

Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbrân

Dosbarth Derbyn

Reception Class



Llyfryn Gwybodaeth  
Information Booklet

'Cawsom Iaith I'w Chadw'

# Dysgu a chyflawni gyda'n gilydd

Dear Parent/Guardian,  
Welcome to Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbrân. We are confident that your child's time with us will be a happy one. We hope that this handbook will be of use to you and that it will answer any questions you may have.  
Diolch yn fawr!

**Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbrân**

Henllys Way

St Dials

Cwmbrân

Torfaen

NP44 4HB

**Telephone:** 01633 483383

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

**Bluesky:** @YGCwmbran.bsky.social

**Schoop ID:** 10319

**Headteacher:** Miss Catrin Evans

**Chair of Governors:** Mrs Jo Lewis



# Cawsom Iaith i'w Chadw

## Arrangements for starting school:

Starting in the Reception Class is a big step for children. We do our utmost to make sure the process is as easy as possible for them. A meeting is arranged for the new Reception Class parents and children in the summer term before the children's entry to the Reception Class in September. A taster session is also arranged for the children.

## School Hours

Staff will be on duty between 08:45 and 8:55 during morning drop-off. School finishes at 3:15pm for children in Reception to Year 2 and at 3:25pm for those in Years 3-6. Punctuality is very important and all pupils need to be in class to be registered before 9:00am.

Children in Reception to Year 2 should be brought to the front of the school where they will be met/collected by staff and taken to their classroom.

At home time, staff will guide the children from the school building. ALL pupils should be collected from the middle yard. We kindly ask that you keep at a distance from the staff and children so that we can ensure that we are able to safely transfer each child into the care of his/her parent/guardian.

Alternative arrangements are made for those who travel to school on school transport.

There is strictly no parking for parents/guardians on the school grounds and, to ensure the safety of all those on site, you must park outside the school grounds and walk to the yard where you can meet your child. Please be considerate towards our neighbours when parking.



# Helping your child to settle

Encourage your child to be independent - it gives them confidence.

It will help your child if he/she is able to:

- Go to the toilet independently, pull the flush and then wash and dry their hands. (It is important that the children understand the importance of washing hands well so that germs that could make them ill are not passed on.) It is expected that the children are toilet trained before starting in school and are able to wipe themselves independently.
- Look after their belongings e.g. putting their coat on the peg and recognising their coat.
- Dress themselves e.g. coat, jumper, socks and shoes after P.E lessons.
- Recognise their name e.g. on their peg and book etc.
- Tidy and take responsibility for toys and equipment.



## Home and School Links

Co-operation between the school and home is very important and it is possible for you to help your child in a variety of ways. The best way to help your child is to encourage them and to **praise their efforts**.

If you have any concerns regarding your child, you are welcome to contact the school and make an appointment to discuss them.



## School Lunches

There is a choice of pasta / salad bar or hot meal available. A menu is sent out each term notifying of the choice of food available and uploaded to Bluesky every week. Alternatively, the children may bring a packed lunch from home. ALL pupils are entitled to a free school meal.

## Daily Snack

The children are given a drink of milk every day and they should also bring a **bottle of water** (only) with them to school. We will happily re-fill empty bottles. They may also bring a prepared piece of fruit to school to eat at morning break time.

Pupils are not to bring any other drinks or snacks to school (except packed lunch).

**It is very important that you let us know if your child has food allergies of any kind.**



## Illness and Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school, you must notify the school **as soon as possible before 9 o'clock**. We will contact you if your child is taken ill and it is important therefore that your contact details are kept up to date.

## Medication

We would be grateful if you could try to time your child's doses of medicine around school hours. If your child needs to be given medication or an asthma pump whilst at school, you will need to fill in a permission form and ensure that your child's name is on the medication. You can fill in an online form on the school website.

## School Uniform

In order for children to feel they 'belong' to the school, we encourage children across the school to wear the school uniform. The school colours are red and grey. The children may wear a grey skirt / trousers / tracksuit bottoms or something similar with a red cardigan / jumper. However, the uniform does not have to have the school logo on it. It is possible to order the school uniform from Pretty Miss, Cwmbrân.

**Phone:** 01633 484408. **Website:** [www.kidsschoolkits.com](http://www.kidsschoolkits.com)

Please ensure your child's name is on every item of clothing.

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



## Spare Clothes

Accidents do happen therefore, when your child starts in reception, would you please send in a bag of spare clothes labelled with your child's name? The bag can be kept in school until it is needed. Please also ensure that the bag is re-filled if the clothes have been used. We have a stock of used uniform in excellent condition, please ask if you would like any items.

## Physical Education

**There are two P.E. sessions a week.**

Pupils should wear their P.E. kit to school on these days. We kindly ask that they wear a red T-shirt / Polo shirt, black bottoms (shorts or joggers) and trainers.



# Discipline

Discipline in Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbrân is firm but fair and consistent. We believe strongly in recognising and praising good behaviour.

The children are taught how to treat all the class resources with care and to tidy after themselves and are expected to do so. If you or your child have concerns, please speak to the class teacher. We believe it is very important to share information. The school will speak to you if we have any concerns so that we can work together to overcome them.

