

"Learn Play Laugh"

# Welcome to The Reception Class



## Croeso i'r Dosbarth Derbyn

"Dysgu Chwarae Chwerthin"

Parent/Carer Information Booklet

Headteacher: Mrs. Jayne Davies

Teachers: Mrs. Eleanor Roberts and Mrs. Rachel Rees

Nursery Assistant: Miss Mel Jenkins

## Welcome to Ysgol Caer Drewyn

We hope and trust that you will come to feel part of our school, working together as partners and helping your child to become an achiever in the many and varied aspects of school life. It is the intention of all our staff to create a happy and caring environment, which, hopefully, will stimulate and motivate your child to develop to the best of his/her ability. It is our aim to foster a positive attitude towards learning.



## **Starting school**

Staying in school for the full day can be an anxious time for both parents and children. We want your child to feel happy and confident as he/she becomes familiar with an exciting learning environment where they will make new friends.

Before they come to school, talk to your child and explain to them what you will be doing when they are at school and also reassure them that you will be there to meet them afterwards. If someone different is collecting your child please telephone school to let us know.

## **Reception Times**

Reception runs from 8:55 until 3:10 during the school term.

Regular attendance at school and arriving on time is important so that your child can gain maximum benefit from the routines and experiences here. Please let us know if your child will be off school for any reason so it can be noted on our register.

## **Settling In**

Reception should be an enjoyable experience for all children.

Children entering Reception come from various backgrounds; some will have attended our nursery setting, private nursery or cylch whilst others will have just been at home with parents.

Some children settle quickly while others take a little longer to gain confidence. This process of settling your child will be on an individual basis and the staff will support you with the best process.

## The Curriculum

The children in the Reception class will follow "The Early Years Foundation Phase Curriculum" as we strongly support the philosophy of learning through play.

We will be encouraging your child to experience activities where they will develop:

- Personal and Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity
- Language, Literacy and Communication Skills
- Mathematical Development
- Welsh Language Development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Creative Development
- Physical Development - *We use the school hall for our gym lessons. Your child will need to come to school dressed in dark coloured tracksuit bottoms with pumps or trainers on a Friday for this please*



## Bilingual setting



Both Welsh and English are used in the Reception class. Welsh and English are used as languages of communication with the children and both Welsh and English are used for activities.

## Whole school community

Our Reception class participates fully in the life of the school taking part in Celebrations, Christmas Production, Book Week activities, Sports day and many other rich and varied experiences.



## **Parents Evening**

At Ysgol Caer Drewyn we keep detailed records of your child's progress. You will have an opportunity to discuss your child's progress formally at Parents Evening that takes place once a term. We also have an open door policy where you will be always welcome to come and talk to us about your child's progress at any time during the year.

## **Healthy Snack**

During the morning we have snack time. The school will provide your child with a small carton of milk to drink and the children can bring a healthy snack consisting of a piece of fruit or small cut vegetables from home. Your child will also need to bring a bottle of water to school everyday to have as and when they need it. Please advise the staff if your child cannot drink milk or has any allergies.

## **Clothing**

Children are best dressed in easy fitting bottoms that they can pull up and down themselves with the school polo shirt and jumper. Please do remember that accidents can still happen in Reception, as we are always so busy, please send some spare clothes in a bag each day so we can change them if necessary. We do have a few spare items in school to use in an emergency. Please ensure your child wears suitable school shoes that, if possible, they can take on and off by themselves. A warm suitable waterproof coat is essential as we do spend most of our day outside.

## **Health**

If your child is not coming to school, as they are unwell, please remember to phone the school and let us know. If your child becomes unwell during the session, we will contact you to take him/her home. Please ensure we always have an up to date telephone number of a friend or relative if we are unable to contact you.

## Outdoor Learning

The outdoor area provides young children with one of the best possible environments in which to learn. Here at Ysgol Caer Drewyn we place an emphasis on playing and learning outdoors. Children will need to wear a water-proof but washable coat to play outdoor (coats tend to get dirty). They will also need to have a pair of wellington boots kept in school.



We go exploring in all weathers!

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

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

Children should be encouraged to:

- Take their own coat off and hang it up
- Put on their coat and fasten it up
- Take their shoes on and off. We don't expect children to tie shoelaces at this age so Velcro fastening are the most suitable.
- Use and flush the toilet themselves, then redress after using the toilet, wash and dry hands!
- Ask for help politely when they find something difficult.
- Speak clearly so others can understand them and look at the person they are speaking or listening to.
- Carry their own bag into school
- Walk into school in the morning with his/her class from the yard



## How can parents help during the Early Years?

- Play with your child as much as possible. They will enjoy your company and love talking about what they are doing.
- Play games that involve sharing and taking turns, an important skill in school.
- Share nursery rhymes that you remember with your child. Sing to your child when they are in the bath, at bedtime and at any other time.
- Allow your child to help with shopping, cooking and cleaning.
- Let them paint, make models with boxes, toilet rolls etc.
- Let your child sort buttons with you by size and colour and cut pictures out of magazines.
- Encourage 'please' and 'thank you'
- Encourage him/her to put their toys away
- Be sure to have a quiet time with your child in the afternoon or before bedtime when you could read to them. This will help them to learn to listen and will be a special time together for both of you.
- Visit the Corwen library, this will help your child develop an interest and a love for books.

Daily Routine - example	
8:55 - 9:10	Bore da, playing with friends and registration
9:10-9:30	Daily Maths focus
9:30-10:00	Busy bee time and Teacher- led directed task
10:00	Tidy up
10:00 - 10:30	Toilet, wash hands, snack and milk time
10:30-11:00	Outside play and outdoor learning
11:00 - 11:30	Jolly Phonics
11:30 - 11:50	Singing time/ yoga/ dancing/ mindfulness
11:55 -12:55	Dinner Time
1:00 -1:30	Helpwr Heddiw and whole class focus
1:30-2:20	Child-initiated learning and teacher focused work
2:20 - 2:40	Outdoor Learning
2:40 - 3:00	Whole class discussions/focus
3:10	Home Time

Many of the sessions on the timetable will take place outside.

## Practical Tips for Helping Your Child Start School

- Please ensure that your child's **name** is on each item of their clothing.
- Please send your child to school in a practical waterproof **coat** that can be washed easily. No expensive designer coats please. We play outside in all weathers with paint and mud!
- Please encourage your child to put their coat on independently at home so they are prepared for independent life at school.
- It works best if your child brings a **small bag** to school with them everyday with a change of clothes and a drink of water.
- In school they will need to go to the **toilet** without too much assistance, please encourage toilet training and good hand washing before they start school in September.
- If possible please provide a spare pair of **Wellingtons** for outdoor activities
- Remember to tell us if someone different is collecting your child out of the usual routine.
- Encourage your child to try and put their shoes on by themselves - no tricky laces please - Velcro works best.
- Remember to make "Goodbyes" quick and "Hellos" special - children settle better if parents or guardians leave as quick as possible -it is surprising how quickly they settle with the same consistent routine.
- Always talk **positive** about school in front of your child and encourage them to talk about what they have been doing. If you have any concerns please come and see us.

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**School Website - [www.ysgolcaerdrewyn.co.uk](http://www.ysgolcaerdrewyn.co.uk)**

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