

Townhill Community School



*Welcoming your child to
Reception*

Miss Guy and Miss Rees

We warmly welcome you and your family to our Reception Class. We aim to provide a happy, secure, friendly, and stimulating environment in which children can develop and grow. We hope to be able to work together to build on and extend your child's developing interests, skills, and experiences. We believe that through first-hand experiences, children can meet challenges, make decisions, and think creatively and critically. We are committed to working in partnership with parents; by working together, we can enhance learning. We hope that you find this booklet useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to pop in and see us or contact us via our E-mails: GuyK2@hwbcymru.net Reesh307@hwbcymru.net

Our Team

Class Teachers - Miss Guy and Miss Rees

Teaching Assistants – Miss Davies, Miss Elisha, Miss Roberts, Miss Hall and Miss Christine.

Learning in Reception

During their time in Reception, your child will be given more opportunities to gain first-hand experiences through play and active involvement. They will develop their speaking and listening skills and become confident in their reading and writing abilities.

Mathematics will be carried out in a practical way so that your child can see how problems are solved. There will be more emphasis placed on understanding how things work and finding different ways to solve problems in everyday life.

The curriculum focuses on experiential learning and active involvement and will develop your child's:

- *Skills and understanding.*
- *Personal, social, emotional, physical, and intellectual well-being.*
- *Positive attitudes towards learning.*
- *Self-esteem and self-confidence to experiment, investigate, and learn new things.*
- *Creative, expressive, and observational skills.*
- *Activities in the outdoors where they have first-hand experience solving real-life problems.*

The transition from Nursery into Reception

We understand that your child's transition from Nursery into Reception is a huge step for both you and your child. Our aim is to nurture your child through this emotionally challenging time and to make the transition process as smooth and comfortable as possible. Your child's feelings are extremely important to us, and we understand that their emotional well-being is essential in terms of learning. In order to make your child feel as comfortable as possible and prepare them for this transition stage, we have made regular visits to the Nursery classroom. As an Early Years Unit, we will continue to work very closely with the nursery, and your child will continue to build on the strong relationships that they have already formed with the Nursery staff.

The Reception Indoor Classroom

We believe that it is incredibly important to create a safe, inviting, and comfortable classroom environment where children are able to explore and express themselves as confidently and independently as possible.



The Reception Outdoor Classroom

The outdoor environment offers rich opportunities for hands-on experience and should have equal value to the learning that takes place indoors. Here at Reception, we ensure to plan effectively for the outdoor environment and provide a variety of play materials that can be adapted and used in different ways. Meaningful and engaging activities will be planned to provide your child with experiences that support all areas of the curriculum.



Developing Independence

Wherever possible, we want the children to become independent learners. We aim to do this by encouraging the children to:

- *Toilet themselves independently.*
- *Put on or take off their coat and hang it up on their peg.*
- *Fasten zips or buttons.*
- *Wash and dry their hands.*
- *Tidy up after themselves.*
- *Read and write their name.*
- *Use a knife and fork,*
- *Open packets of crisps, etc.*

Reading with your child

It is vitally important that we provide your child with valuable opportunities to encourage their speaking and listening skills as often as possible and facilitate their reading and writing skills. Children who can share their feelings and talk about their experiences are far more motivated to record their thoughts and to read what others have written. Your child will be provided with reading activities throughout the year. They will be encouraged to read a book every week during school time, and we also encourage you to read as often as possible at home too! We believe that reading time should be a fun and enjoyable experience where your child is provided with the opportunity to gain motivation and is able to develop a great interest in and attitude towards reading.

Phonics

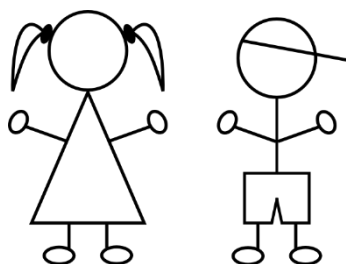
During your child's early stages of reading, they will learn the sounds that a letter makes, for example, 'a' for apple. We will aim to encourage your child to read simple, everyday words by 'sounding out' the letters in the word. A fantastic cartoon to help your child recognise and say sounds correctly is 'Alphablocks'.

