



# Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdâr

## Croeso i'r Dosbarth Meithrin /

## Welcome to the Nursery Class



### 'Cyd Dynnu Gwir Lwyddiant'

Headteacher: Mr D.Davies

Deputy-head : Mrs A. Mathias

Nursery Staff:

Mrs R Jones (Fflic)

Mrs E Llewellyn (Fflac)

Foundation Phase Leader: Mrs L Prosser

School Secretaries:

Mrs H Adams

Mrs P Davies



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## Starting School

We look forward to working with you to ensure a happy and successful education for your child. Your child is about to start an exciting new chapter and we aim to make this a positive experience for you all! In order to support them with settling when they begin school we ensure that the group is smaller so that staff can give them plenty of attention and help them settle.

We appreciate it can be difficult for you as parents to leave your child if they are upset, but children settle much more quickly once you have left and they also need time to adjust to this. If your child does not settle, the school will contact you, the staff do all that they can to help the children.

Starting school will be happier and more successful when your child can:

- Use the toilet independently- undo clothing, wipe, pull the flush and then wash hands. Please send a change of clothing in your child's bag daily in case of accidents. Should your child have 'accidents' regularly it is our policy that you come to school to change them unless they have a medical plan discussed with staff.
- Eat independently using a knife, fork and cup sitting at the table correctly.
- Dress themselves for example put on his/her coat and shoes. We love Velcro! Take responsibility for their belongings keeping them safe on their coat peg.
- Begin to recognise their names so that they can find their coat, book, peg, self-register.
- Tidy and take responsibility for toys and equipment (they will be expected to do so at school).
- Be polite, friendly and sociable having had lots of opportunities to socialize e.g. having been to play group/ Cylch Meithrin. This will help them settle better and make friends in school.



- Understand what they can expect to find in school – Talk to your child about school before they start about anything that may be worrying them.
- Develop an interest in the Welsh language- encourage them to watch Welsh videos/ programmes , listen to Welsh nursery rhymes/ songs and stories.

**The following will be of help before starting school:**

- Read stories so that he/she can learn to love books.
- Provide opportunities for mark making e.g. with big crayons, pencils, chalk.
- Teach him/her popular, favourite nursery rhymes.
- Play with suitable toys e.g. blocks, jigsaws, Lego and show him/her how to take responsibility for clearing them away.

It is important to take time to talk, listen and play.

**General Information**

School Hours 08.45 (gates close at 9:00) – 15:00

Lunch hour 11:30-12:30

Morning break – please provide a healthy snack (fruit / veg sticks/ yoghurt/cheese) and a bottle of water daily, with your child's name labelled clearly on each item.

A midday meal is provided at the school. The price of each meal is £2.85 a day (£14.25per week) until the term after their fourth birthday (after then it is free). We are a cashless school so all payments must be made online via the system provided by RCT Council (rctcbc- school dinners- make a payment- you will need a unique code to pay which we will provide you during the first half term). Parents have the opportunity to apply for free school meals – application forms are available from the Authority. It is the parent's responsibility to send the completed forms to the District Education Office. Please note that children will not be allowed free meals unless the Authority has notified the school. If your child requires a special diet or has any allergies you will need to inform RCT before they start school if they are having school dinners (RCTCBC- medically prescribed dietary requirement).

If your arrangements change at the end of the day can you please make sure that you inform the office or send a note in with you child. We cannot let children go home with anyone else without parental consent. Can you please try to keep to the same arrangements every week, unless an emergency arises.



## Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is offered free of charge in the school hall and starts at 8:15. Last entry to breakfast club is 8:30 prompt. Forms are available in school to book a place.

## School Lunch

We actively encourage the children to eat school lunch through our Healthy Eating Policy. This also helps to develop their social skills e.g. how to use a knife and fork. If you would like your child to have a packed lunch on some days, please ensure that you keep to the same weekly routine and that the packed lunch is healthy and appropriate portion for their appetite (enough for them to feel full but not too much that they are rushing or have too many sweet snacks).

## School Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform and therefore encourage children to wear uniform at all times:

Trousers/ Skirt / Slip- grey

Shirts/ Blouse/ Polo-shirt - white

Jumper/Cardigan - green

Tie - red

Socks - grey or white

Black shoes (no sandals)

Summer - green Summer dress , grey shorts

**Please put names on all items of clothing and belongings.** The ink does tend to wash off and you will need to re-write the name occasionally. Please could you also send a bag in with your child to carry their water bottle and to bring home their belongings. We also kindly ask that they carry a full change of clothing in their bags including socks and underwear.

