

RHYDRI PRIMARY SCHOOL
GWAITH GORAU BOB DYDD

Croeso!
Welcome to Rhydri Primary
Foundation Phase
Rainbow Class



Croeso!

We would like to welcome you to Rhydri Primary School. We would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child and hope that this is the beginning of a supportive and caring partnership between home and school.

By producing this booklet, I hope to answer some questions, give you some tips and inform you briefly about what school is like in the Foundation Phase. If you have any questions not answered here, please ask myself or a member of staff.
Mrs K Banks.

Rainbow Class

It is a mixed Nursery/Reception class; children's ages range from 3-5. Every child is unique and is at a different stage of development. Our aim is to; provide a stimulating environment where children learn, investigate and have fun. We promote independence, develop self esteem, curiosity and enthusiasm. We ensure children feel safe and secure. We endeavour to work closely with parents and foster an atmosphere of mutual trust.

Staff

Class Teacher - Mrs K Banks Additional Practitioners - Mrs L Eveleigh
Mrs S Arnold

What will my child do in the Foundation Phase?



For each Area of Learning the **educational programme** sets out what children should be taught and the **outcomes** set out the expected standards of children's performance.

There are 7 main areas of learning. Educational provision for young children should be holistic.

Indoor and outdoor environments are fun, exciting, stimulating and safe. We promote children's development and natural curiosity to

explore and learn through first-hand experiences. The Foundation Phase environment promotes discovery and independence and we use the outdoor environment as a resource for children's learning.

Personal and Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity

This Area of Learning focuses on children learning about themselves, their relationships with other children and adults. They are encouraged to develop their self-esteem, their personal beliefs and moral values.

The Foundation Phase supports the cultural identity of all children, to celebrate different cultures and help children recognise and gain a positive awareness of their own and other cultures.

Children are supported in becoming confident, competent and independent thinkers and learners.



Language, Literacy and Communication Skills This Area of Learning focuses on children being immersed in language experiences and activities. Their skills develop through talking, signing/communicating and listening. They have opportunities to choose and use reading materials, and are given a wide range of opportunities to enjoy mark making and writing experiences.

We use the Jolly Phonic scheme.



Mathematical Development

This Area of Learning focuses on children developing their skills, knowledge and understanding of mathematics by solving problems.

They use numbers in their daily activities. They investigate the properties of shape and sort, match, sequence and compare objects and create simple patterns.

Welsh Language Development

This Area of Learning gives those children in English medium schools the opportunity of learning to use and communicate in Welsh. At first they learn greetings and thank you. They listen to a range of stimuli, including audio visual material and ICT interactive software, sing songs and play games.



Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Children are given experiences that increase their curiosity about the world around them and to begin to understand past events, people and places, living things and the work people do.

They learn to demonstrate care, responsibility, concern and respect for all living things and the environment. They learn to express their own ideas, opinions and feelings with imagination, creativity and sensitivity.



Physical Development Children are encouraged to enjoy physical activity and develop spatial awareness, balance, control and coordination and developing motor and manipulative skills Children are introduced to the concepts of health, hygiene and safety and the importance of diet, rest, sleep and exercise.

Creative Development.

We developing their imagination and creativity and stimulate their natural curiosity and disposition to learning. Children engage in creative, imaginative and expressive activities in art, craft, design, music, dance and movement.



In addition we do have;

A Christmas concert and class assembly.

Visitors



Trips



Healthy Snack

During the morning session the children have a healthy snack consisting of milk or water and fruit or vegetables with, for example, toast, crackers, bread sticks or pancakes, etc with a special snack on Fridays. Please advise staff if your child cannot drink milk or has any allergies. We ask for a small contribution towards snack of **£1.00 per week** payable on Mondays, or a single payment for the whole term. The money raised goes towards cooking ingredients, consumables and updating our equipment.

Birthdays in the Nursery are celebrated and children often like to bring in a cake to share.

Health

If your child is not coming to Nursery as they are unwell, please remember to phone and let us know. If your child becomes unwell during the day, we will contact you to take him/her home.

Please ensure we have the name, address and telephone number of a relative or friend whom would take charge of your child if we cannot contact you.

If your child is unwell, please keep him/her at home until s/he is better. Please do not bring your child into Nursery if they have had vomiting or diarrhoea in the last **48** hours.

We can no longer issue alert letters when a case of head lice is reported in nursery or school but we encourage all parents to check their children's hair for lice weekly. This is best done by wet-combing, a simple but very effective method.

Please encourage your child to be as independent as possible when using the toilet. If there are any issues with toileting, please discuss these with nursery staff and we will do our best to be sensitive to these.

Teeth Cleaning We take part in a WAG funded scheme 'Y bws brwsio' where after lunch we all clean our teeth. Permission slips will be sent out at the beginning of term.

