

## **Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes; Information for Reception Parents**

### **School Session Times: 8.55 am – 3.20 pm**

Children should arrive between 8.45 am and 8.55 am. Establishing routines is essential for your child at this stage in their school life so please try to be punctual and keep to the school times when bringing and collecting your child. It helps your child to settle if you drop them off at their classroom door and leave promptly. The doors and gates will be locked at 8.55 am, so after this time parents should use the main entrance near the school office to enter and exit the building.

For the first week we will have a staggered entry. We will notify you of a start date during the parents' meeting which will be in the week commencing Tuesday 3 September. From the day they start until the end of this week, children will stay for a school lunch and go home at 1.00 pm. From their second week (Monday 9 September) all children will stay for a full day until 3.20 pm. At the end of the school day, please wait near your child's classroom door. Each child will be dismissed as soon as we see the parent or appointed person. Please always let us know if someone other than yourself is collecting your child.

You should use the main entrance if you need to visit the school at any other time. If your child is absent, telephone the school to let us know before 9.20 am. Please avoid taking children on holiday during term time.

### **Mid-Morning Break**

Children are provided with free milk and are encouraged to bring a healthy fruit or vegetable snack. This should be a *small* amount of pre-prepared fruit or vegetables in a small container, marked with your child's name. Your child is welcome to bring their own water bottle if they so wish but we ask that only water is provided and not sugary drinks. We would recommend reusable plastic bottles that are more user friendly.

**Nut-free: Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes is a nut-free school. It is imperative that you avoid sending any food into school that contains nuts or sesame seeds.**

### **Lunch**

All primary school children are offered a free school lunch (UPFSM). The Welsh Government has ambitions for the provision of universal free school meals in Wales, intended to:

- raise the profile of healthy eating across the whole school
- increase the range of food that learners eat
- improve social skills and wellbeing at mealtimes, and lead to improvements to behaviour and attainment
- impact on local food supply and support the economy of Wales.

### **Free School Meals**

There is a difference between eFSM (eligible for Free School Meals) and UPFSM (Universal Provision for Free School Meals).

- UPFSM is the government initiative to provide free lunches for all primary school learners.
- eFSM supports families on a low income with free lunches, school uniform and equipment costs as well as other benefits. The school also receives a grant for all learners who are eligible so if you register, you can help support children with opportunities in school too. Currently, learners who are eFSM can attend breakfast club free of charge and have subsidised school trips.
- Even though your child will receive a free lunch as part of the UPFSM, please apply for eFSM if you are eligible in order to receive the additional benefits.

Apply for eFSM here: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11906/Free-school-meals>

## ParentPay

All schools in Powys use ParentPay, a cashless system which is used by parents of children in other school years to pay for school lunches. Although your child will receive a free school lunch, you will still receive a login for ParentPay as it is used to pay for breakfast club and school trips, even if you qualify for eFSM.

## The Curriculum for Wales

The Curriculum for Wales was introduced in September 2022, an exciting development which prepares our children to develop higher standards of literacy and numeracy, to become more digitally and bilingually competent, and to be confident, capable, and compassionate citizens of Wales and of the world. You can find out more about the Curriculum for Wales by following this link to a Welsh Government guide for parents: [220208-parents-carers.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#).

Our school will support your child to be:

- an ambitious, capable learner, ready to learn throughout their life
- an enterprising, creative contributor, ready to play a full part in life and work
- an ethical, informed citizen, ready to take part in Wales and the world, and
- a healthy, confident individual, ready to lead a fulfilling life as a valued member of society.

These are called the ‘four purposes’ of the curriculum.

We seek to ensure that all children are actively engaged in their learning and enhance their learning experiences which enables them to be creative, imaginative and to have fun. Children will be given many opportunities to explore the world around them and to understand how things work through real life experiences.

There is great emphasis placed on experiential learning, active involvement and developing each child’s:

- skills and understanding
- personal, social, emotional, physical and intellectual well-being, so as to develop the ‘whole child’
- positive attitudes to learning so that they enjoy it and will want to continue with their education for longer
- self-esteem and self-confidence to experiment, investigate, learn new things and form new relationships
- creative, expressive, and observational skills to encourage their development as individuals, and
- activities in the outdoors where they have first-hand experience of solving real-life problems and learn about conservation and sustainability.

## What to wear

Learners are expected to wear school uniform, details of which can be found on the school website. New and second-hand school uniform can be purchased from the school office. All children are encouraged to participate fully in all activities. Children will be using paint, glue, dough, water, sand, soil etc and will be encouraged to run, dance, jump, climb, and dig both indoors and outdoors. We would like all children to enjoy these activities but please be aware children do sometimes get dirty!

We encourage children to be independent when using the toilet. Children should be dressed in uniform that can easily be managed without adult help. Please ensure that your child’s name is on **all** their belongings.

