



# Welcome to Reception



## The Reception Class

From birth, children are eager to learn about their environment by exploring and investigating. In Reception, we aim to build on and reinforce this natural sense of curiosity. Curriculum for Wales 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 - Class Teacher (Monday - Wednesday)

Miss L. Needle - Class Teacher (Thursday and Friday)

Mrs. A. Meehan - Teaching assistant

Mrs. L Cook - PPA teacher

## 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 Provision

10.30am Whole School Worship

10.45am Morning play time

11.00am Provision

12.00pm Wash hands (followed by singing or Welsh activity)

12.15pm Lunch Time

1.15pm Register

1.20pm Mindfulness

1.30pm Provision

2.30pm Tidy up time

2.45pm Whole Class Reading

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. Alternatively, please send a message via Class Dojo.



## Snack Time

During the morning the children will have access to free milk and are welcome to eat their snack at our snack table between 9.30am - 11.00am. As part of our Healthy Schools Programme, we ask that children bring a small piece of fruit/ vegetables to school each day.



## Water bottle

We encourage children to drink water freely at school. Please fill a 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. All meals are provided free of charge, however, all parent will need to register for UPFSM (Universal Provision Free School Meals) via a link which will be sent to you via dojo in September.



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 you think your child is eligible for free school meals. 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 (Louise 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

Trainers



### What else you will need:

Wellies

Velcro book wrapper

Lunch box

Water bottle

Slippers

Please do not send in backpacks due to limited space in the cloakroom.

If you want your child to have a spare set of clothes left in school, please bring in a drawstring P.E. style bag.

## **Independence**

To encourage independence, please send your child in through the door and remind them to look for the photograph 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. Thank you.

## **Labelling of Clothing**

Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled, including shoes, water bottles, book bags, PE kits and school 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 week. 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 week on the allocated day so we can assess which sounds/words they have learnt. Please ensure their book wrappers/bags 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 via Dojo.

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. Throughout the year, parents will be invited to our termly Eucharist Services, our Christmas concert, class Coffee Afternoon, Sports Day and other special events. 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 parental workshops.



## **Teachers' Planning, 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 HLTAs Mrs Cook or Mrs. Meehan covers this time in all classes. There may be times when a supply teacher is required to cover this time too.

## **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**

Our website provides you with further information and details about the school. Regular class news will be posted on our Class Dojo page and you will also find a weekly whole school newsletter here from our headteacher, Mrs. Minto. 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](http://www.henllyschurchinwalesschool.co.uk)

Twitter- @HenllysCIW, @MrsHensonHCIW, @MissNeedleHCIW @MrsMintoHCIW

## **Dojo**

When your child starts school, we will send home a code for you to join our Class Dojo 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 into 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.

## **Celebration Assembly**

Each week we give out certificates for achievement and 'Following in Jesus' Footsteps'. If the children have achieved something outside of school such as a swimming badge they may bring this in on a Friday to show the school.

## 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.



## Curriculum Reform

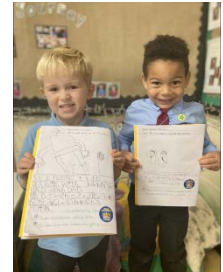
In Wales, a new curriculum has been written which became statutory in September 2022. The purpose of the new curriculum is to develop learners who are 'ambitious and capable', 'ethical and informed', 'healthy and confident' and 'enterprising and creative'. There are six Areas of Learning and Experience 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 provide you with termly curriculum overviews throughout the year.

## Language, Literacy and Communication

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 and begin their writing journey.

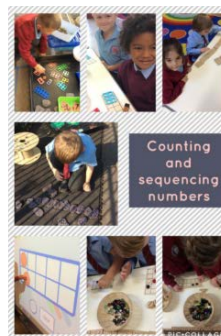


This area of learning also focuses on children learning to use and communicate in Welsh. We encourage the children to use Welsh every day as part of their daily tasks e.g. Bore da (good morning), Ga i'r...? (Can I have...?). We complete daily Welsh activities to develop the children's confidence and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



## Maths and Numeracy

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.