Settling in

Nursery should be an enjoyable experience for all children from the beginning. Children entering Nursery come from various backgrounds and have enjoyed a variety of pre-school experiences. It's doubtful any self-respecting three year old will voluntarily enter playgroup or nursery, wave goodbye cheerfully and start playing. There may be tears and clinging, some children settle quickly while others take longer to gain confidence.

Tips for a happy settling in

You should leave enough time to settle your child in every morning, especially early on. Never appear to be rushing, as this will encourage them to cling to you desperately. Make them feel you have all the time in the world to say goodbye, but get on with it as prolonged goodbyes don't help anyone!



Coping with your own feelings It's a landmark moment when you first leave your child. Be cheerful and confident, firm and reassuring (even if you're not feeling it!). Walk them in, don't carry them. Remember, if you appear anxious or upset they will pick up on your emotions.

Never sneak off - always say goodbye clearly or your child will never know who is going to disappear, when. Say goodbye very firmly and cheerfully. It will calm them by seeing your happiness and confidence.

Bringing a favourite toy can help in the first few weeks.

Crying when you leave

Almost all children, at some point, will be upset when you leave them. We expect this and will encourage you to stay on a while when your child first starts. If your child is upset when you leave, staff distract and comfort them. In most cases your child will have stopped sobbing by the time you've reached the gate.

Please be reassured, you can phone later to check and put your mind at rest, or we will call you if your child does not settle within a reasonable time.

At the beginning of the new school year we have a staged transition for new nursery pupils. This means that not all new pupils will start nursery on the same day. This allows time for staff to support children in their new class groupings. The timetable is as follows

Phase 1 - Children who have previously attended nursery as a Rising 3.

Phase 2 - New pupils will attend the nursery.

You will be notified of your start date. Initially your child is offered a morning session; 9.00-11.30a.m. This will be extended gradually to a full day when your child is ready and with negotiations with the staff and parents.

Picking up

Parents are asked to be punctual, as young children who are left can easily become distressed. If, for any reason, you are going to be delayed, please telephone the school. Please remember to let staff know in writing, if someone else is picking up your child. For security reasons, we let the children out as we see the parents; they will come to you, so please watch out for them.

Parking

Rhydri Primary is a very busy area at certain times of the day and parking is difficult at dropping off and picking up times. To ease congestion at the end of the day, it is suggested you could park at the village hall and walk up through the dormouse path.

PLEASE DO NOT STOP ON THE ZIGZAG LINES.

Clothing

Children are best dressed in school uniform. It is easy fitting play clothes and there are always painting and gluing activities on offer so children will get messy. It is a good idea to put on clothes which your child can manage independently for going to the toilet. In the event of an accident we have spare clothing, however some children prefer their own clothes, so if you feel this is a possibility with your child, please send up some spare clothes in a bag which can be left on your child's peg at nursery.

Children should always come with clothing for going outside as we will provide a period of outside play whenever possible, even in wet and cold weather. Please ensure your child has warm clothes, waterproof jacket and suitable shoes eg no open toed sandals. As often as we can, we will get outside for outdoor play, we have waterproof jackets and trousers to increase these opportunities.

Wellington Boots

We ask that you bring a pair of named wellington boots into Nursery to leave for your child to use.

Labelling

Please ensure that **all** clothing and footwear is clearly labelled in bold with your child's name; please be aware that names written with biro will fade with wear and washing and need to be re-marked periodically.



What should a child try to do for him/herself?

Starting nursery means your child will begin to be more independent and to look after him/herself. There are many ways in which parents can help him/her on this path.

Children should be encouraged to:

Put on their jacket and be able to fasten it.

Put on their shoes and fasten buckles. Slip-on shoes or Velcro fastenings will give that extra bit of independence.

Use and flush the toilet themselves, wash and dry their hands.

Use a tissue and cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing.

How can parents help?

Do things with your child and talk about it -whether it's everyday things such as shopping, playing outside, a walk or special things, such as buying a birthday present for a friend.

Play games together - board games such as Lotto, Pairs, as well as **football**.

Read stories to your child, teach him/her songs and rhymes.

Encourage him/her to draw, paint, colour and model with play dough and junk.

Encourage him/her to put his/her playthings away - this is an important mathematical activity as well as making life easier for us all!

Encourage please and thank you.

Understand that they are coming to school.

Sending Money

If you are sending in lunch money, please put it in an envelope with child's name, class and purpose and take it to the **office** in the main school. Snack money needs to be paid in cash and given to staff in Rainbow class.

What do I do if my child needs medicine?

General medicines are not allowed in school but inhalers, Epi-pens and medicines which have to be given over a prolonged period are accepted. Apart from these instances, if children need medication during school time, parents are expected come into school to administer the medicine.

If I am concerned about any aspect of my child's school life, what do I do?

We have an 'Open door' policy in school. We want you and your child to be happy so please feel able to talk to us at any time. It is often best at the end of a session or if you would prefer a longer chat please make an appointment to see us. It is always better to deal with any concerns immediately.

Further information about our school can be found on our blog at www.rhydriprimary.com