



Welcome to Reception



The Reception Class

From birth, children are eager to learn about their environment by exploring and investigating. In the Foundation Phase, we aim to build on and reinforce this natural sense of curiosity. The Foundation Phase Curriculum is taught through a balance of adult led and child initiated activities. Through play and discovery, children are supported by staff to acquire new skills, concepts and attitudes in all aspects of their social, physical and intellectual development.

At Henllys there is one Reception class with its own exciting outdoor area. Children are encouraged to freely access the provision both inside and outside, with the support of adults.



Who's Who?

These are the people you will meet in Reception

Mrs L. Henson/Miss L. Needle - Class Teachers

To be confirmed - Teaching assistant

Mrs L Cook - PPA teacher (one morning or afternoon a week)

Daily Routine

Doors open at 8:50am. Classroom doors will be shut at 9.00am. If you arrive after this time please ring the bell to the office.

9.00am Register

9.05am Phonics

9.30am Worship Time

9.50am Group Work and Rainbow Jobs

10.45am Morning play time

11.00am Group work and Rainbow Jobs

11.45am Wash hands (followed by singing or Welsh activity)

12.00pm Lunch Time

1.15pm Register

1.20pm Helpwr Heddiw Time

1.30pm Group Work and Rainbow Jobs

2.30pm Tidy up time

2.45pm Story

3.00pm Get ready for home

3.15pm Home time

Please be patient with us at home time. Parents and carers are politely asked to wait outside of the Reception garden gates until the door is opened. It is important that children are sent home safely which can take time. Please wait until the class teacher has called your child rather than calling your child through the door. If you need to see the class teacher, please wait until all of the children have been dismissed.

Mrs Henson teaches the class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Miss Needle teaches the class on Thursday and Friday. Both teachers work closely together and are in regular communication to ensure handover is as smooth as possible and the TA will remain in class daily to provide consistency.

Snack Time

The children will have a morning playtime when they can have a snack brought from home or they can buy fruit in our school canteen. As part of our Healthy Schools Programme, we ask that children bring a small piece of fruit/vegetables to school each day. The children will also be given free milk at this time.

Water bottle

We encourage children to drink water freely at school. Please fill the bottle with water from home and send it to school with your child. Then wash the bottle at home each night ready for the next morning.

Lunch Time

Children may stay for school meals or packed lunch. We provide a hot meal or a 'funky fillings' option. Please see termly menus for details of what's on offer. School meals cost £2.20.

If your child does not like the food on offer, please provide them with a healthy balanced packed lunch. As a school we also receive funding if you are in receipt of benefits such as income support or child tax credit. Please see the office staff who can explain this further and help to complete an application form. If your child stays for packed lunch, they will need a named lunch box. We encourage children to eat as much of their lunch as they can. Any leftovers from a lunchbox are left in there so parents are able to see what the child has eaten. In the interest of encouraging healthy diets, no fizzy drinks or sweets please!



Allergies and Dietary needs

It is important to let us know if your child suffers from any particular allergy, illness or has a dietary need. If your child has an allergy or a specific dietary need, please contact Torfaen Catering (Clare Gillam) on 01495 762200 to discuss alternative menu requirements. The department will then contact the school to make sure appropriate arrangements are in place for your child. If your child suffers from asthma, a consent form will need to be completed before you can leave an inhaler in school. A form will also have to be completed if your child needs to take prescribed medication during the school day. Please talk to any member of staff if you have any concerns.

What we wear

Winter uniform

Blue blouse and tie
Burgundy v neck cardigan
Grey skirt/pinafore/tailored trousers
Grey tights
Black shoes (no trainers)



Winter uniform

Blue shirt and tie
Burgundy v neck sweatshirt
Grey trousers
Grey socks
Black shoes (no trainers)



Summer uniform

Burgundy striped dress
Blue polo shirt
Grey skirt/pinafore/tailored shorts
Grey or white socks
Black shoes (no trainers)



Summer uniform

Blue polo shirt
Grey shorts
Grey socks
Black shoes (no trainers)



PE Kit

House colour t-shirt

Black shorts

Black daps



What else you will need:

Wellies

Book wrapper

Dinner money purse

Lunch box

Water bottle

PE bag

Independence

To encourage independence, please send your child in through the door and remind them to look for the photo of themselves and their name to locate their peg. Although staff are always on hand to help, we encourage the children to put on and attempt to do up their coats independently. We also encourage children to help each other. At home you can help by teaching your child to put on their coat independently. Please encourage children to dress themselves and practise undoing and doing up shirt buttons in preparation for PE lessons.

Labelling of Clothing

Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled, including shoes, water bottles, book bags, P.E kits and bags. Encourage your child to look for their name so they are able to recognise their belongings.

