



Reception – Curriculum News

Autumn 2024 Topic – Happiness

Welcome back to school and a very warm welcome to Reception Class. We hope you have had a lovely summer holiday and are looking forward to a very busy Autumn term – we are!

The Curriculum for Wales outlines that all children and young people should be:

- Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.
- Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.
- Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.
- Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

In line with the Curriculum for Wales, learning will be split into 6 areas of learning and experience:

- Expressive Arts
- Humanities
- Science and Technology
- Language, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Health and Well-Being

As a Church in Wales School, your child will also take part in class daily worship and weekly Religious Education sessions.

This term your children will participate in a variety of learning styles that will include outdoor learning and learning through play.

The curriculum for Reception is topic based and this term our topic is '**Happiness**'.

Health and Well-Being – Our topic this term has a strong emphasis in this area.

We will discover how to look after ourselves in terms of healthy eating and hygiene. In the home corner, the children can experience structured and imaginative play whether it is to practise table manners or role-playing good hygiene. The children will develop their ability to share with their peers further and they will also develop their friendships whilst working in their learning environment.

We will be discussing how to care for toys and items within the classroom and each other through our school's 'Five Finger Rules'. Our role play areas will also be a focus for social skill development and the children will be playing together interactively through a range of activities. This term our 'Cornel Cartref' (home corner) will be a place where children can re-enact special celebrations such as birthday parties and tea parties etc. Children will explore through play and begin to ask simple questions and offer possible answers based on experience.

During the second half term the children will be exploring different celebrations from their own culture as well as others. The children will have the opportunity to celebrate a number of festivals and celebrations from around the world such as Diwali, Bonfire night, Remembrance Day and of course Christmas. We will also be considering how to keep ourselves safe (medicines and cleaning products), thinking about what makes us special, considering our own feelings and the feelings of others, learning about how we can care for our local area, considering road safety and respecting other cultures and beliefs.

Reception will be taking part in creative movement sessions this term as well as a weekly session with Mr Nurton. Our P.E. days are Wednesday and Thursday or Friday. After half term the creative movement session will change to gymnastics. Children will need black shorts and white t-shirts for both creative movement and gymnastics, no footwear is required, however for Mr Nurton's session

I strongly advise black leggings/joggers and a warm black jumper as the children will go outside even if the weather is chilly! Obviously trainers are needed for Thursday or Friday as well.

The children will also be involved in adventurous play activities in our outside classroom. Other physical development activities will be developed through topical play both indoors and out, threading, riding bikes, building models and dens and construction such as Lego etc.

Religious Education

Your children will be discovering the world of Christianity through daily worship (assemblies) and through play-based activities within their setting. This term our topic will be leading us to develop further understanding of what happens in traditional 'happy' celebrations such as weddings, birthday parties and christenings or any other relevant celebration. The children will be encouraged to bring photographs of their own events to school and explain what they show. We will be thanking God for the things that we can do, Saying thank you for His gifts (creation) and identifying different types of prayers (saying thank you prayers, awe and wonder prayers, saying sorry prayers, asking prayers, healing prayers).

Language, Literacy, and Communication

One of our main emphases will be to continue with the learning and reinforcement of phonics through Read Write Inc sessions and other practical activities. During these sessions your children will be encouraged to take care with their presentation and handwriting (letter formation). The children will be learning high frequency words each week and developing a love of mark making and writing for different purposes.

As your child's reading skills develop we will be looking to enhance their quality of reading using a wider range of genres. This term we will have a strong focus on what makes the children happy to engage with our extended writing on a Friday. Please encourage your children to bring in a photograph of what makes them happy or their very own happy place for them to present to the class and then eventually write about.

The children are invited to use the writing table in our class through free choice and directed activities, this will have a range of resources and mark making tools on it so the children can experiment and develop their writing skills. Each week your child will focus on a topic-based story and participate in Literacy activities based on this text.

We will be encouraging your child to speak in front of an audience on a regular basis through topical activities and they will be invited to take part in 'Show and Tell' on a half termly basis. This will take place on the **last Friday of every half term**. Your child's artefact for 'Show and Tell' should be **carefully chosen** to reflect your child's interests or the current topic.

Welsh Language Development

The children will be using incidental Welsh daily such as numbers, colours, rhymes, songs and greetings and also learning a variety of topic related vocabulary relating to teimladau, (feelings), Y Teulu (The family), y tywydd (weather) and Nadolig (Christmas).