All children must wear suitable clothing to school as we make full use of our environment and offer lots of hands on experiences. The children enjoy, remember and learn more from hands on, practical work. We hope that you appreciate that there can be times when the children's clothing may get dirty!

Please send your child to school dressed appropriately for the weather. We will be outside in all weather – rain, snow, wind and sun.



### Physical Education

On P.E. days we ask the children to wear black shorts/ tracksuit/leggings and a white T-shirt.

### Jewellery/ Toys

We do not allow jewellery to be worn in school as it can get caught or lost. Children should not bring any toys to nursery, as they can easily get lost or broken and they are taught to share all toys in school.

### Medication

If your child has specific medical needs then please ensure that the school are aware. If medication can be administered at home then this is preferred, however if it is required within school hours parents must fill in a 'Medication Consent Form' (obtainable from the office).

### Food tasting/ cooking

As part of our broad curriculum, your child will be offered many opportunities to cook and taste foods throughout the year. If you have any concerns about this please discuss with staff before they start school.

### Absence

Absence must be reported to the school by leaving a message on the school answer phone (by 9:30am on the first day). If your child has been sick, they must remain at home for 48 hours before returning to school.

### Fruity Friday

The school sells fruit / healthy snacks every Friday for 50p each item. If you'd like your child to buy fruit on Fridays we ask kindly in Nursery that the money is sent in at the start of each term (you will receive a message with the amount).

### Home School Links

Co-operation between the school and home is very important. The best way to help your child is to encourage them and praise their efforts. If you have any concerns regarding your child we always encourage you to contact the school through telephone and make an appointment to speak to us. Our 'Seesaw' page is used to celebrate your child's learning journey in school with you and we encourage parents to regularly check our page once you have been given the log in. We also occasionally share home tasks and messages on here, however we ask that you do not contact teachers on Seesaw and instead contact through the school office. Parent's evenings will be arranged throughout the year to discuss your child's progress.



## Additional Activities

During the year parents are invited to school on special occasions e.g. Christmas concert, Sports Day, Celebration assemblies.

Each half term we have a new 'theme/topic' and our learning is related to this 'theme'. We love to hear your ideas for our theme through our home learning 'Pupil voice' tasks. We aim to provide regular rich opportunities for the children which may involve us going out into the community e.g. shops, library, park or sometimes members of the community may visit the school e.g. fire fighters, policemen or theatre companies. We would love to hear from you if you have any links related to the themes for example if you or a family member/friend can come in to talk to the children about the theme or if you have any resources for our role play area. We are always very grateful for parental involvement – it also links our learning to the real world for the children!

## The Six Areas of Learning

The nursery curriculum recognises that every child is unique and supports holistic development by keeping the developmental needs of the child at the forefront of our pedagogical practice. Our curriculum links closely to the principles of child development, as well as to the four purposes of the curriculum and the statements of what matters of the six areas of learning and experience:

- Language, literacy and communication.
- Physical development.
- Personal, social and emotional development. Also, Wellbeing and Cultural Diversity.
- Welsh Language Development.
- Mathematics.
- Knowledge and understanding of the world.
- Expressive arts and design.

Through authentic and engaging experiences in effective, exciting environments our skilled staff plan using the mandatory elements of Curriculum for Wales and focus on the needs of the developing child through the five developmental pathways:

- Belonging
- Communication
- Exploration
- Physical Development
- Well-being





**Before your child begins to write they need to;**

- Develop strong muscles in the hand, arm , shoulder and core
- Enjoy using a pencil and be able to use it correctly with a preferred hand
- Notice small differences in similar pictures (as letters can be very similar- p,b,d)
- Follow a line with their finger
- Overwrite lines (straight and curved)
- Have lots of experiences and enjoy mark making

**Before your child begins to read they need to:**

- Enjoy listening to stories
- Handle books correctly
- Talk about pictures
- Notice details and differences
- Find two pictures the same
- Know that print carries meaning
- Notice words around them not only in books
- Know that a story is read from left to right and top to bottom
- Be able to copy and follow a sequence
- Recognize most sounds and blend sounds together

Every child develops at their own time. We ask you to support your child but not to put pressure on them to read or write before they are ready. We follow the 'Tric a chlic' phonics programme in school and when the children are ready we send letters, words, games and books for them to practise at home.





