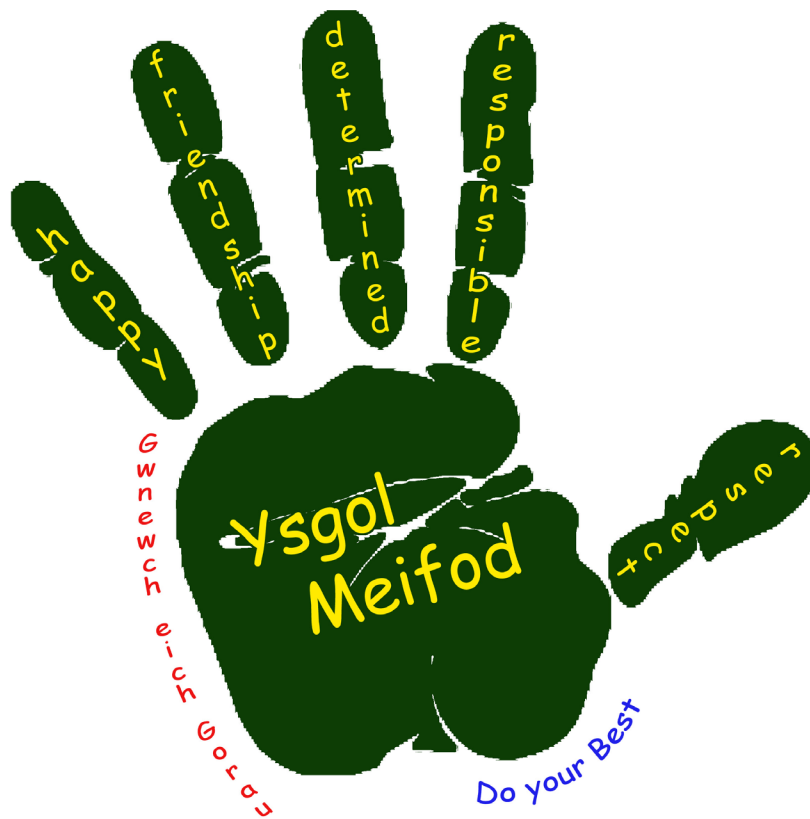


# Welcome to

# YSGOL MEIFOD

## Starting School



# Ysgol Meifod – Reception Booklet

## The Foundation Phase

The Foundation Phase is a curriculum for 3 to 7 year olds. The curriculum focuses on the developmental stage through which each child progresses.

The Foundation Phase is one phase in the child's education that has one curriculum and one approach to learning. It enhances the learning experiences which enable children to be creative, imaginative and to have fun whilst learning. Also great emphasis is placed on developing your child's communication skills.

This booklet will help to further outline the Foundation Phase to you.



## **Foundation Phase – Reception**

Our Curriculum is developed from the Welsh Government Foundation Phase Documentation and New Curriculum for Wales 2022, consisting of the following areas of learning:

Health and Well Being

Language, Literacy and Communication Skills – English & Welsh second language

Mathematical Development

Humanities

Science and Technology

Expressive Arts

### **Welsh Government**

### **National Literacy & Numeracy Framework** **(LNF)**

**5 – 14 years**

**Teaching Literacy and Numeracy Skills across  
all Areas of Learning**

**Teaching your child to use  
Literacy and Numeracy in everyday life.**

Welcome to Ysgol Meifod. Your child has now settled into our school routine. This booklet is to provide you with some information about the Reception Year.

These years provide a firm foundation that will prepare your child for future learning.

Every child needs to aim at a 'personal best'. We will endeavour to ensure they reach their full potential at Ysgol Meifod.

In the years before your child enters school, they have already learnt an immense amount from you – to talk, to recognise colours, shapes, names; to communicate with people; and to be independent.

If your child attended Playgroup or a recognised Childcare provider these concepts have already been considerably reinforced.

We at Ysgol Meifod will continue this learning and encourage you to work together in partnership with the school to enhance your child's learning.

Learning through structured, enhanced and spontaneous play, along with daily focused tasks, is the springboard into the curriculum.

Your child will learn through a variety of play-based activities where they will be exploring, investigating and being creative.

**Play is a child's work and the means whereby he grows and develops.**

During play, children develop skills which enable them to understand and cope with the world. Education and play enables them to:

- Concentrate and listen
- Explore and experiment
- Manipulate and create
- Socialise and enjoy
- Imitate, imagine and pretend
- Develop and improve
- Co-operate and share
- Persevere and challenge
- Achieve
- Relate to people and the world around them
- **LEARN**

## Play is fundamental to intellectual development.

Personal and Social Development and Well Being and Cultural Diversity are at the heart of the Foundation Phase.

Your child will be learning about themselves and how to develop relationships with other children and adults. They will learn about their emotions, how to relate to others, expectations of behaviour and attitudes. They will be encouraged to think about and respect the feelings and opinions of others.

Children will learn about Welsh culture and also other cultures that are part of the diverse society in Wales today.

There will be a progressive development of your child's skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing.



## **Speaking**

Children will be encouraged to speak clearly, for different purposes and audiences, through all our daily activities.

## **Listening**

Listening is an intricate and complicated skill that children need to develop and practise. We provide many opportunities to develop listening skills, such as listening to stories, songs, poetry, rhymes and numerous listening games.

## **Reading**

Reading is a complex skill and we use a combination of methods to help your child build up a variety of learning strategies – ‘look and say’, phonics and the real book approach. They will learn to predict, use picture cues to recognise words and learn sounds.

