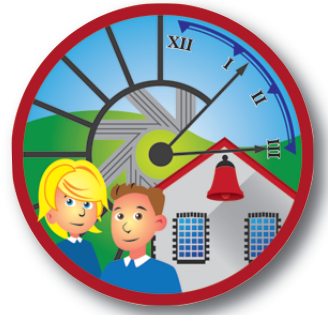


# Brynnau Primary School

*'Helping each other to succeed Helpu'n Gilydd i lwyddo'*



## Welcome to the Foundation Phase



**Head Teacher Mrs B Atkin**

*Foundation Phase Team*

**Dosbarth Enfys**

Mrs S Wilson

Mrs E Madge

Mrs N Smith-Johns

Mrs S Morgan

Mrs N Jones

Miss E Wilson

**SNSA's**

Miss J Morgan

**Dosbarth Coch**

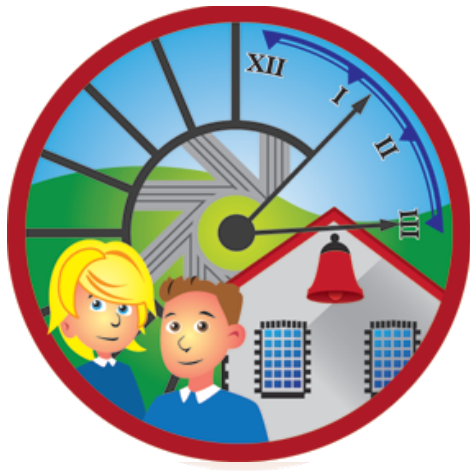
Mrs S Dennett-Jones

Mrs R Gallagher

**Dosbarth Melyn**

Mrs S Jones

Mrs M Clarke



# Welcome to Brynnau Primary School

We would like to welcome you and your child to Brynnau Primary School Foundation Phase Class.

We hope you find this guide to the Foundation Phase useful. Starting school should be an enjoyable time for parents. This is a new phase in your child's development and in your relationship with your child.

The link between teachers and parents is vitally important for your child to settle in quickly and happily into the new school routines.

## Our school aims are:

- To encourage high standards of attainment, achievement and behaviour, individually and collaboratively in an environment which is stimulating, well resourced and values individual self worth.
- To work in partnership with parents and the wider community.
- To ensure equality opportunity for our children and staff.

## Working together to help your child

We strongly believe that a child's education can be greatly enhanced when parents and teachers work together. You know your child better than anyone else therefore are able to provide valuable information to assist with the teacher's planning. We hope through informal chats, as well as parent's evenings we will gain a more detailed picture of your child.

We would be delighted if you would share with us any news about your child or pictures completed at home, and generally anything, which may concern or please you and we will be sure to do the same!

## Preparing for Foundation Phase

- Talk to your child about starting school and if possible read stories to them regarding children starting school.
- If possible create chances for your child to interact with other young children in their environment and support them in talking to other adults.
- It would be a good idea to visit large sociable areas such as a park, the library or a swimming pool to get your child used to wider spaces other than the home environment.
- Help your child to become familiar with our names in the Foundation Phase before they begin.

## Starting Foundation Phase

When your child starts at our Foundation Phase class we try very hard to make their experiences as happy as possible. We provide a secure and welcoming environment where all adults are skilled and experienced in working with children, understanding their needs and are used to thinking of ways to stimulate early learning.

We give the children time to settle into their new routine and talk with you about the best way to do this if they are finding it difficult. We want you to be part of your child's education. We will share our observations with you and look forward to talking to you about your child's progress.

## Foundation Phase Session Time

In the interests of your children's safety please observe the following times:

- School gate opens at 8.50 a.m.
- Doors open at 9.00 a.m.
- School gate closes at 9.05 a.m.
- School gate opens at 3.00 p.m.
- Foundation Phase pupils are released at 3.15 p.m.
- Morning sessions 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
- Afternoon sessions 1.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.