The children will be learning how to ask a variety of questions in Welsh. They will be learning how to respond appropriately when asked questions in Welsh and they will be encouraged to use Welsh constantly during their play.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Numeracy skills will be taught through practical activities and play. In Reception we will be learning number formation and how to write numbers using sand, paint and shaving foam.

During maths within the |Autumn term we will be focussing on:

- Numbers to 10
- 2d shape
- Length
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Time
- Numbers to 20

Expressive Arts

Our topic will lead us to make observational drawings of their own faces when happy. They will use mirrors and photographs to help them. We will develop sculpting skills using clay when we make, paint and display our very own clay faces.

The children will look at a range of artwork that shows different emotions, in doing so we will look at the work of some famous artists; we will be asking "How did the artist show the person's feelings?"

The children will play games, watch cartoons and tell jokes. They will dance to happy tunes, sing happy songs. Every day the children will have the opportunity to take part in a creative activity, whether it is drawing, painting, making, colouring or singing. The children will explore a variety of tuned and un-tuned Fairtrade instruments in group activities.

Humanities

The children will develop an understanding of how the environment (inside or outside) can affect their happiness and well-being. They will make a plan of their favourite place and label what is there. The children will make a map or plan of an imagined place and describe what it would be like and what features of it would make them happy. We will look at what people need to be happy as they grow.

Science and Technology

During this topic we will also learn that being healthy is a big factor in being happy. We will learn names of different parts of the body and find out how to look after these through exercise and healthy eating. We will have lots of fun making healthy snacks (and eating them!) Our Reception children will also enjoy learning a range of playground games that will be lots of fun.

At the end of the term we will host a 'Happiness Morning' which we will have worked towards throughout the term. The children will design a healthy eating menu, create the food and provide each other with entertainment during our in-house talent show where they will make each other laugh and feel happy.

I hope that from this brief summary you gain a feel for the teaching and learning styles we offer in our Reception class. As a staff we are extremely excited about this topic and we know that our new children are going to enjoy each and every one of the experiences they meet. Please remember that you can speak to us at the end of every day should you have any concerns at all.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Chapman and Miss Hopkins















Further ways to help your child:

- Please let us know if your child has any allergies e.g. nuts, milk, coeliac etc. We will do a cooking activity at least once a term and we need to know the ingredients we can or cannot use. Thank you. We have children attending school with nut allergies so we are a completely nut free school. Please check all snacks for nut ingredients.
- Please ensure your children have school P.E. kit every Wednesday and Thursday or Friday.
- Please return reading folders every **Monday** so that we can change home reading books.
- Reinforce phonics each week at home by using the Ruth Miskin link sent home in the learning letter each week.
- Please ensure your children have appropriate weatherproof clothing which is clearly marked with their names as they will be engaging in the outdoors every day.
- **Please** ensure all your children's uniform is clearly marked with their name, this is extremely important.
- If clothing is borrowed for any reason we would appreciate it if you could wash it and return it to school as soon as possible.
- Please ensure that your child has a healthy snack for morning play time if you are not taking advantage of our provision of fruit termly at £15 per child. As we are a healthy school, we do not allow chocolate, crisps or biscuits for snack time, and we don't allow

chocolate bars or sweets to be part of a packed lunch. We encourage the children to drink throughout the day but this should be water, not squash or sugary drinks. Drink bottles and snack boxes should be clearly labelled.

- Please check that your children have their red bag with them every day and check its contents on a daily basis for correspondence from school.
- The children in Reception will be provided with a drink of semi-skimmed milk every afternoon and will only be offered water as an alternative if requested by yourselves; so if your child does not like milk please inform us as soon as possible.
- If your child is away from school at any time, please inform the school as soon as possible **and also provide a letter stating the reason**. If we do not receive a letter we will have to mark your children with an unauthorised absence. Holidays within term time are unauthorised absences and a holiday request form should be completed prior to the children's absence. These can be obtained from Mrs Willow's Office.
- If your child is catching the bus home it would be very helpful if you would inform us of the arrangements for each day so that we are fully informed and there is no confusion and upset for your child.

A reminder for your fridge: Reception

Things to bring to school:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Outdoor clothing i.e. Coat, hat, wellies, waterproofs					
P.E. kit to school			 indoor	 Indoor/ outdoor	 Indoor/ outdoor
Reading folder					
Red bag					
Healthy snack and drink	