

CLYTHA PRIMARY SCHOOL



A HANDBOOK FOR RECEPTION PARENTS 2021-2022

CLYTHA RECEPTION CLASS/Dosbarth Derbyn

Dear Families,

Welcome to our Reception Class at Clytha Primary School. This first year of full-time education begins the most wonderful journey of learning through the years at Clytha through exploration, discovery, investigation, creativity, collaboration, play and learning. The joy of learning begins here.

Our children learn through play. They practise and consolidate their learning, play with ideas and experiment, take risks, solve problems, learn how to make decisions, become more self-aware, develop self-esteem and learn the rules of social behaviour and develop growing independence. At Clytha, rich learning opportunities stem from practical, first-hand experiences utilising the six Areas of Learning Experiences from our Curriculum. These first hand experiences allow the children to develop an understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. We capture the interests of our children at Clytha, through child-led learning as well as structured, well-planned teacher-led opportunities that ensure that all our children are engaged and develop at their individual level.

We actively promote the development of equal opportunity and these are intrinsic to our values at Clytha and we actively celebrate diversity.

We encourage our sense of 'Clytha Family', with our positive partnership fostered between home and school.

Clytha Primary encourages a whole and enriched curriculum. We ensure that we plan for rich creative and expressive opportunities as well as engaging and excelling in the 'core' subjects - Languages, Literacy and Communication and Mathematical Development. Our standards at Clytha are high, but we ensure that our children have a broad and balanced education, with holistic development and endeavouring to meet the needs of all learners, at our heart. We are a happy school, where the joy of learning really does matter.

The joy of learning does indeed begin in our Reception Class and will continue throughout your child's journey through our school. Croeso. Welcome.

J.E.Davies
Headteacher

STAFFING

In our Reception class there are two teachers, Miss Mountain, who teaches on Monday to Wednesday, and Miss Bayley who teaches on Thursday and Friday. We have two Teaching Assistants who also support our learners in class, and there may also be additional adult support if appropriate, to meet the needs of specific children in the class. Our staff are our greatest resource and will quickly build up effective relationships with both your child and yourselves.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Reception Class facilities consist of one large room with direct access to an external, canopied play area. There is also a cloakroom with four toilets and four wash basins, which is shared with our Nursery class. The children have access to our school hall for whole school assemblies, indoor Physical Education, music and for lunchtimes, although this access has been limited this year, as we have operated within our class 'bubbles' due to Covid-19 restrictions. Our learning environment is very natural, creative and calming.



PLAYTIMES AND LUNCHTIMES

We have a morning playtime, when Reception children eat their snack and play on the lower yard as a class. They have access to the Trim Trail as well as a wide range of suitable resources.

Lunch is currently eaten in the Reception classroom, although there may be a return to using the school hall for lunches in the next school year. Once lunch is eaten, children have a second play on the lower yard.



FOUNDATION PHASE

Wales currently has a Foundation Phase curriculum for all children from Nursery to Year Two. There is a strong emphasis on engaging children by providing rich, experiential learning opportunities, as well as the direct teaching of the core subjects of Languages, Literacy and Communication and Mathematics and Numeracy. Varied and exciting project work enables children to explore and develop their thinking, investigate and problem-solve, and rise to new challenges.

At Clytha, we are planning for the 'Curriculum for Wales, 2022', which continues this emphasis, along with the 'Four Purposes' at our core. These demonstrate the importance of children becoming:

- Ambitious, capable learners
- Ethical, informed citizens
- Healthy, confident individuals
- Enterprising, creative contributors

and these are developed throughout our learning experiences from the age of 3 onwards.

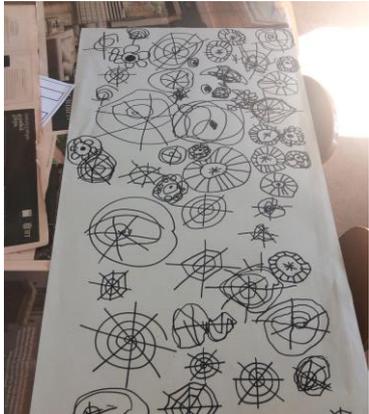
Children's interests and ideas often help to shape the direction a project may take, and throughout the year, we aim to share many of these experiences with you using the 'Seesaw app'.



A 'typical' day in Reception will always feature reading, writing and mathematical activities, either within play opportunities or as taught sessions, and these will change term by term as new skills are developed.

We are planning towards the 'Curriculum for Wales, 2022' and we plan learning, knowledge and experiences based on the six Areas of Learning and Experience:

LANGUAGES, LITERACY AND COMMUNICATION (INCLUDES WELSH LANGUAGE AND OTHER LANGUAGES)



MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



HUMANITIES



EXPRESSIVE ARTS



The Foundation Phase also places great importance on the outdoors as an additional classroom where children can work on a daily basis. Our canopied area, along with the outdoor classroom on the lower yard, allow us to provide many different learning opportunities, and we aim to go out come rain or shine. We also make good use of the grounds around St John's Church and the church hall, for exploring the natural world around us.

OBSERVATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

After your child has been accepted into our Reception class, parents meet/talk with the Head teacher and Class teachers to provide us with information that you feel will help us to get to know your child quickly. During the first half term, staff record their own observations and meet with parents to discuss the 'baseline' assessments which are carried out when children first start in school.

Parent consultations occur early in the autumn term and in the spring term to discuss progress. A written report is given out at the end of the academic year in July. There is also an Open Day in the summer term which is a lovely opportunity for parents to join their children in the classroom during a normal school day. You can of course meet with staff at any time should they have any concerns over your child's progress, or if you wish to update us on any changes in your child's life. Staff are often available at the end of the school day and will be more than happy to meet with you then.

PUPIL CARE

Reception has a network of support agencies: -

1. The school nurses visit to help with general health and hygiene if requested. Vision, weight and height checks are carried out in Reception by this team. They are happy to discuss the outcomes of these checks with parents. Appointments can be made through the class teacher.
2. Hearing tests are carried out by visiting audiologists from Clytha Clinic once in the year.
3. School takes part in the new immunisation programme for all children in Wales, this is organised by NHS Wales.
4. We also take part in the 'Design to Smile' Dental programme.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

We aim to provide many engaging experiences throughout the year, including whole class visits, and smaller group visits within our immediate school locality. We also arrange for regular visitors to come in and work with the children to enhance our projects. Parents will be given details well in advance if children are taking part in activities outside school. It is often necessary to ask for a voluntary contribution to enable a visit to take place, as unfortunately we are unable to finance these ventures from school funds.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

We have high expectations of behaviour, and believe that a calm environment in which classroom rules are consistently and fairly applied, is the key to happy, settled children who are ready to learn. During the first half term, the expectations of the class are clearly outlined to children, as they respond best to routines that they understand. We follow a whole school approach of Positive Behaviour Management. We always focus on the positive aspects of a child's behaviour as this is a proven approach to good behaviour management.

We ask that parents also remain positive about **all** children's behaviour; our staff rarely miss incidents and are skilled at using a variety of strategies to persuade children to change their behaviour if it is not appropriate. We are an inclusive school and believe that every child is special and that every child deserves respect, kindness and care. Our Behaviour Policy is available on the school website.

Our Reception Team look forward to welcoming both you and your child to Clytha Primary School.