Lunch time

We understand that going up to the dinner hall can be a very scary prospect for most children. In September, please be assured that we will provide your child with all the attention that they need to make them feel happy during their lunchtime experience. Staff will help your child throughout lunch time, helping them to open packets and bottles, carry trays, and cut up their food. A familiar member of the reception staff will be present at all times.

Afternoon playtime

During playtimes, Reception children will play outside in the main yard, where they will be supervised by the reception staff along with the dinner ladies at lunch times.



School Uniform

We do encourage the children to wear school uniforms. The school has a very attractive uniform that is affordable and solves the dilemma of what your child can wear every morning! Please see the school office for information and prices. Please ensure that sensible footwear is always worn to avoid trips or falls!

Milk, Snacks, fruit, and Cooking

Reception children have milk and a selection of fresh fruit every afternoon. We also cook using a variety of different ingredients to give your child the opportunity to learn basic cooking skills. We therefore ask if you could kindly contribute to the cost of the above by providing £1.50 to a designated member of Reception staff every Monday.

School Dinners

All Reception Children are entitled to free school meals. If you would like a copy of the school lunch menu, please pop into the school office, a new menu should be available early September.

Weekly PE sessions

Your child will take part in PE sessions once a week. You will be notified of the day once your child starts school in September. Please ensure that your child is sent to school in appropriate clothing and footwear and wearing no jewellery!

**NO SEPARATE GYM KIT IS NEEDED! **

School Trips

In reception, parents are NOT required to accompany their child on school trips. Information about trips will be handed out every term when they have been arranged.

Belongings

Please ensure that your child's name is clearly labelled on ALL of their belongings. Our aim is to try and encourage your child to be as independent as possible, which means collecting and putting on their own coats, etc.

Things you can do at home in preparation for September

Below are some activities you could do with your children to promote their further development.

Read to your child every day, talk about books, and read familiar words to them, e.g., labels on their favourite foods or titles of TV programmes.

Listen to songs, music, stories, and rhymes.

Talk with them, answer their questions, and play memory games.

Encourage them to ask questions.

Count and use numbers in everyday situations.

Help them to match and sort objects, e.g., by putting knives and forks, cups and saucers, and socks into pairs, sorting big and little objects, and putting objects in order of size.

Encourage them to be more independent, e.g., by putting on their own clothes.

Give them opportunities to help you around the house, e.g., with baking or food preparation.

Encourage them to express their own ideas and feelings through the use of crayons, pens, pencils, paint, music, and play.

Encourage them to explore their own environment.

tidy up their environment.

Encourage care and respect for others.

Communicating with you!

We want you to be totally reassured that your child is receiving the very best possible start in life. We use the class Dojo as the main platform to communicate with parents. Please ensure that you have the app ready, and I will send information on how to connect in September.

If you would like to know more, then please do not hesitate to contact us via our e-mails (provided on page 2).

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet.

We look forward to working with you and your child in the forthcoming year!

Miss Guy, Miss Rees and the Reception Team

Operational Plan for Reception in September

Week 1

Monday 1st September – INSET

Tuesday 2nd September – All children will attend school 8.50am until 1pm.

Wednesday 3rd September - All children will attend school 8.50am until 1pm.

Thursday 4th September - All children will attend school 8.50am until 1pm.

Friday 5th September – All children will attend school 8.50am until 1pm.

(Children will bring a packed lunch or will order a school dinner)

Week 2

Monday 8th September - All children will attend school 8.50am until 2pm.

Tuesday 9th September – All children will attend school 8.50am until 2pm.

Wednesday 10th September – All children will attend school 8.50am until 2pm.

Thursday 11th September – All children will attend school 8.50am until 2pm.

Friday 12th September – All children will attend school 8.50am until 2pm.

(Children will bring a packed lunch or will order a school dinner)

Week 3

Monday 15th September – All children will attend school 8.50am until 3.20pm.

Tuesday 16th September – All children will attend school 8.50am until 3.20pm.

Wednesday 17th September - All children will attend school 8.50am until 3.20pm.

Thursday 18th September - All children will attend school 8.50am until 3.20pm.

Friday 19th September – All children will attend school 8.50am until 3.20pm.

(Children will bring a packed lunch or will order a school dinner)