



Cwmnedd Primary School

Starting School

Booklet



‘Care, Prepare, Succeed’

At Cwmnedd Primary School our vision is to develop and nurture an inclusive school with learner equity, wellbeing and achievement at its heart.

Article 3:
Everyone that works with children should do the best for them



The Morfa Glas Site



Early Years children (3-5 years) in Nursery and Reception class are based at our Morfa Glas site.

Every effort is made to ensure good communication and strong links with the main school site. We do not have administration staff at Morfa Glas and all administration is based at the main school office (letters, messages, and contact details).

Our contact details are:

Cwmnedd Primary School, New Street, Glynneath, SA11 5AA

01639 720220

Office@cwmnedd.npt.school

Head teacher: Miss S. A. Harwood

Our school clerk will support you with any queries you may have.



Working Together

We strive to provide a school environment that is both welcoming and supportive.

We understand that starting school is a very big step, both for you and your child. We aim to form a successful partnership with parents and carers right from the start. A happy start is very important to us.



At Cwmnedd we pride ourselves on our caring atmosphere where each child is nurtured and valued. We are here to help your child settle and enjoy learning. If you have any concerns we are here to listen, so please talk to a member of staff.



General School Information

School Times

Morning Nursery: (doors open at 8.40am) 8.50 am-11:30 am

Afternoon Nursery: 12.45 pm-2.45pm (to be confirmed for January 2026)

Reception: (doors open at 8.40am) 8.50 am -3.00pm

Visiting the school

New families are always welcomed to visit our school before your child starts with us. In the Autumn Term before your child officially starts school, we run Stay and Play sessions as a means of getting to know children and their families. In the term before your child is due to start in Reception you will receive a letter inviting you to a meeting to talk about your child beginning full time school.

Illness or injury at school

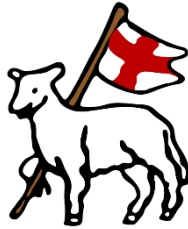
Minor scrapes and bruises are common as children explore a new environment and play outdoors on trikes. If your child has bumped their head, appears unwell or has had a more serious injury at school we will ring to let you know and administer any first aid needed. If your child requires any medication at school you will need to complete and sign a medical form. Please keep us up to date with your current phone numbers by updating the main school office.

Speaking to a Teacher

Teachers and members of staff are available to talk to about any small worries or questions you may have. We have parent/teacher meetings twice a year (November and March) when you can talk about your child's individual progress and needs.

End of the School Day

Please inform the class teacher if there are any changes to the adult picking up your child at the end of the day. Please telephone the main school to let us know if you are going to be late. If your child is ill, please telephone and leave a message with the school office on the first day of illness.



Parking/School Gates

When bringing your child to school please walk on the pavements as we frequently have deliveries and visitors to the school. Children must be supervised when waiting for school to open. It is not safe for children to play in the staff car park. If you drive your child to school, please do not park in the staff car park or drop off inside the school gates as this dangerous when children/adults are arriving and leaving.

The Early Years Team

We are an approachable and positive team with lots of teaching and parenting experience between us! We are very proud of our pupils and their achievements. We are an inclusive school where every child and family matters. We believe that it is essential that the first experiences at Nursery are both enjoyable and engaging.

We are all here to support your child to succeed. It is very important to us that your child settles well and is happy at school.

Mrs H. Grove – Nursery Teacher

Miss I. Morgan - Nursery Teaching Assistant

Mrs S. Russell and Mrs J. Wheeler – Reception Teachers

Miss L. Harris – Reception Teaching Assistant

Head teacher: Miss S. A. Harwood



Organisation

Rising 3s Nursery: Depending on numbers the session is for our youngest children (currently starting the term after they turn 3 years old).

Morning Nursery: Depending on numbers the morning session is for our older nursery children (currently ages 3-4 years old).

Full Time Reception: At the start of the school year that your child turns 5 years old, they will start full time school (1 Sept– 31 August). An admission form will need to be completed by parents to register for a full-time place (available online or from the main school office).

Letters

We communicate with parents and families using the Teacher to Parent App. A text will be sent to your phone and a link will be given for newsletters and other information.

Snack

We will provide a snack for your child every day. This will include a drink of milk and a range of foods such as fruit or toast. Snack costs £1.00 per week and you are welcome to pay termly. Snack is paid for via Parent Pay. Instructions of how to set this up will be given once your child has started at school.

It is essential to let a member of staff know if your child has any known allergies or intolerances.

Toys in School

Although your child may want to bring in a toy from home, **we discourage this strongly** as your child's toy may be a distraction or get lost or broken. Remember that there are lots of toys at school for your child to play with, so toys from home are not needed.



Our Routines

A good routine contributes to our children feeling secure and confident. Our morning and afternoon sessions are organised to support children to progress and develop key learning skills.

