

Cwmafan Primary School



Welcome to Reception Booklet 2021-2022



CWMAFAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUR STAFF

Acting Head teacher	Mrs L George
Acting Deputy Head teacher	Mrs L Bailey
Reception Class Teachers	Mrs C Nicholas
	Mrs H Hoskins

Teaching Assistants

Mrs H Jones
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OUR ADDRESS

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General information

The Reception Year

Welcome to Cwmafan Primary School. This booklet is to provide you with some information about the Reception Year.

How we aim to help your child

At all times, we aim to provide a rich and stimulating learning environment through first hand experiences where every child feels happy and secure and is encouraged to achieve his or her full potential. We invite you to work together in partnership with the school to enhance your child's learning.

School hours

Morning session	8.55am - 11.55am
Lunch time	11.55am - 12.55pm
Afternoon session	12.55pm - 3.20pm

The children enter the school at the bottom gate on the main road, same entrance for nursery. At the beginning of each session, the teachers will meet the children by the classroom doors where they can come straight in. RH (Mrs Hoskins) classroom door faces the main road and RN (Mrs Nicholas) is at the side of the reception yard. At home time, children will leave from the same doors and will wait in the classroom until the teacher calls the child on seeing the parents/guardian.

If for any reason, you are unable to collect your child in person, then please inform us of the alternative arrangements. Please ensure that your child is brought to school and collected promptly at the end of the school day.

Children remain the responsibility of parents/carers until the bell rings at 8.55am. On rainy days the classroom doors will be opened 5 minutes earlier at 8:50 am.

School uniform

Winter uniform - Grey trousers
Grey pinafore dress/ skirt
Red cardigan/ sweatshirt
White/red polo top

Summer uniform - Grey shorts
White/ red polo top
Red and white dress
Red cardigan

We have a designated supplier for our school uniform, which can be bought via the school.

Please could you ensure that all coats and items of school uniform are labelled with your child's name, so that confusion between items can be avoided.

Lunchtime arrangements

At lunchtimes, the children can either have a school dinner or bring a packed lunch from home. Lunches are currently £2.35 per day, £11.75 per week. Dinners are paid via Parent Pay (you will need to download the app) You will receive login details for your child so that meals can be paid in advance on a Monday. You can pay for individual days or for the whole week.

Free school meals

If you think your child is eligible for free school meals please **fill out** the relevant forms online on the NPT website/ free school meals.

Packed lunch

Children may bring a packed lunch, but because of the obvious dangers, glass bottles are not allowed in school. Please ensure that your child's name is on his/her lunchbox. We are a 'Healthy School' and therefore sweets are not allowed in school.

Snack at break times

As part of the 'Healthy Schools' partnership we encourage your child to bring a piece of fresh fruit to school to be eaten during break times. Please put your child's name on their fruit or fruit pot. Subsidised milk is given to each child for afternoon break. If your child has a milk allergy please notify the class teacher.

PE kit

You will be informed by your class teacher on which day your child needs to wear PE kit to school. In colder weather trainers, joggers or leggings, t-shirt and jacket are appropriate. On warmer days children can wear shorts, t-shirt and trainers. School PE t-shirts are available to purchase from the school office. Your child's class teacher will inform you what house team they are in. T-shirts are £5 each.

Visitors

For security reasons, all exterior doors are locked from **9.05am - 3.20pm**. Any parents or visitors requiring access to school during the day should enter the building through the **main entrance** and report to the school office. This is purely for safety reasons and to safe guard your child.

Toys

We would be grateful if you would discourage your child from bringing toys to school unless specifically asked to do so by the class teacher for a particular project or display. This will avoid distress if they were to get damaged or lost.

Pastoral Care arrangements/ Health

Pupils are the responsibility of each class teacher with the Head teacher having overall responsibility. It is important to inform the school if your child suffers from any illnesses or has any allergies. You will be required to fill in an admissions form on entry and return it to school immediately. It is also important that you provide the school with two emergency contact numbers. If your child becomes ill or falls and hurts him/herself, it is vital that we are able to contact you or a family member. If your telephone number changes, please inform the school immediately.