## Health and Wellbeing

This area of learning focuses on children's physical health and development, mental health, and emotional and social well-being. It will support learners to understand that good health and well-being are important to enable successful learning.



## Humanities

Humanities seeks to awaken a sense of wonder and inspire children to grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Children are given experiences that increase their curiosity about the world around them and begin to understand past events, people and places. This area includes geography, history, religion, values and ethics.



## Expressive Arts

The dynamic nature of the expressive arts can engage, motivate and encourage learners to develop their creative, artistic and performance skills to the full. It includes art, dance, drama, film and digital media and music.





## Science and Technology

Science and technology in our modern world is ever changing. Children develop a sense of awe and wonder as they explore the world around them. Developing children's ICT skills is an important aspect of this area of learning.



## Continuous 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.

## Outdoor Learning

Curriculum for Wales 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 week we give the children a home learning task. In addition, the following activities are recommended:

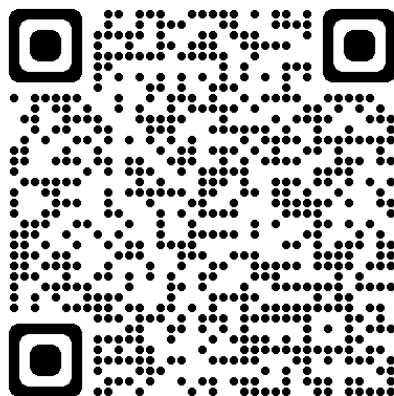
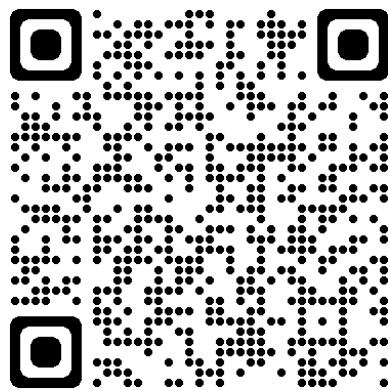
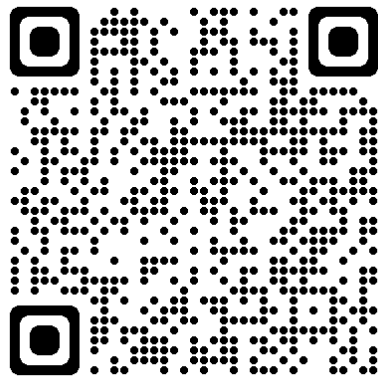
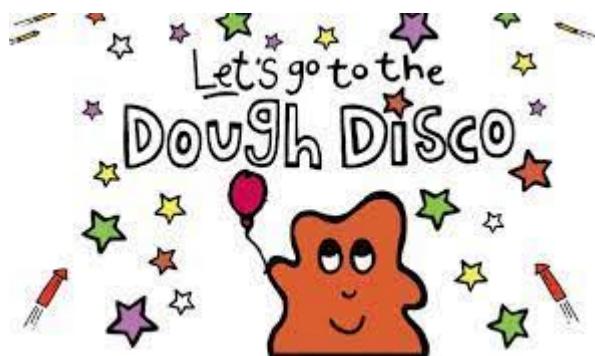
- Talk with your child about what they have done at school (and about what they do at home). This offers a valuable opportunity for reflection and a chance to consolidate what has been learnt. It also provides a meaningful context for developing speaking and listening skills.
- Read to your child for 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 dolls' 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.





## Early Bird Sessions

Torfaen Play run an early bird session in our school hall prior to our free Breakfast Club. Children can be dropped off anytime between 8:00am and 8:20am. The cost of the early bird sessions are £2.00 per child per session, which is paid via our Civica cashless system.

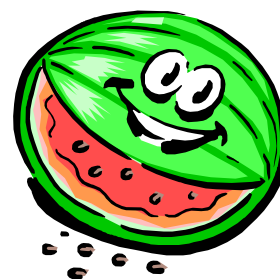
## Breakfast Club

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)

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**Please note that all pupils need to be registered to attend the early bird sessions and our free breakfast club. The forms will be sent out to all parents 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.

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Henllys Church in Wales School

Ty Canol Way

Henllys

Cwmbran

NP44 6JA

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