## Inside:

Creative Area – craft, music, painting

Reading Corner

Mathematics Area – counting, jig-saws, measuring, sorting

Language Area – mark making, letters

Construction/ loose parts play

Role Play– theme based

Investigation Area



## Outside:

Physical Play– bikes, climbing, throwing, building

Water

Sand

Investigation Area



We also have a forest school, a log circle, fire pit and we explore the wild garden. The school provides protective all-weather clothing but we ask that you send a pair of wellies to school when needed (you will be notified of the days).

## The Importance of Learning in the Outdoor Classroom

Research shows that children who have experienced good quality outdoor learning are starting school with strong social skills; they are able to work in groups effectively; they display a higher level of both self-esteem and independence and are also more confident in their own capabilities.

The use of the outdoors has a profound effect upon children's wellbeing, confidence, physical skills and expressive skills. The outdoors is the preferred learning environment for a high majority of children and we are very lucky to have a fantastic outdoor learning space in our school! Remember, the outdoor classroom will be used in all weather!





## Our day in school

There are 2 classes in the nursery (Fflic and Fflac) but they will work as 1 unit. Children arrive at school and are registered in their class. Once they have been registered and following a morning 'catch up' both classes will engage in a variety of activities together throughout the day. We have snack time in the morning where children eat their fruit from home and then 'milk time' in the afternoon. We provide the children with a variety of activities in the classroom and outdoors. The children work in groups, with an adult, in pairs or individually with a variety of free play, guided play and planned play.

- Free play is when children have the control and play is only directed by their interests and motivations. They are free to choose what to play with, how to play and who (if anyone) to play with without adult intervention. Practitioners will skillfully observe the play and reflect on the next steps of learning.
- Guided play is child-centered directed play with practitioner-child collaboration. The practitioner plans the learning environment and resources to engage children. The adult follows the lead of the child.
- Play-based learning is when the practitioner plans for play-based experiences with learning intentions- this could include literacy and numeracy focus.

## Cymraeg/ Welsh

Welsh is our school language and we aim to develop fluency by modelling and providing rich, engaging activities in Welsh for the children. During the first term when the children are settling in we 'sandwich' the languages to ensure understanding (Welsh-English-Welsh). After Christmas we immerse the Welsh language as this has been proven to be the most effective way to develop fluency (of course in times that understanding is essential e.g. when they have had an accident or are upset we will use English if necessary). The children are like sponges! It's amazing to see their development during the Nursery year as their vocabulary increases through modelling, play, song and daily routines. We celebrate the use of the Welsh language in our assemblies with 'Welsh speaker of the week' and these children take home the Welsh Charter mascots 'Sbarc' and 'Seren' for the weekend! Most pupils will come from an English speaking home and we only ask that you support us with the passion towards the Welsh language and culture. You have made an excellent choice- research shows that receiving bilingual education develops cognitive functions and benefits the learning of other subjects across the curriculum including English.





## Useful websites and Apps

<http://www.s4c.cymru/cyw/cy/>



Tric a chlic

Both apps should work on most iOS devices newer than ~2018. Unfortunately they're not available on the Google Play Store at the moment. Because of this we have made the apps available to anyone who wants to use them, until we can publish them again on Android:

<https://pth.cymru/tac-dros-dro>



Antur Cyw



Cywion bach geiriau cyntaf



Byd Cyw



Llyfrau hwyl Magi Ann



Dewin a Doti



Ar y fferm (apple only)



Betsan a Roco yn y pentref (apple only)



## Parent – Teacher Association

Parents are invited to join the Association, which gives the school invaluable support. PTA meetings are held at the school regularly. A number of other activities are organised by the parents each year e.g. Summer and Christmas Fairs, Social evenings etc. Through these activities the association has collected thousands of pounds and with this we have purchased equipment for the school. Please come to a meeting of the PTA so that we can maintain a close relationship as Parents and Teachers. The PTA run a Facebook page which you can join to support.

We are sure your child will enjoy his / her time with us here at Ysgol Gymraeg Aberdâr. Our school prospectus is on our school website. Please let us know if you have any further questions. We look forward to welcoming you to the school community and to working with you for the benefit of your child.



**'Cyd Dynnu Gwir Lwyddiant'**