as an unauthorised absentee.

Although this is important, it is not as important as maintaining the excellent connections that exist between school and home.

If your child is receiving medication that needs to be continued in school time, we can only do so if we have received your written instructions on the appropriate form, a copy of which is available in the appendices.

Transport

Due to the rural nature of our school most of the children travel to school either on designated mini-buses or in their parents' cars. At 3.30pm the vicinity of the school can become a very busy area. For reasons of safety we request that parents picking up their children by car, park in the bottom playground and meet their children on the top playground, or for children in Class 1, by the entrance door to their classroom. Please do not park near the top gate – this can inhibit access for the mini-buses, which could be dangerous.

From time to time it is necessary to take children out of school on an educational visit or to take part in a sporting fixture. In these circumstances transport is often provided by teachers, parents or coach companies. Perhaps you would like to volunteer to provide transport? Let us know! For your child to take part in such events it is necessary that you give your written permission. When your child begins school, you will also be asked to give written permission for taking your child on short walks to the village/church etc.

Lunchtimes and Break times

Children have the choice of bringing sandwiches for lunch or of taking advantage of the good meals offered by Powys Catering Services. At present, meals costs £2.20. A sandwich type meal (tuck box), salads and baked potatoes are also available each day. We encourage children to eat healthily. We are a member of the Healthy Schools Scheme.

All of the children dine in the Community Centre hall. Meals take place in a friendly atmosphere supervised by staff and lunchtime supervisors. The older children are encouraged to help the younger children by carrying their trays etc.

Our Supervisors do their best to encourage the children to eat well, and we will contact you if we are concerned that your child may not be eating enough.



Community Centre building – on the school site

All children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack and water drinks bottle into school each day. Fizzy drinks and sweets should not be brought to school.

The Foundation Phase children are provided with **free school milk** at playtimes.

Transfer to Secondary School

Our pupils normally transfer to Welshpool High School at the age of eleven plus. Attendance at our school does not guarantee a place at Welshpool. We have very close links with the High School. The First Year Tutor of Welshpool High School visits the school regularly to meet the children. Year 6 children have the opportunity to visit the High School on a number of occasions, including 2 full days in July, so that they can see the school operating and be a part of its normal day. Every effort is made to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Of course, there is parental choice in the selection of secondary schools. Some parents have chosen other secondary schools in the vicinity, such as Newtown, Llanfair Caereinion and Bishop's Castle.



The Curriculum

All schools in England and Wales follow the National Curriculum for children from five years. Before this, the 'Early Years' work towards a set of Desirable Outcomes. We have developed a way of working that covers all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Desirable Outcomes, which also suits the environment and organisation of our school. We aim to cover many subjects through themes and topics, and have developed a rolling plan that ensures the children cover all the areas as they go through school, and do not repeat any. We have policy statements and schemes of work for each subject and these are available for viewing on request.

At Berriew we believe that children learn best when their curiosity and imaginations are engaged. We provide relevant experiences that will nurture this approach, within a structured framework. Our ideal is to ensure that all children, by the time they are eleven years old, are fluent readers, can write effectively, will have a good understanding of mathematical concepts and skills and the world around them, and have become eager, independent learners. Each child will have had every opportunity to develop fully, according to his or her ability, and as a member of society.

Pupils' joy in discovering and reflecting upon their place in the world is a notable feature of the school'
Estyn Inspection Report (April 2008)

Foundation Phase

Schools in Wales are currently undergoing a phased introduction of the Foundation Phase. Children aged 4 to 7 will be included, and the phase essentially replaces "Early Years" and Key Stage 1. The children are provided with a wide range of experiences to stimulate their curiosity and develop their understanding of the world around them. These activities may be structured or a free exploration, with the emphasis being placed upon the practical nature of tasks. Activities are planned for in themes, and cover the seven areas of development – language and communication, mathematics, personal and social, knowledge and understanding of the world, physical, creative and Welsh language development. The Nursery and Reception class is located in a purpose built modern extension, with a wet area and plenty of room for play activities. It is self-contained with its own entrance, cloakroom and toilet facilities.

'Children are enthusiastic learners... keen to explore and investigate the interesting experiences provided for them. They think deeply about their work'
Estyn Inspection Report (April 2008)

English

English is an integral part of a child's education and social development. Therefore, we aim to provide appropriate learning experiences right across the curriculum. The National Curriculum and the National Literacy Strategy focus on the development of speaking and listening, reading and writing skills. At Berriew we have developed a way of working that ensures progression in each of these areas and promotes an enthusiasm for the spoken and written word.