Keeping us informed

Please notify staff if your child is to be collected by someone other than yourself. If your child is ill, please let the school know as soon as possible on the first day of absence. This may be by way of a telephone call to the office or a Dojo message to the class teacher.

If there are any changes to home circumstances which might affect your child at school, please let us know so that we can keep a careful eye on them. Of course we will treat any such information sensitively.

Please notify us of any medical conditions, permanent or temporary, which may affect your child at school e.g. asthma, allergies.

Homework

The children will receive a homework task every Wednesday. The activities will vary each week depending on the focus of the week. The children will also have a reading book from our reading scheme that should be returned each week on their reading day. They will have a sound/word book that should be returned every Friday so we can assess which sounds/words they have learnt. Please ensure their book bags/wrappers are brought in daily so we can keep their books, reading records and school letters safe when going to and from school.

Attendance

It is inevitable that your child may occasionally be absent from school. Authorised marks will only be given for illness and medical appointments. A visit to the doctor or dentist will usually be authorised for one session (half day). The Welsh Government and school discourage holidays being taken during school term time and holidays will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Legislation requires the school to seek a reason for all absences. Therefore, so that your child may be given the correct absent mark, it is vital that you inform us of the correct reason for your child's absence. Please inform us either by:

- Letter (intention to take holiday during term time showing dates of absence)
- Phone call (we have an answer machine that will record absences)
- Informing the class teacher/teaching assistant.

As I am sure you will agree, regular and punctual attendance is very important for the children to gain maximum benefit from their education. The school therefore has to monitor not only pupil attendance, but also the punctuality of children.

Every day your child is absent from school they may fall behind in 5 subjects and will miss 0.5% attendance from school.

Working with Parents

We look forward to working closely with parents. There are formal parent consultations in the Autumn and Spring term. In the Autumn, parents are invited to the Christmas concert and Class Coffee Afternoon; in the Summer we have our Class Assembly and Sports Day. We also welcome parents who are able to give up some of their time to help in our school e.g. helping us to maintain our outdoor areas, art and craft activities, school trips.

There are opportunities throughout the year for parents to develop their own skills in supporting their child's learning at home through parent workshops such as maths, Welsh and ICT.

Teachers' Planning and Preparation and Assessment Time

All teachers are required to spend 10% of the school week planning, preparing and assessing children's work. At Henllys, our HLTA Mrs Cook covers this time in all classes. There may be times when a supply teacher is required to cover this time.

Assessment

Teachers assess children's progress in a variety of ways. We observe them at work, talk to them and ask questions to determine what they understand, listen to them read, mark their work and set assessment tasks during the year. The information gathered from these formal and informal assessments is used to place your child in a 'working group' so that your child will encounter activities at their level of learning. In addition, our assessments will identify children who would benefit from additional support, or need extension activities.

Website/Twitter

We have launched a brand new and exciting website which provides you with further information and details about the school. Regular class news will be posted on our ClassDojo, and you will also find a weekly whole school newsletter here from our head teacher. We also share news and activities through our school Twitter accounts so please do follow us to keep up to date with what's going on.

Website- www.henllyschurchinwalesschool.co.uk

Twitter- @HenllysCIW, @MrsHensonHCIW, @MissNeedleHCIW

Dojo

When your child starts school we will send home a code for you to join our ClassDojo page. You will be able to see how many Dojo points your child is receiving and keep up-to-date with what is going on in Reception. Points are given for many reasons such as effort put in to work, using Welsh language, helping others and independent learning. You will also be able to contact the class teacher via the messenger service. Each week the child with the most Dojo points will win a prize.

Dewi Draig and Prayer Bear

Each week a child is chosen to bring home Dewi Draig our class dragon. Dewi likes to find Welsh words and find out what they mean. We ask that parents write a small diary entry about what the child has been doing. Photos can be included too.

We also send home our Prayer Bear. Please help your child to write a prayer in the book. The prayers are read out at the end of every school day in class and sometimes during worship time.



Foundation Phase Curriculum

The Foundation Phase is about enhancing the learning experiences which enable children to be creative, imaginative and to have fun whilst learning.

Children will be given opportunities to engage in practical and written activities which are fun, enjoyable and relevant to their stage of development.

The foundation phase places greater emphasis on:

- developing and promoting self-esteem and self-confidence to experiment investigate, learning new things and forming new relationships.
- activities in the outdoors where they have first-hand experiences of solving real life problems.

Within all subject areas, we also aim to promote the skills of Thinking, Literacy, Numeracy and ICT.

National Literacy and Numeracy Framework

The Framework is a planning tool that builds on the work we have been doing in recent years to raise standards in literacy and numeracy. It states the standards we need our pupils to achieve and we strive to reach these standards.