We place great emphasis on using the outdoor environment whatever the weather! We are fortunate in having a wonderful outdoor area. Please ensure your child brings a coat to school every day and a pair of wellies will be required – wellies can be left in school. Waterproof coats and leggings will be provided for messier activities. During sunnier weather, we ask that the children are provided with a sun hat and that a generous covering of sun cream is applied before coming to school.

## **Independence**

Please help your child by encouraging them to:

- take off and put on their coat and shoes independently
- use the toilet and wash their hands
- tidy and clear away toys and equipment
- take care of and respect toys and resources
- take responsibility for their own belongings to prepare them for our morning routine in school, for example, fruit pot, book bag, packed lunch

## **Health and Wellbeing**

Much of the Health and Wellbeing curriculum is ongoing in the continuous provision. For PE lessons, your child will need a t-shirt in their school 'house' colour (Clywedog – yellow, Hafren – red, Dulas – blue) which is available to purchase from the school office, black shorts, and trainers, all of which should be named and kept in a bag in school. An optional burgundy hoody is also available.

## **Swimming**

Your child's class teacher will let you know when their weekly swimming lessons will start. In addition to a towel, girls require a one-piece swimming costume and boys will need trunks or shorts (these must be above the knee). Please name these items clearly. If your child has long hair, then a hat or hair bobble is required. Our aim is to improve water confidence, working towards improving style, technique, and basic swimming skills.

## **Reading**

When they are developmentally ready, we will provide your child with a picture book or story book, which they can share with you at home. Please read or share a book with your child every day; this is the most important activity you can do to develop your child's love of reading. A reading record will be provided, and you are encouraged to record by way of a daily brief comment how your child responded to the book or text. Parental comments also help inform staff that a child's book is ready to be changed. Learners will also take part in regular Guided Reading activities in class. Book bags displaying the school logo may be purchased from the school office. Please send book bags in to school daily.

## **Writing**

We encourage the children to develop confidence and to enjoy writing experiences. It is important to provide as many purposeful opportunities for your child to practise their handwriting skills as possible, for example, writing invitations, adding their name to cards and helping with shopping lists. When writing at home please promote correct letter formation using the 'fabulous formation' guide to support your child.

## **Mathematics**

In Mathematics and Numeracy, your child will develop their understanding of numbers and use symbols in maths. They will explore shapes and measurement, time and money. Please support and encourage your child to count and use numbers through real life experiences, for example, counting the number of candles on their birthday cake, matching socks, counting, and measuring ingredients through cooking and following recipes. Shopping experiences also help a child to recognise the value of coins and children love to count coins in 2s, 5s and 10s.

## **Cymraeg / Welsh**

Welsh is taught as a second language in Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes. English is the language of the day-to-day business of the school, but Welsh is also used as a language of communication with the children, with the aim of developing their bilingualism. We want every child to be proud of being able to speak Welsh and aim to foster a positive attitude from the beginning. Therefore, if you have the chance to use Welsh at any level in your home, this is a great place for your child to use it too.

## **Wellbeing Communication Form**

If you have anything about your child's wellbeing to share with staff but don't get a chance in the mornings, don't forget we have a Wellbeing Communication Form that you can quickly fill in and send to Miss Morris: <https://forms.office.com/e/uJK9341LFK>.

## **Head Lice**

If your child has head lice, please treat, and let us know immediately. A message is sent home when we are aware of outbreaks of head lice. We urge parents to regularly check their child's hair as head lice are often passed from child to child due to their close contact.

## **School Events and Information**

Parents are informed of important dates and events in school in several ways. We have a school website to keep you informed, <https://llanidloes.powys.sch.uk>, with letters, important information and a full events calendar. Newsletters keep parents informed of school dates and events and can be found on the school website (Useful information > Letters to parents, <https://llanidloes.powys.sch.uk/useful-information/letters-to-parents/>). Please follow the Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes Facebook page. We use a text messaging service to send notifications and reminders. One mobile number per family can be registered to receive text messages. Please note that we cannot receive replies.

## **Breakfast Club**

A breakfast club is held in school every morning from 8.00 am and costs £1.00 per session. Breakfast club is free for children who are eligible for free school meals (eFSM), not those who receive UPFSM. Should you wish your child to attend this club you will need to return the form in your information pack requesting a registration form. Breakfast club is booked and paid for on ParentPay.

## **After School Club – The Jungle Club**

An after-school club is available daily to all children. This club is run on a not-for-profit basis by a committee of volunteers. There is a charge for attending this club. Further information regarding the club can be found in your information pack.

## **Friends of the School**

A strong Friends of the School organisation supports the work of the school in many ways. They are very active in raising funds for the school. If you feel that you can help in any way you are very welcome to come along to their meetings. You can also join the Friends of Llanidloes CP School Facebook page.