- Welcome time session
- Small group time (including a healthy snack time)
- Activities indoors and outdoors
- Tidy up time
- Story, music and rhyme time





Outdoor Learning

Learning outdoors is an essential part of your child's curriculum. We use our large outdoor space as often as we possibly can. We provide wellies and waterproof trousers.

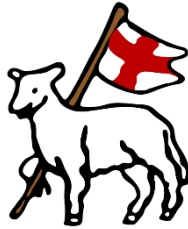
Please ensure your child brings in a **coat with a hood**, especially in colder months, as whatever the weather, we will be outside! It is helpful if you can encourage your child to put on their own coat and wellies.

What clothing do they need?

We promote wearing uniform throughout the school. However, it is optional in nursery as we feel children need clothing that is comfortable and easy for them to dress and undress themselves whilst using the toilet or when going outdoors.

It is essential that ALL clothing, footwear and all school bags are clearly named.

Please note that the nursery provides aprons for activities such as painting, but nevertheless new or expensive clothing is not recommended as accidents do happen!



Please ensure your child is wearing suitable footwear when attending school, as they will need to be able to walk, run and climb outside. Please avoid your child wearing lace-up shoes or flip-flops.

Toilet Training

You can help your child get the most from their nursery session by ensuring they are toilet trained before they start nursery.

We understand that young children may need support or have occasional accidents when they are getting used to using the toilet.

Children should be able to let a grown up know if they need the toilet. They should be able to pull down their own trousers and underwear and sit on the toilet. Children should be able to wipe themselves and wash their hands. **Staff are always willing to help but they are not expected to toilet train your child.**

Please speak to your health visitor if you need additional support with toilet training before your child begins school.

Spare Clothes

When your child begins nursery toilet accidents can happen! To help ease the situation, **please can your child bring in a spare set of clothes in a bag clearly marked with your child's name in case of an accident. Clothes that are useful include; A t-shirt, jogging bottoms, jumper/cardigan, socks and underwear.** They can leave this bag on their peg or they can bring it home and return it the next day.



Learning in the Early of Foundation Learning

When your child starts in Nursery, learning will be planned using the Curriculum for Non-Maintained Settings and also the Curriculum for Wales for 3 – 16 year olds.

It is through play and high -quality enabling adult interactions that young children learn to communicate their understanding of the world, develop new skills and gain confidence in their own unique abilities.

The curriculum encourages children to be creative and imaginative and makes learning enjoyable and very effective. Children will be given opportunities to explore the world around them and understand how things work by taking part in practical activities relevant to their developmental stage.



They will be challenged through practical activities and to develop their thinking with open-ended questions. Children will be encouraged to explore concepts and share ideas for solving problems.

Your child's session will include lots of singing, stories and puppets to develop essential speech and language skills. They will not be sitting at a desk completing worksheets as this is not part of their curriculum.

In the Nursery your child will be taught by a qualified teacher and supported by an experienced teaching assistant. Activities will be carefully planned, structured and assessed to ensure all groups of children make progress.

The Curriculum has 6 areas of learning and experience which are delivered through practical activities and active learning experiences both indoors and outdoors.

The areas of learning and experience are:

- Language, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology
- Humanities
- Expressive Arts
- Health and Wellbeing

High quality nursery education provides solid foundations for all later learning. It is essential that children have good attendance in nursery to provide them with the skills they will need to thrive as they move through the school.



Helping your child to prepare for Nursery

Be positive and confident about your child coming to Nursery. Talk about the exciting play activities they will enjoy, and the other children they will see. Showing your child their name, school bag and coat will help them to manage their belongings when they start. Children will be encouraged right from the start to 'have a go' at doing small things for themselves, such as hanging up their coat and holding their bag.

Play and communication are key ways in which children learn with enjoyment and challenge. Talking with your child and switching off distractions such as phones and televisions will greatly help your child's language development. At home with your child, you can provide opportunities both indoors and outdoors for learning through play.

- Singing nursery rhymes and counting songs together.
- Talking to your child and listening to what they have to say. Try to use short clear sentences and words.
- Drawing, cutting and sticking activities.
- Playing games outside with your child such as, hide and seek.
- Reading picture books to your child every day.
- Playing simple matching games such as, snap
- Playdough, painting and drawing.
- Tidying things away and showing children how to take care of their toys



Practical things you can do to support your child to get the most from nursery:

- Show your child how to put on and take off their coat, jumper, shoes or wellies.
- Remind your child to ask if they need the toilet and begin to use the toilet by themselves.
- Take part in social experiences such as, toddler group.
- Leave your child for short periods with someone familiar such as, family or a friend.
- Hold their hand when you are out and about.
- Give them simple instructions to follow e.g. Time to tidy up the puzzle.
- Support them to recognise their name



Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet, we look forward to meeting you and your child.

Miss Sarah Harwood and Early Years Staff