Head lice

Sometimes head lice can be a problem and we ask parents to regularly look for any signs in your child's hair. Please treat with the latest recommended lotion (your local chemist will be able to advise) and don't forget your own hair and those of family members too.

Health and Safety

Medicines - medicines like penicillin can be administered at school if more than 3 doses are required throughout the day. Parents will need to fill in a form which will be kept in the class medical file in the First Aid cupboard.

Fire safety - fire drills are held regularly. In the case of the building having to be evacuated, all children will assemble on the school yard.

Dogs - dogs are not permitted on the school premises.

Jewellery - for safety reasons, children are discouraged from wearing jewellery to school.

Absences

If your child is ill in the morning, please do not bring him/her to school even if they themselves wish to attend. If he/ she has had an infectious illness, please seek your doctor's advice on returning to school.

We are required to keep detailed records of all absences. These must be categorised as either authorised or unauthorised. When parents do not inform us of a genuine reason for their child's absence then it is entered as an unauthorised absence and may be reported to the Education Welfare Officer (EWO).

PARENTS MUST INFORM THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY OF ANY ABSENCES - either in writing, email or by telephone.

It is a statutory requirement that parents are informed of their child's total number of unauthorised absences on their Annual report.

Topics

We complete our work through a termly topic approach.

The topics this year are

Autumn term - 'People who help us' 'Percy the Park Keeper

Spring term - 'Will you read me a story?'

Summer Term - 'Under the Sea'.

Informal homework is given in Reception. Each child will bring home a homework book with tasks to complete either linked to work being covered in class or a craft task to be completed with your child.

Ways to help your child

Getting ready to read

In the Foundation Phase great emphasis is placed on developing your child's communication skills. Through appropriate focused activities, your child will receive a solid foundation for the development of reading and writing.

In Cwmafan Primary School we aim to develop a love of books and reading. We have a school lending library and there are reading areas in each classroom providing a range of reading material.

The very best preparation for reading is conversation, discussion and observation. This is all part of our Reception curriculum.

Children need to be aware of print all around them. Look for letters in your child's name and for sounds that they recognise around them.

1. Cereal boxes, labels on tins, packets
2. Road signs, street signs, motorway signs, notices
3. Toilets / bus-stops

Suggested early reading activities for parents and children at home.

1. Find interesting pictures to talk about. Stick them in a scrapbook.
2. Sing or say nursery rhymes and songs
3. Start a familiar story and let your child finish it off.
4. Introduce new words such as names of things you see when you go shopping. Children like to hear a few long words too - they think it's exciting!
5. Ask your child to tell you things in order such as the things he/she has done during the day.
6. Children learn about shapes and size by using jigsaws and building toys.
7. Read to your child.

We use the reading scheme Read Write Inc in school which is proving to be very successful. It teaches children to read accurately and fluently with good comprehension. They learn to form each letter, spell correctly, and compose their ideas step-by-step. There is lots of information and videos for you to look at online.

Your child will bring home a reading record book /Keeping in touch book. This can be used to write a comment about your child's reading and also any queries or questions you may have for your child's teacher.

School book bags can be bought from the office for reading books at a charge of £5.00.

Please help your child by reading to him/her whenever possible. Sharing books with your child can help them to read. Sharing books also provides opportunities for - a cosy cuddle

Lots of talk

Learning to choose

Gaining confidence

Laughing together

Our aim is to get meaning from print so talk about the story and what has happened?

What will happen next?

Pictures are just as important as the words. Pictures give clues to the words by showing what is going on. Talking about the pictures provides the confidence to try out new words and you can point to the appropriate picture when a word seems difficult.

We hope to get your child 'hooked on books' and to appreciate reading as an enjoyable and interesting activity.

Ways to encourage reading

1. Read to your child for a short while every day.
2. Use traditional nursery rhymes as these can be learnt by heart. Point to the words as you read together.
3. Encourage your child to observe the printed word in their environment. Street signs, shop names etc
4. Let your child see you reading books, magazines etc
5. Make use of local libraries.
6. Talk about the difference between a letter and a word.
7. Make the learning of words into a game such as snap, matching and lotto.