We encourage children to talk about themselves and the things of interest to them from the earliest age. Children often work in pairs and small groups where the emphasis is not only on speaking, but also on listening to others. Drama also develops these skills as well as engaging them in other aspects of the curriculum.

A particular emphasis is also placed upon the teaching of reading at our school. We use a variety of multi-sensory methods when teaching phonics, word recognition, etc, therefore providing a range of strategies that each child can use. We have many books available and encourage the use of 'real books'. As far as possible we try to discourage the 'racing to read' attitude, and encourage the sharing and enjoyment of books. Children are urged to read stories, poems and non-fiction books from their class collections and the school reference library.

Children's written work is developed both in our English lessons and other subjects. They are given the opportunity to use their imaginations, creativity, logic and organisational skills, and to write for real audiences. They will develop their ability to write stories, poems, plays, reports, letters, accounts, discussions, explanations etc. In this context, the fundamental skills of spelling, grammar, punctuation and handwriting will also be a teaching focus. Progression in these skills is carefully planned for.

Mathematics

Our scheme, based on the National Curriculum and the National Numeracy Strategy, allows the children to build their mathematical skills and understanding in a progressive and balanced manner, with an emphasis on the development of mental maths. Children return to concepts at a higher level across the terms and years, constantly reinforcing and building upon previous understanding. We aim to develop confidence and accuracy in the use of mathematical skills, and more importantly, to equip the children with the understanding of how to apply these skills to problem solving and investigative situations. Opportunities for the use of and development of maths in other curriculum areas are planned for and undertaken, ensuring that mathematics is seen as a universally useful tool.

The main commercial schemes we use, in addition to our own resources, are Cambridge Direct, HBJ and Heinemann.

Science

Science is taught as part of our rolling plan of topics and as a separate subject to ensure coverage of all aspects of the National Curriculum. Science is the practical investigation into the environment in which we live. We encourage the children to question, predict, explore and give explanations. Our immediate vicinity is utilised where appropriate – the school grounds and pond for example.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

We aim to give all our pupils confidence in using ICT, to develop their skills in all aspects, from word processing and data handling to using the internet, and to help them to use ICT to enrich and extend learning in other areas of the curriculum. We have 30 computers and 13 ipads in the school at present.

History, Geography and Religious Education

Many of our topics are history and geography based. Children develop an awareness of the past and how it has contributed to the present through the study of evidence and artefacts, visual materials, oral history, the local environment, historical personalities, events and stories. They develop an understanding of the landscape, both natural and man-made, and the cultures of people from other countries.

In RE we follow the Powys Agreed Syllabus which is broadly Christian based, but which aims to teach children about different faiths too, and to reflect upon various issues. Collective Worship is non-denominational but Christian based. From time to time other people, such as the local clergy are invited to school to take assemblies.

The school often uses Berriew Church (St. Beunos) for events such as Harvest Festival and Christmas Services. Parents are invited to attend their child's class assemblies.

If, for any reason, you wish to withdraw your child from these activities, please contact the Headteacher.

The Arts – Art, Music, Dance and Drama

Securing the children's response to any subject, through the Arts, ensures their full engagement and therefore, learning. At Berriew, children explore many areas of the curriculum in this way. They are taught the skills and knowledge outlined in the National Curriculum in a meaningful context.

They are encouraged to use a variety of media in both Art and Design activities to make both 2D and 3D pictures and models. They investigate the work of famous artists and are encouraged to evaluate their own and others work.

Music tuition involving singing and performing is provided during class lessons. The school is also able to offer peripatetic music opportunities for individual tuition (for which there is a small charge per week) in a number of instruments throughout the academic year.

Design and Technology

This subject is usually linked to our topic work and involves the children examining various products, determining how they work and then designing and making their own. It can involve the use and application of mathematical and scientific concepts, and encourages the children to work cooperatively on a project.

Physical Education (PE)

Physical activity is very important to children's health. They undertake a wide variety of activities including gymnastics, dance, games, athletics, orienteering and swimming. The school takes part in 'friendly' matches and tournaments in netball, football, cricket, hockey, cross-country, swimming etc. There are various after school clubs and lunchtime activities available to older children who are particularly interested in sporting activities.

Welsh and Welsh Culture

The teaching of Welsh as a second language is supported by the authority's peripatetic specialist teachers of Welsh. The focus is on oral work, although more written work is incorporated as the children progress through school.

The school endeavours to give children a sense of 'Welshness', even though we are close to the border. This is achieved through a focus on local studies, Welsh writers, artists and famous people – both past and present. We also hold a St. David's Day Eisteddfod each year. We also encourage URDD membership. This has risen from 7 in 2011/12 to 25 in 2012/13 to 40 this year. The children take part in a range of musical, sporting, cookery, art and craft competition.

