



# **Maesybryn Primary School**

*Ysgol Gynradd Maesybryn*

## **Welcome to The Foundation Phase**

### **Parents/Carers as Partners**



# Welcome to The Foundation Phase

The Foundation Phase is a developmental curriculum for 3-7 year olds in Wales. It encourages children to be creative, Imaginative and to have fun and makes learning more enjoyable and more effective.

Your child will be given more opportunities to explore the world around them and

understand how things work by taking part in practical activities that are relevant to their developmental stage. They are challenged with open ended questions and

given opportunities to explore and share their ideas for problem solving.

Look at our busy day!



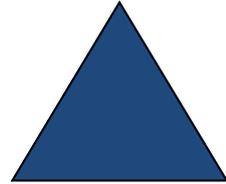
# Learning is at the heart of the Foundation Phase

- Personal and Social Development, Well-being and Cultural Diversity is paramount in the curriculum
- Your child will access their learning through planned play and practical activities
- Your child will develop their thinking skills and develop a positive disposition to learning
- There is an emphasis on developing listening and speaking skills in order to lay solid foundations for reading and writing
- Listening to the interests of your child is a priority within the Foundation Phase and allowing your child to express their own interests will enable their confidence and self-esteem to grow which will support their learning
- More emphasis is to be given to celebrating differences and developing children's knowledge and understanding of racial, cultural diversity
- Your child will have regular access to the outdoor classroom to support their learning
- The Foundation Phase will give your child the learning opportunities to fulfil their full potential





## The Seven Areas of Learning



- Personal and Social, Well-being and Cultural, Diversity;
- Language, Literacy and Communication;
- Mathematical Development;
- Welsh Language Development;
- Knowledge and Understanding of the world
- Physical Development;
- Creative Development.

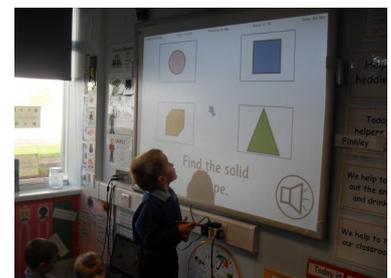
Your child will access these areas of learning through themes and topics, making it more enjoyable and meaningful.



- Your child will access their learning at Maesybryn Primary through experiential learning

Your child will have many opportunities to work in small groups to explore a wide range of activities through different themes.

Your child will have the opportunity to use the outdoors and learn a variety of skills in practical tasks.



# Forest Schools

The Forest School approach to children’s development and learning complements the Foundation Phase pedagogy. At Maesybryn we have developed our own Forest School area. The session is led by a qualified Forest school leader and it provides practical, hands on learning experiences which



encourage and challenge. This leads to the development of confidence and self esteem as well as a growing appreciation of their natural environment.

## The Importance of Learning in the Outdoor Classroom

Research shows that children who have experienced good quality outdoor learning are starting school with strong social skills; they are able to work in groups effectively; they display a higher level of both self-esteem and independence and are also more confident in their own capabilities. At Maesybryn Primary your child will be given every opportunity through the use of the outdoor classroom to develop these skills.



Many children prefer learning outdoors and fresh air can have a profound effect on the concentration and involvement of children.



Remember, the outdoor classroom will be used in all weather and there is no bad weather, only bad clothing!



## How will my child learn?

The activities will focus on your child learning through a variety of appropriate activities. Some will be directed by staff, others freely selected by your child.

Your child will learn to investigate; explore; experiment; question and solve problems, both inside and out.



## Will my child still learn to read and write?

It is important that your child enjoys speaking about their experiences and listening to others before staff support them in moving forward their skills of reading and writing.

Once your child is confident and ready to take their learning forward, your child will develop the necessary skills to develop their reading and writing. We introduce POPAT which is a program of phonological awareness in the Nursery.



## How can I help my child?

We at Maesybryn Primary welcome your partnership in supporting your child on their journey through the Foundation Phase. By working together we can lay the foundations for your child's lifelong learning. You can further develop your child's learning by reinforcing it at home by playing with your child; talking together about experiences; reading all sorts of print in order to develop a love of reading and encouraging independence and getting out and about.

# For a child starting Nursery

## Nursery Staff:

Nursery Teachers- Mrs Mertens Mrs Burton-Little Mrs Clarke

Additional Practitioners- Mrs Moore Mrs Watkins  
Miss Bradley Mrs Thomas

## Times:

School starts at 8:55am, finishes at 3:15pm.

- When entering the school building to bring and collect your child, please do not cross the car park. You are responsible for your child until they enter the Nursery building. Please do not allow them to run around the playground or nursery garden.
- Please give written confirmation of any change of address, telephone number, holidays or any other change in circumstances which may affect your child. Also, please phone the school if your child is unable to attend school due to illness.

## Snack Time:

All children have drinks and a healthy snack during the school day. We run a milk bar. Please let us know if your child has any allergies. We collect money for snack on Monday, we call it our 'Baby Bear' fund. It is £1.50 per week. If there is any money left over we use this to buy new toys and equipment in the Nursery.

## Lunch Time:

- School dinners can be provided for your child. All children have lunch in the school hall. Dinner money is paid on a Monday £10.00 per week. Please pay by cheque if possible, made payable to RCTCBC, with child's name on the back.
- Children also have option of bringing a packed lunch. Please ensure that the lunch box has your child's name clearly marked on it.

## **Clothing:**

Please label ALL items of clothing that your child wears to school. Please can each child bring Wellingtons to be kept in school for when we are exploring outside. PE days will be confirmed in September. On this day children should come to school wearing black joggers, normal school shoes as we carry out PE with bare feet.

## **Topics:**

Each term we look at a particular topic or theme. Our theme for September is 'All about Me'. When you attend the Nursery meeting you will find out more!

## **PTA/Volunteers:**

We have an active PTA at Maesybryn Primary. We are always looking for helpers for events and parties. If you are available for any of these please see a member of the PTA at the nursery meeting. Thanks

## **School Blog:**

We have our very own Blog at Maesybryn where you can find out lots of information as well as reading about what your class has been up to in school. It is an excellent way of keeping up to date with what is happening in Maesybryn primary. The address is

**<http://maesybrynpri.blogspot.com>**

We hope this information has been helpful, however, if you have any further queries or questions please ask a member of staff in the Nursery who will be happy to help.