## Our aims and objectives in the early years

We aim to provide an environment which is safe and appealing; where children's efforts are appreciated; activities are differentiated, are inclusive and practical and encourage children's independence.



# Curriculum for Wales

## Language, literacy and communication:

In this area of learning, the children will study a variety of stories and poems and communicate in spoken, written or visual ways. We encourage the use of the Welsh language throughout the school day activities.

## How you can help:

Give your child opportunities to experiment and make marks. Help your child recognise and build their name. There are programmes for the children on Cyw on S4C every day. Frequently read a variety of stories with your child.

## Mathematics and Numeracy:

In this area of learning, the children will develop their understanding of numbers and use symbols in maths. They'll explore concepts relating to number, shape, space, pattern, weight, measuring, money and volume through a variety of practical activities.

## How you can help:

You can draw their attention to mathematical skills during day to day life e.g. numbers on signs, counting objects, playing number games, adding and taking away objects, counting steps as you walk, count money when you shop and measure and weigh ingredients when cooking.

## Humanities:

In this area of learning the children will learn about their homes, society and the world around them, focusing on events in the past and present. The children will explore the challenges and opportunities that face humanity and how we can safeguard the world and its people in the future.

## How you can help:

Draw attention to these things as the opportunity arises during day to day life. Help the children understand diversity and culture and discuss their habitat, society and the wider world.



# Curriculum for Wales

## Science and Technology:

In this area of learning, your child will learn about physical science, computing and design and technology. They will learn about design and engineering, living things, matter, forces and energy and how computers work.

## How you can help:

Give your child opportunities to experiment with a variety of materials e.g. water, sand and natural materials found outdoors.

Give your child opportunities to follow step-by-step instructions to reach an end goal.

## Expressive Arts:

In this area of learning, your child will develop their creative, artistic and performance skills through the exploration of art, dance, music, drama, film and digital media.

## How you can help:

By giving your child opportunities to use a variety of materials e.g. pencils, crayons, collage material, paint, scissors glue etc. Encouraging your child to sing and to listen to different types of music and to use simple instruments to make their own. Provide opportunities for your child to play imaginatively and to role play.

## Health and Well-being:

In this area the children will develop these skills across all areas of learning. Health and well-being is about looking after their physical and mental health including emotional well-being. The children will learn about themselves and their relationships with others within their family, as well as outside the home. We encourage them to communicate with others and to be confident, independent and responsible. They'll also learn about a balanced diet and making good decisions.

## How you can help:

Talk positively to them about friends, relationships etc. Encourage them to respect others, be independent and responsible e.g. tidying toys, getting dressed, sharing with others.



# Before writing and reading

## Before your child begins to write they need to:

- Be able to draw a complex figure with details;
- Enjoy using a pencil and be able to use it correctly; (never correct a left handed child)
- Notice small differences in similar pictures; (letters can be very similar e.g. p, b, d)
- Follow a line with their finger;
- Overwrite lines; (straight and curved)
- Have lots of experience of and to enjoy pretend writing;
- Follow and copy a sequence.

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

- Enjoy listening to stories and want to read;
- Handle books correctly;
- Talk about pictures;
- Notice details and differences;
- Find two pictures the same;
- Know that print carries meaning;
- Notice words in places other than books; (labels on food, clothes, signs etc.)
- Know that a story is read from left to right and from top to bottom;
- Be able to copy and follow a sequence;
- Recognise most sounds;
- Recognise some words e.g. their name, family names etc.



## Frequently Asked Questions

<b>What are the advantages of my child being bilingual?</b>	Research shows that children who understand more than one language are able to think more flexibly and creatively. There are economic advantages, as increasingly in Wales employers are asking for bilingual skills. This is true for all areas of Wales not just in the predominantly Welsh speaking parts of Wales. Bilingualism provides opportunities to experience two different cultures. You see aspects of Wales in a different way. Two languages - twice the choice!
<b>Is Welsh a difficult language to learn?</b>	No! In a supportive atmosphere, any child can learn to speak Welsh. Their brains soak in language like sponges. Learning a language is much harder for an adult.
<b>Do children mix up the two languages?</b>	At the start, a few children will use a mixture of both languages, but they soon learn to separate them, and will use whichever language the person talking to them uses. Research shows that speaking more than one language helps them learn and understand other languages.
<b>I can't speak Welsh. How can I help my child?</b>	Support your child and show pleasure and pride in their ability to speak Welsh. If you feel confident enough, try using some Welsh words, for example, colours and numbers. Take an active interest in all aspects of your child's life and discuss what they have learned. It is good to reinforce what they have learned in Welsh by discussing in English. Encourage any Welsh speakers you know to use the language with your child. There are lots of other ideas on how to help your child within the handbook.
<b>What if one parent can speak Welsh?</b>	This is a common situation. It is important that the parent who can speak Welsh speaks it as often as possible. There is no need for the non-Welsh speaking parent to feel left out as children usually take great pleasure in translating for them! Their contribution is equally as important.
<b>I like to read with my child, does it have to be in Welsh?</b>	No, it's the reading that's important. Once your child has learned to read, they will transfer the same reading skills between English and Welsh.