Personal, Social and Health Education/Sustainable Development

We consider this aspect of school life to be very important and provide many opportunities for the children to discuss issues that concern them personally, and issues that affect other people too. We also try to promote a healthy lifestyle.

We promote equal opportunities *for* all children, and good relations *between* all.

We have an effective Anti-Bullying Policy with guidance for the children drawn up by our School Council. Our School Council is very active, as is our Eco-schools group.

The school agreed sex education policy is linked with our health education programme and is integrated into our topic work. Sensitive issues are handled carefully, and questions answered in an honest and appropriate manner.

Children in year six usually take part in a session with the School Nurse, where they are prepared for the natural developments that are likely to take place in their bodies as they grow older – you will be informed of this in advance and your permission will be sought.

You have the right to withdraw your child from all or part of the sex education programme.

'The school is a happy and welcoming community with a safe family atmosphere, where all pupils have equal opportunities.'
Estyn Inspection (February 2014)

Children with Additional Needs – Co-ordinator : Mr S.Clarke (Headteacher)

We recognise that all children have individual needs to be met within the classroom, and therefore work is differentiated to suit their needs. Some children may, however, at a particular stage in their school life, need some extra support. Others may need more challenging activities than their peers.

In line with government legislation, the school follows the 'Code of Practice' and the school's policy is based on this. The policy is available to parents and is reviewed by staff and governors every three years. Any changes to the policy will be detailed in the next prospectus. Mr Sean Clark is the ALN Co-ordinator and Mrs Lorna Tuffin represents special needs interests on the governing body. The school tries to identify those children who are in need of extra support as early as possible.

We endeavour to liaise closely with parents at all times, to keep you informed of what is happening and to answer any questions, queries or concerns.

We welcome all children – including those with **disabilities** as long as we can cater for their needs. The ethos within our school aims to meet the needs of our pupils regardless of physical, sensory, intellectual, emotional or behavioural difficulties, gender, social and cultural background, religion or ethnic origins. We aim to demonstrate our School's commitment to equal opportunities through our practice. We will make every effort to admit a child who has a disability. We believe in developing children's attitudes by example and try to promote respect for other people's beliefs. We have a plan in place in order to improve our existing facilities and would be glad to discuss your child's needs in order to make our school accessible to them.

Currently, all our external doors are accessible without the need for steps; we have a disabled toilet in the mobile classroom and one in the main building. Our plan includes improvements to the opening of the double entrance doors to allow easier wheelchair access and the development of a sensory garden.

Looked After Children

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the progress of looked after children.

Extra Curricular Activities

The school offers a wide variety of activities that may be considered to be beyond the normal timetable. Some of these activities are listed below:

- Our School Council, with elected members, meets regularly to discuss various issues and work on particular projects.
- We have an Eco-Schools Committee, who raise our awareness of environmental issues.
- Games clubs are held at lunchtimes, and after school, for football, netball, cricket, hockey, rounders and cross-country.
- Gardening is a popular activity with lots of children. The school has a 'damp area' habitat, a pond and numerous flower and plant tubs.
- The year five and six children are given the opportunity for residential visits to the outdoor pursuit centres at the Red Ridge Centre, Cefn Coch. This environment encourages independence and responsibility. Activities include abseiling, canoeing, kayaking, orienteering, problem solving, rope assault course, raft building etc.

Charging and Remissions for School Activities

Education is provided at the school without compulsory charges to parents, the vast majority of school time activities being financed by the school with funds received from the Local Education Authority.

There are, however, some valuable educational activities that schools cannot provide without seeking some voluntary financial support from parents.

For instrumental music tuition provided during school hours, on an individual or small group basis, a charge will be made. A charge may also be made for the hire of any musical instruments used in individual or small group tuition.

Complaints Procedure

If you should have any worries or complaints about any matters please contact the Headteacher and discuss your concerns.



Home and School

When parents, teachers and children work together, then children make better overall progress, and they also seem to be much happier with life in general. It is, therefore, very important that the links between home and school are good. This section deals with the connections that are established to ensure that both parents and teachers receive enough information about the children and their educational and social development.

Home / School Partnership

The home/school partnership should ensure that together we provide an environment where every child has the opportunity to achieve their best.

Contacting School

All parents are welcome to come to school to discuss problems and concerns. Most teachers are available at the end of the school day, but if you require a longer discussion, it is helpful to phone and arrange a mutually convenient time.

The school secretary is available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:45am.

In case of emergency, or if the matter you wish to discuss is of pressing importance to you, then you can ring the school at any time.

For security reasons, all visitors during the school day are requested to report to the office or Headteacher on arrival.