It is imperative that Foundation class children are accompanied by an adult until handover to school staff at 9.00 a.m.

# Your Child's Learning in Foundation Phase

The Foundation Phase is a developmental curriculum for 3-7 year olds in Wales. It encourages children to be creative, imaginative and have fun while making learning more effective. Your child will be given opportunities to explore the world around them and understand how things work by taking part in practical activities relevant to their development stage. They will be challenged with open ended questions and be able to explore and share ideas for solving problems. In the Foundation Phase we aim to capture children's imaginations and interests and make learning enjoyable. The more children are stimulated and engaged, the more they will learn.

As you may be aware, it is widely recognized that young children do not learn through individual subjects such as P.E. and science. Therefore, much of our curriculum is combined, ensuring that several areas can be covered within one activity or theme. Our curriculum has six Areas of Learning and Experience where stimulating structured play activities are woven into the learning experiences.

Opportunities for children to develop through first hand experiences are planned within the following areas:



## *Health and Well-being*

This includes settling into the nursery/school environment which includes leaving their parents or carer for the first time, learning to be kind to each other, sharing the resources in the Foundation Phase, taking turns and growing more confident when forming new relationships and friendships. On a daily basis children are increasing their large muscle movements within action rhymes and also during outdoor play. They will be introduced to the concepts of health, hygiene, safety and the importance of diet, rest, sleep and exercise. Finer muscle movements are also developed within hand control, such as drawing, painting, sticking and building. We also encourage tactile experiences by playing and making resources such as dough and a range of cooking experiences.

## *Science and Technology*

Children are given the opportunity to have first hand exploratory experiences with resources such as sand, water, paint, foam and the outdoors. Children are given experiences that increase their curiosity about the world around them and encourage them to ask questions. They will develop their own ideas and learn how to express their opinions and feelings with imagination and creativity.

## *Humanities*

Children are given the opportunity to experience the wonders of the natural world, in the locality, elsewhere in Wales as well as in the Wider World. A sense of belonging and curiosity is nurtured through a wide range of learning and experiences.



### *Expressive Arts*

Children have daily access to our creative area. There are usually activities to explore different painting techniques, develop painting skills and encourage children to be creative. They will engage in creative, imaginative and expressive activities in art, craft, music, dance and creative movement.

### *Languages, Literacy and Communication*

Your child will be immersed in language experiences and activities. Their skills will develop through talking and listening. Writing is encouraged through all activities and we value all children's work (even if it looks like squiggles it is an important developmental stage.) Adults share books with children on a regular basis and all children are encouraged to talk about their experiences at home and in Foundation Phase. We have quiet times in Foundation Phase when we help children to listen to adults and each other. Your child will participate in a range of enjoyable, practical, planned activities, using a range of stimuli. Children will also have the opportunity to learn and enjoy the Welsh Language through daily access to appropriate play based activities.

### *Mathematics and Numeracy*

Children will use numbers in their daily activities. We all join in to sing counting and number rhymes on a regular basis. Children are encouraged to look and recognise shapes and numbers as well as activities such as counting, sorting and matching. As the children progress we build on their knowledge and understanding and begin basic addition through set combining.

In view of the fact that children all work and learn at various levels and speeds, as well as having different interests we ensure that our planning builds on children's interests and incorporates a variety of stimulating activities each session so that the children can all learn at their own levels of confidence.





### *Dinner Time*

We encourage the children to have a school lunch as part of our social training. We offer a two week menu of hot dishes and each meal includes a dessert and a drink. Unlimited wholemeal bread is also provided. We are able to provide for vegetarian, vegan and medical diets. Dinner money is £12.75 per week, £2.55 per day. Dinner money is to be paid in advance online by registering an account on the RCT payment system. Each child has their own 10 digit school meals reference number which will be provided once your child is admitted to school. Your child's dinner money balance will be carried forward each week, please note that any dinner money arrears cannot exceed a two week period. You are also able to provide your child with a packed lunch if you so prefer.