We use the expectations in the framework to set work which improves each pupil's literacy and numeracy skills. The framework makes raising standards in these essential skills a priority, but it does not replace the National Curriculum.

We will also use the framework to assess pupil progress in these skills. By comparing a pupil's work against the expectations set out in the framework, we will be able to set targets to support them in improving their literacy and numeracy skills. Our annual written reports include comments on pupil progress in literacy and numeracy across the curriculum, as measured against the framework.

Learning Indoors and Outdoors

We provide indoor and outdoor environments that are fun, exciting, stimulating and safe. They promote children's development and natural curiosity to explore and learn through first hand, real life experiences.

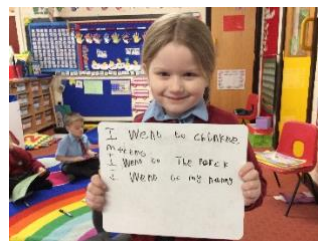
There are currently seven areas of learning in the Foundation Phase which are as follows:

Personal and Social Development, Well-being and Cultural Diversity

This area of learning focuses on children learning about themselves, their relationships with other children and adults. They are encouraged to develop their self-esteem, their personal beliefs and moral values. Children are supported in becoming confident, competent and independent thinkers and learners.

Language, Literacy and Communication Skills

This area of learning focuses on children being immersed in language experiences and activities. Their skills develop through talking, communicating and listening. They are encouraged to listen and respond to others. They have opportunities to choose and use reading materials. They are given a wide range of opportunities to enjoy mark making experiences.



Mathematical Development

This area of learning focuses on children developing their skills, knowledge and understanding of mathematics. They use numbers in their daily activities and investigate the properties of shape. They sort, match, sequence and compare objects and create simple patterns.



Welsh Language Development

This area of learning focuses on children learning to use and communicate in Welsh. We encourage the children to use Welsh every day as part of their daily tasks e.g. Bore da (good morning), Ga i'r...? (Can I have...?). We complete daily Welsh activities to develop the children's confidence and understanding of the Welsh language.



Knowledge and Understanding of the World

This area of learning focuses on children experimenting with their familiar world through enquiry and investigation. Children are given experiences that increase their curiosity about the world around them and begin to understand past events, people and places, living things and non-living things.



Physical Development

This area of learning focuses on children's physical development. Children are encouraged to enjoy physical activity and develop their self-esteem and confidence. Enthusiasm and energy for movement is continually promoted through helping them to use their bodies effectively, by encouraging spatial awareness, balance, control and coordination and developing motor and manipulative skills.



Creative Development

This area of learning focuses on children developing their imagination and creativity. Their natural curiosity to learn is stimulated by everyday sensory experiences. Children engage in creative, imaginative and expressive activities in art, craft, design, music, dance and movement.



Curriculum Reform

In Wales, a new 'draft' curriculum has been launched which means that teaching and learning is undergoing a process of change. The purpose of the new curriculum is to develop learners who are 'ambitious and capable', 'ethical and informed', 'healthy and confident' and 'enterprising and creative'. The above Areas of Learning are also in the process of being replaced by six new Areas of Learning and Experiences which are as follows:

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

All learners will still be encouraged to develop their literacy, numeracy and digital competence skills under the new curriculum. At Henllys, we will keep you informed of changes to the curriculum and how we assess your children throughout the year.

Continuous and Enhanced Provision

Continuous provision refers to the different learning areas provided for pupils on a daily basis although the activities offered within the areas might change. Within these areas, pupils have the opportunities to choose and select resources which are labelled and accessible. Pupils are encouraged to clear away resources after using them. The adult role within the areas of continuous provision is to model appropriate play and language, to engage in activities where appropriate, to promote independence in the use of resources, to observe and assess.

Enhanced provision refers to the elements that are added to the continuous provision to enhance learning and skill development, to encourage investigation, to set challenges and to provide rehearsal opportunities. In Henllys, we set 'Rainbow challenges' as our enhanced provision to encourage children's independence in their own learning.

Continuous and Enhanced provision take place both inside and outside the classroom.

Outdoor Learning

The Foundation Phase places great importance on using the outdoor learning environment.

The outdoors is the ideal environment for experiential learning, because it offers unique learning opportunities to be creative, to move around, to be noisy and to take risks. The outdoors is full of special stimuli such as weather, sounds, smells and textures which can enrich and enhance a child's learning environment.

Being outdoors enhances all aspects of children's development: social, physical, creative, cultural and personal. Children with these skills are well-developed, are able to learn and to retain that learning. Placing greater emphasis on the use of the outdoor environment as a resource for learning benefits children in so many ways.