General and Medical Records

When your child joins our school you will be asked to fill in various forms detailing contact names, addresses, phone numbers and medical information. This information is updated once a year, but we do ask that you inform us immediately of any change of information that occurs in between.

We also ask your permission to go for walks in the locality, to take photographs of your child etc. We take matters of health and safety seriously. It is also the Governing Body's policy that any photographs taken at school events must be for personal and family album use only.

Written Reporting and Parents Evenings

There are three formal opportunities during the year when teachers are available to discuss the educational and social development of individual children and when information is provided about the work being undertaken and individual children's progress.

- In November and February we hold our 'Open Evenings', held on an interview system, giving a private discussion of approximately ten minutes between parents and teachers. Teachers aim to pinpoint progress, and map the way forward for the rest of the year. We endeavour to provide parents with two or more children appointments which minimise any waiting time. Your child's work is also available for you to see.

- A letter will be sent home describing the projects and content of work to be covered during the year, and giving information about homework expectations, PE days etc. for that particular class. Interim reports will be provided each term to outline the progress of your child in reading, writing and mathematics. A formal written report is produced for every child from the reception to year six at the end of the academic year and this is sent home in July. This report will discuss your child's progress in all aspects of the curriculum, and give attendance information. In the last week of term we hold a 'Leavers Concert'. This is a much less formal affair, which allows your child time to explain to you what they have been working on during the year, and to show you their work. Teachers are available for informal discussions, though if you felt the need to discuss an issue at length we would ask that you arrange a mutually convenient time.
- In addition, parents of Reception aged children receive a National Baseline Assessment Report at the end of the Autumn Term.

As well as these formal reporting sessions, staff are available throughout the year to discuss problems and concerns, provided the time agreed is convenient to everyone and does not lead to unnecessary disruption of vital teaching time.

Written records are kept on all children. You can ask for a progress report on your child at any time. However, please be aware that you may have to wait a day or so to allow the teacher an opportunity to collect together the relevant material and information.

Communication with parents

Numerous letters and newsletters are sent home with the children every year. We realise that children are not always the best postmen so we also email letters to you if you wish. If children are absent, letters will be held until their return if no siblings are present in school.

On the whole our system appears to work well. Starting at the beginning of each year every whole school letter is numbered, so if you find that you are missing a particular letter you can ring the secretary and request another copy.

Homework

As part of our close links with home we do encourage children to take appropriate school work home from an early age. This always includes 'reading', whether it is a five year old reading with you, or an eleven year old reading independently. It may also include spellings, multiplications tables, English, Maths or topic related work. Each year, your child's class teacher will outline the expectations for Homework in their 'Start of Year' booklet to you.

Do remember, however, that your child will have worked hard at school. If they enjoy a variety of activities with you at home, then get a good night's sleep, they will come back in the morning ready and keen to learn!

Parental Involvement in School

We endeavour to involve parents as much as possible in the life of the school. Invitations are, of course, extended to special annual events such as Sports Days, Christmas and Summer Concerts. However, we are also keen to involve parents in the day to day activities that take place. We welcome any help from parents that they might like to give, and if they have a special skill that they can bring to the children they are very welcome in school. All our regular helpers are police checked.

So far parents have been involved in such supportive activities as listening to children read, helping with craft work/sewing, teaching sporting skills, gardening with groups of children, school visits, computer technology and cookery.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club runs every morning from 8.00am to 8.45am, where your child can attend for a free breakfast. Our Breakfast Club Supervisor is Mrs Debbie Evans, who is also a lunch time supervisor in school, along with Ms Vivienne Reynolds – Breakfast Club Assistant, who is also a learning support assistant at School. A registration form will need to be completed prior to your child attending Breakfast Club. Parents are requested to sign the register when they drop their children off at Breakfast Club.

Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

The PTA supports the school by organising social events, which not only raise much needed funds, but bring parents together. They help staff in ensuring the smooth running of Sports Days, open evenings and concerts. Their contribution to school life is very valuable. The meetings are very friendly and informal – so why not come along?



And Finally...

There have been many changes in educational practice during the last few years. Some of these have undoubtedly been to the benefit of education as a whole. We shall be working as hard as we possibly can to make sure that all children who attend Berriew Community Primary School achieve their full potential, and produce work of the highest standard.

We also hope that all of the children are given many fond memories so that at a later date they can look back and truly say that their school days were...

“...the best days of their life”.

Appendices

- National Curriculum Results and Comparative Data – Key Stage 1 and 2
- Attendance Data
- Calendar of Dates for the Current School Year
- Dinner Menu
- Blank Medicine Request Forms
- Home-School Agreement
- Permission Forms for Transport and Internet Use