

## Aims of our Early Years Learning Environment

'Early Years' refers to our Nursery and Reception classes.

We aim to build on the love and care that you have given your child since birth, and create a happy, stimulating environment to prepare for later school life.

Play is fundamental to every child's development; learning through first hand experiences is both natural and fulfilling. Carefully planned and structured activities, both indoors and outdoors enable us to support your child's 'all-round' development.

### Personal Skills & Independence

In Early Years we promote your child's independence. We would appreciate your support with encouraging your child to put on and take off their own coat and shoes, also to begin dressing and undressing themselves. Children also go to the toilet on their own in school, therefore wiping themselves and washing hands are very important independent skills to learn quickly.

### The Foundation Phase Curriculum

Our Early Years curriculum meets the needs of every individual child. We made careful observations and assessments in your child's first few weeks in school to ensure we can plan a creative, stimulating 'learning journey' for them.

We focus on their intellectual, emotional, social and physical development through structured and spontaneous play.

There are seven areas of learning, which we approach through topics. They are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development & Wellbeing
- Language, Literacy & Communication
- Mathematical Development
- Welsh Language Development
- Knowledge & Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development

## Early Years Topics

2018-19

**Autumn Term**


Marvellous Me

**Spring Term**

Animal Antics

**Summer Term**

Treasure

The children will be developing their skills in all areas of learning through these themes. 

### Reading Skills

A love of books and how to handle them with care and enjoyment is the first very important skill of learning to read. As we're sure you're aware, sharing books with your child is a special time of closeness and relaxation. Read the story to your child, talk about the pictures and the characters. Ask them what they think may happen next.

Never put pressure on them to read for themselves but, when they do start to recognise sounds, give them lots of praise and encouragement for attempting sounds / words themselves. If books and the reading of them are a source of pleasure to your child at this stage, they are likely to remain so throughout their life.

Your child will begin to recognise lots of print around them, and differentiate between print and pictures. We practise sounds (phonics) everyday in school, when they are ready encourage your child to look for sounds / letters.

Once your child has settled into Reception routines a reading book, sounds book and home-work book will be sent home towards the end of September, each week **on Thursday and to be returned by Tuesday.**


*If your child is tired never put pressure on—we understand. A number of very short sessions are much better than one long one!*

Reading folders are available from RAM Leisure if you have not already purchased one.

We really do value the partnership between home and school and we encourage you to write comments in the home/school book.



### Writing Skills

In Reception we send home letter formation charts, and children are regularly engaged in small group writing activities with an adult. 

We encourage emergent writing where children use their sounds to attempt to spell out words themselves where possible.

When supporting your child to write, or modelling writing yourselves for them, please use lower case letters not CAPITAL LETTERS. This really does support us in school.

### Your Child's Progress

Class teachers will be observing the children and making assessments in the first few weeks of the Autumn Term, and you will then be invited to 'Parents' Evening' in November to discuss how your child has settled in and how we can work together to help them develop.

**If you have any questions / are concerned about your child's progress please don't hesitate to speak to the class teacher.**

**Seesaw**—please sign up to your child's free seesaw account. This way you can see pictures and videos of the things that they are doing in school as they do it.

### Working in Partnership

We very much value our home-school partnership and only by working together can we do the best for your child. Your first point of contact at school is always your child's class teacher. If you have any worries / concerns, or want to celebrate good news with us, please talk to the class teacher first.

If an issue is unresolved or of a sensitive nature please make an appointment to discuss this with Mrs Harrison-Edwards, Headteacher.

## Uniform / P.E Clothing

**It is very important that all of your child's belongings are all clearly labelled.** Please check on a daily basis that your child has brought home all the clothing that he / she went to school with. Any unmarked items are placed in the lost property box; labelled items left at school can be returned to the individual child.

**P.E Kit**—After Christmas **Reception** children require a blue T-shirt, white shorts and pumps. These need to be left in a labelled P.E bag on your child's peg.

## Healthy School

Free Breakfast Club from 8.15am. All children are eligible to come along. Doors will be closed at 8.30am.

Reception children are provided with a mid-morning snack of fruit and milk. Milk is free but we ask for a contribution of £8 per half-term or £42 per year towards the cost of fruit.

Reception children are provided with a water bottle in September which they need to bring to school with a fresh supply of water everyday.

**No flavoured water / fruit juice please.**

School meals—menu available on the website.

***Dinner money to be paid online by Mon morning or sent on Mon morning please.***

Packed lunch—we have a duty to encourage healthy lunch boxes. Please do not send more than one chocolate biscuit in your child's box, and no sweets please.

**Birthday Cake** -From time to time some parents send birthday cake into school for the class. If you are considering sending cake in on your child's birthday, please send the cake already cut in individual sandwich bags. The cake can then go home with each child at hometime. We have a number of children in school with severe food / nut allergies therefore this will support us tremendously.

Please bear in mind when asking staff to hand out party invitations that this will usually be done on Fridays. This reduces angst and upset that can happen with young children who are not invited.

## General Information

### Payments / Monies

Online payments are our preferred method of payment. If you do need to send in any monies, **please put money in an envelope clearly labelled with your child's name** and what the money is for.

### Punctuality / Attendance / Absence

School starts at 8.55am. Our doors are open from 8.45am to ensure all children are punctual for school. If your child is ill and can't attend school please use the contact form on our website or telephone the school office 357754 and let us know.

An attendance report will be provided each half term. As a school we have a duty to report any concerns we have with persistent lateness / absences to our Attendance Officer.

### Collecting Your Child From School

Please try to be on time at the end of the day as tired children do get upset, especially when everyone else is going home. If your child is being collected by somebody different it is important that you inform the teacher or the school office. We will not release your child to someone we have not been informed about.

Children are not permitted to use the equipment before and after school. Please ensure your child is supervised on the school premises, particularly when waiting for older siblings after school.

### Health & Safety

Please park safely when bringing / collecting your child from school. **Parking on the yellow zig-zags / across the drive is not permitted.**

Smoking (including e-cigarettes) is not permitted on the school site.

Dogs are not permitted within the school grounds.

### Medicines

If your child requires medication, please discuss this with Mrs Harrison-Edwards, Headteacher.

A form must be completed from the school office if your child requires medication to be administered at school.

**BARKER'S LANE**

**COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**'LEARN TOGETHER'**

*'Let's learn to enjoy, achieve, respect and nurture together'*

# Dosbarth Tegid



# Reception

# Information

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Website: [www.barkerslanepriamary.co.uk](http://www.barkerslanepriamary.co.uk)