Getting ready to write

In Cwmafan Primary School we shall encourage your child to draw and paint and to develop his/her fine motor skills ready for writing. We will ensure he/she holds a pencil correctly. Initially, your child's attempts will just look like scribbles but this 'play writing' or mark making is an important stage in the children's writing development. It is more important that they understand the purpose of writing. We begin with writing patterns, tracing and overwriting using different media.

Suggested early writing activities for parents and children at home.

1. Make signs for your home
2. Make party invitations
3. Make a letterbox to post your letters
4. Write a letter to a relative
5. Writing through role-play e.g. pretend they are in a café taking orders

Let your child see you writing a message, a letter, a shopping list. If you write slowly and talk about what you're doing your child will notice where you start each line. Make the sounds of letters as you write them.

Providing your child with the following materials will give them plenty of opportunities for writing.

- Old envelopes and used stamps
- Greeting cards
- Memo pads, paper and diaries
- Pencils, pens and crayons

Correct letter formation is extremely important. Please help us to promote correct formation by using the examples set out below. Letter formation is taught in a variety of ways using sand and plasticine, tracing, overwriting and finally copying underneath with a pencil.

If you help your child to write at home, it is **VERY** important to use lower case letters e.g. Sarah Not **SARAH**, Jack not **JACK**. The way we teach letter formations is illustrated below.

a b c d e f g

h i j k l m n

o p q r s t u

v w x y z

Mathematical Development

Getting ready for numbers

During the school day, mathematical ideas and concepts are explored and experienced through a range of activities.

Water

Sand

Plasticine

Painting

Exploring shape, space and size (puzzles and construction toys)

Measuring

Rhymes, songs and games

Class shop

Please help your child to become familiar with mathematical language. Ask questions such as:

What goes together? (Sorting things into groups)

What colour?

What shape?

How big?

How long?

Where? Over/under etc

When? Today/yesterday/tomorrow

How long does it take?

How heavy? How much?

Children need all kinds of experiences in matching patterns and shapes before they can see differences and similarities in the shapes of numbers, letters and words. Matching games can be played at home with household objects or pictures of the same colour, shape or size.

Maths is everywhere. Children love to remember numbers that are special. They look for numbers that they know. Ask your child to spot numbers when you are out and about on

- Front doors
- Birthday cards
- Telephone numbers
- Street signs
- Price labels
- Street signs

Ask your child to help you count things in boxes and packets to check the contents. Children must realise why we count.

Using numbers at home (putting numbers in order)

- Collect birthday cards, magazines and cut and sort out the numbers
- Arrange magnetic numbers on the fridge

- Stick foam numbers in the bath
- Sort wooden/ plastic numbers
- Show numbers on a calculator
- Key numbers into the microwave
- Find the TV channel you want to watch on the remote control.

Children often write numbers upside -down and back to front. They get in a muddle and make lots of mistakes. Let your child try things out - don't keep telling them it's wrong.

Writing numbers at home

- Write shopping lists. How many eggs?
- Write down the number of ingredients for a recipe
- Play number games using a dice
- Make birthday cards writing the number of their age
- Ice biscuits and write numbers using chocolate buttons etc.

Suggested games and activities for parents and children to play.

1. Number rhymes e.g. 'one, two, buckle my shoe' etc
2. Capacity - at bath times introduce the words full, empty, more less
3. Counting
4. Time is a very difficult concept for young children. Give plenty of discussion activities involving days of the week. Yesterday, today, tomorrow.
5. Board games such as snakes and ladders give practice in counting forwards and backwards.
6. Stick numbers onto empty plastic bottles. Throw a ball to knock them down and record the score.
7. Play hopscotch
8. Make a big dice out of a box. Write numbers onto it. Throw the dice and do that many hops, jumps, claps.



We hope you will find these suggestions useful. If you have any questions please contact the school.