### *Snacks*

Snack time is held each day in small groups. In order for your child to participate in snack time please provide a small fruit snack for your child each day. Fruit snack can be provided in a small container or bag clearly labelled with your child's name. All grapes need to be cut in order to meet Health and Safety guidance. Each day we will provide milk, and water for the children.

### *Clothing*

We would appreciate if your child was appropriately dressed in their school uniform and that their sweatshirts, shoes and outdoor coats are clearly labeled with their name. Your child also needs a spare set of clothes in case of 'accidents'. These will also need to be labelled and stored in a small drawstring bag on their coat peg.

As a large part of your child's learning will take place outdoors we have purchased a small number of waterproof outfits but each child will need a pair of Wellingtons to be left in school. As our learning experiences are hands-on, it is highly likely that your child may not return dressed quite as smartly as they arrived at school!







### *Jewellery*

Because of health and safety regulations, we only allow small stud earrings and a watch to be worn in school. (If any other jewellery is worn for religious reasons please contact the Headteacher to make arrangements.)

### *Absences*

Please notify the school of an absence on the first day by telephoning the school office. It is very important that we have up to date information on how to contact you or a nominated person in the event of an emergency.

### *Medicines in School*

If pupils are unwell, the best place for them is at home. However, if your child does require prescribed medicines during the school day an adult must bring the medicine into the main reception. We are able to give your child medicine, inhalers, etc., but before doing so you need to complete a form explaining the dose obtained from the main school office. Any medicines must be collected at the end of the school day by parents or carers.

For long-term medication, for example inhalers, that need to remain in school over times, we ask that they be labelled clearly with your child's name and requirements.





### *Parent Helpers*

We welcome parents and grandparents into the nursery to help from time to time with activities. If you would like to volunteer it will however be necessary for you to undertake a CRB check prior to coming into the nursery.

### *Speaking to your child's Teacher*

We will be holding parents' evenings throughout the school year which will give you the chance to speak to your child's teacher regarding their progress in Foundation Phase.

If there are any important, or urgent, issues that you feel you may need to inform us of, such as possible illnesses, family bereavement or any other information that may affect your child throughout their session at Foundation Phase please speak to a member of staff at the beginning of the session, or email the class teacher. The Foundation Phase staff will have more time to discuss less urgent concerns at the end of each session.

Each class has it's own 'Teams' page where children can share experiences from home, including uploading photographs. All home learning will also be uploaded on this site and home/school communication will be encouraged. Your child will be provided with their own personal username and password once they have been admitted to our school. These will be sent home along with a guide on how to use Teams and Hwb after the first week of starting school.

### *Collecting your Child*

If for any reason you need to collect your child during the day, please come to the main reception. The office staff will collect your child from their class and sign them out. So that this works well for everyone, please provide us with a note that gives the time, and reason, you will be collecting your child.

### *Care outside the Foundation Phase*

We do ask that you take care at the school entrances. For the safety of all children, please:

- Do not use the staff car park if you are dropping your child off by car.
- Do not park, turn, or reverse within the yellow zigzag markings.
- Make sure that your child never walks on the driveway at the reception entrance. Always use the footpaths.
- Guide Dogs are permitted on the school grounds. Please do not bring any other dogs into the school playground.

Thank you for reading this information. We hope you have found it helpful, but if anything is not clear please let us know. To run smoothly our Foundation Phase needs everyone to work together. By following the routines in this booklet, you help us to work with you for the good of all the children in our care.

*'Helping each other to succeed    Helpu'n Gilydd i lwyddo'*



Head Teacher: Mrs. B Atkin

Brynnau Primary School

William Street

Brynnau

RCT

CF729QJ

Tel: 01443 237 828

E-mail: [admin@brynnauprimary.rctcbc.cymru](mailto:admin@brynnauprimary.rctcbc.cymru)

Website: [www.brynnauprimary.co.uk](http://www.brynnauprimary.co.uk)

If there is any other information you require please contact us.

*Best wishes,  
Foundation Phase Staff.*