- Children's health and fitness benefit from running, jumping and skipping outside and using toys and equipment that cannot be used inside.
- Children can experience nature at first hand - how the weather changes and how plants and animals react to the different seasons.
- Problem solving can relate to real experiences.
- Children can experience aspects such as conservation and sustainability at first hand.
- Children can develop a love of nature.
- Enable children to gain a 'risk awareness' of the outdoor environment.



Home Learning for Reception Children

As children spend approximately 15% of their life at school and 85% of their life at home it is essential that they are assisted to see learning as something that happens both in school and at home. In Reception, the key purpose of home learning is to develop a partnership with parents and involve them actively in pupils' learning. The most important form of support parents can offer their child is to read to them and, when they are ready, hear them read. If possible this should happen for a short period of time every day. We strongly encourage the setting up of a regular routine so that children can establish a reading habit.

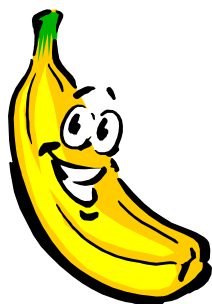
At this age in a child's development the best learning happens through story, play and games. Every term you will receive a newsletter outlining the learning objectives for our current topic. Each week we update Dojo with photos and activities outlining the focus for the week's learning and suggesting ways you can support your child. Every Wednesday we give the children a home learning task. In addition, the following activities are recommended:

- Talk with your child about what they have done at school (and about what they do at home). This offers a valuable opportunity for reflection and a chance to consolidate what has been learnt. It also provides a meaningful context for developing speaking and listening skills.
- Read to your child for a short time every day. Discuss the story with them, talk about the pictures and ask them to predict what will happen next or to explain why an event in the story happened. The more stories a child hears, the more they learn to understand how stories work. Those with a greater experience of stories are more equipped to learn to read. A great deal of a child's understanding about the world comes from stories.
- Help your child to learn nursery rhymes. Act them out together. Children really enjoy this and very quickly they will learn them off by heart and be able to recite them.
- Sing with your child! Children love singing familiar songs. Those with a repetitive structure or a chorus are particularly easy for them to learn (Ten green bottles; Old Macdonald had a farm; the wheels on the bus)

- Provide plenty of opportunities for drawing, colouring and painting. Drawing a picture is an important channel for children to communicate and express themselves. It is really good for them to draw often. Give your child the chance to use a broad range of media: crayons, felt tips, paints, pastels and chalks.
- Make things with your child. Children really enjoy using a whole range of different materials. Play dough helps the development of their motor skills. Replicas of everyday items can be made using paper, card, tape; glue; string, glitter, beads and a whole range of recyclable materials.
- Simple games help children to develop basic mathematical skills. You could play the following games with your child: dominoes, snakes and ladders, draughts, connect 4, and any other simple dice game.
- Let your child build: Duplo, Lego, Meccano and other construction materials help the development of their creative skills.
- Words and numbers in the environment: do comment on the words and numbers your child will come across during their daily life. Help to develop your child's awareness of them whenever possible.
- Find meaningful contexts for counting: Count with your child when they are going up or down stairs; when you go to the supermarket, when you are laying the table and at other times when the opportunity arises.
- Ensure your child has plenty of exercise. Children need to run around, visit a playground, play in the sandpit, climb up a climbing frame, chase a ball and go on the swings. All these activities help to develop the child's physical skills as well as assisting them to overcome fears and inhibitions.
- Small world toys such as a doll's house or a model garage allow children to act out their feelings through play.
- It goes without saying that trips to places of interest are hugely rewarding for children. They develop their knowledge and understanding of the world by extending their experience of life.

Breakfast Club

At Henllys, we offer a free Breakfast Club which starts at 8:30am every morning. Here is an example of the menu:



Selection of Cereals
(Weetabix, Cornflakes, Rice Krispies & Porridge)

Wholemeal Toast

Selection of Seasonal Fruit

Selection of Drinks

(Orange Juice, Apple Juice, Milk or Water)

In addition to the free breakfast facility, we also offer an 'early bird' childcare service from 8am, after which time your child may join in with the free breakfast facility. The cost for this additional service is £2.00 per child/per session.

After School Child Care Provision

We are in the process of setting up an after school child care provision service which will be based on site. Further details will be made available in September.

If you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school.

We look forward to welcoming you all in September.

Headteacher: Mrs. Philippa Minto

Henllys Church in Wales School

Ty Canol Way

Henllys

Cwmbran

NP44 6JA

Tel: 01633 877796

minto.philippa@torfaen.gov.uk

www.henllyschurchinwaleschool.co.uk

[@HenllysCIW](https://www.instagram.com/HenllysCIW)