**Learning to read is special and unique to all children.**

We have ‘Pearson Phonics’ as our main reading scheme. It is one of the most widely used and successful reading programmes in schools. When your child is ready they will bring a reading book and reading diary home weekly for you to share. Please record the date and title of the book your child brings home, along with any comments you or your child has about the book.

Sharing books with your child can help them to read.

Sharing books does not just mean reading together.

Sharing books means:

- A cosy cuddle
- Lots of talking
- Learning to choose
- Gaining confidence
- Laughing together
- and learning to read

Our main aim is to get meaning from print, so talk about the story – what has happened? What will happen next?



Pictures are just as important as the words. Pictures give clues to the words by showing what is going on. Talking about the pictures provides the confidence to try out new words and you can point to the appropriate picture when a word seems difficult.

We will get your child '**hooked on books**'.



### **Getting Ready to Read**

We encourage a love of books and reading. Our school has a wonderful selection of books. The very best preparation for reading is talking about books. This is part of our Nursery and Reception curriculum. Your child will play matching games, distinguish between shapes and complete many other pre-reading activities.

## **Moving Onwards – Becoming a Reader**

These twelve Key words listed below are a quarter of all reading:

**a and he is I in it of that the to was**  
**High Frequency Words**

These words are also taught throughout the year:

**up look we like on at for said go you are this going**  
**they away play am cat come day dog big my mum dad**  
**no all get went me she see yes can**

Please help teach these words to your child.

## **Phonics**

We teach Phonic Work in Ysgol Meifod with the help of letters and sounds. There are 42 main sounds in English, not just the alphabet sounds. We start the process of learning these sounds in an enjoyable multi-sensory way.

We teach your child how to relate the sounds to symbols and so understand the alphabet code used for reading and writing. The sounds are listed below:

**s a t p i n**

**m d g o c k**

**e u r h b fl ff ll ss**

**j v w x y z zz**

**qu ch sh th ng**

**ai oa oo ar or**

**ur oi er ow igh ear air ure**

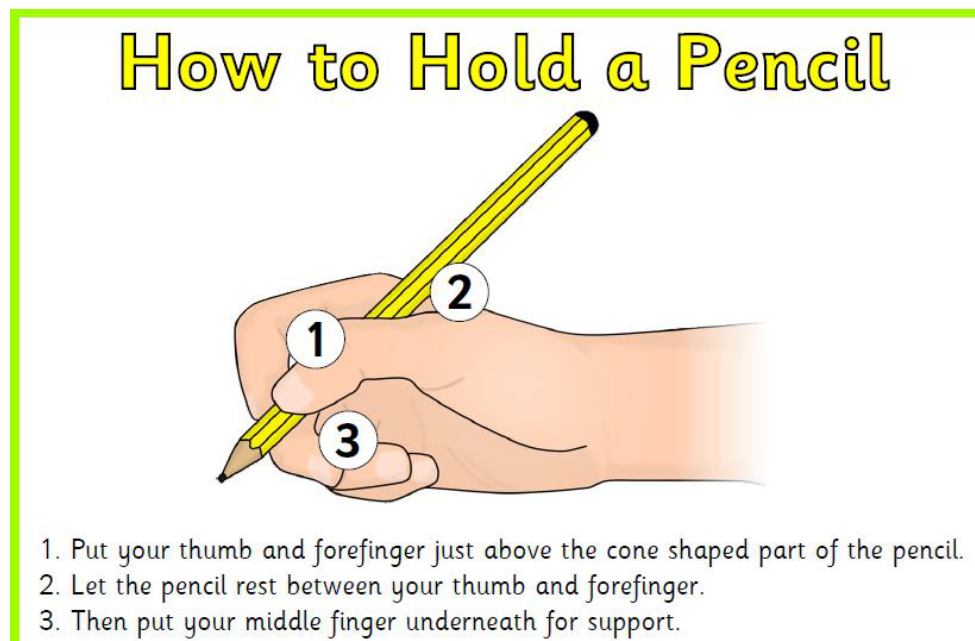
## **Writing**

Your child will be encouraged to draw and paint and to develop his/her fine motor skills ready for writing. Your child needs to develop a comfortable pencil grip, which allows them to write correctly. Your child will begin with writing patterns, tracing and overwriting using thick pencils and crayons. We value all children's



attempts at writing as they progress to become independent writers.

**Please help us to promote correct pencil grip by using the example provided.**



- Pencil held between thumb and forefinger
- Middle finger provides extra support

When the children are ready they begin our Big Writing programme which is followed throughout the school.

### Letter Formation

Correct letter formation is extremely important and needs to be reinforced frequently. This will prepare your child to learn joined up writing at a later stage. Letter formation is taught in a variety of ways using sand and dough, tracing, overwriting and finally copying underneath with a pencil.

Your child will always be encouraged to have a go.

## **Mathematical Development**



Children's mathematical development and learning has to be meaningful for it to be effective. Mathematical activities need to be relevant and part of children's everyday lives and experience. Your child will develop their mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding through the following:

- Number
- Measures and money
- Shape position and movement
- Handling data

We provide many opportunities where mathematical experience and ideas arise.

- Water
- Sand
- Dough

- Painting
- Measuring
- Rhymes, songs and activities
- Outdoor mathematical games and activities

We have a very well equipped Mathematical area with plenty of resources.

Children need all kinds of experiences in matching patterns and shapes before they can see differences and similarities in the shapes of numbers, letters and words. You can play matching games at home with household objects or pictures the same colour, shape or size.

Our core mathematics scheme is the new Abacus.

Your child will undertake many practical mathematical activities.

Your child will learn

- Symbols and values 0 – 20 and beyond
- Addition and subtraction concepts
- Counting and money recognition – how much?
- Addition – count on/forward
- Subtraction – count back/backward/take away/leaves/left

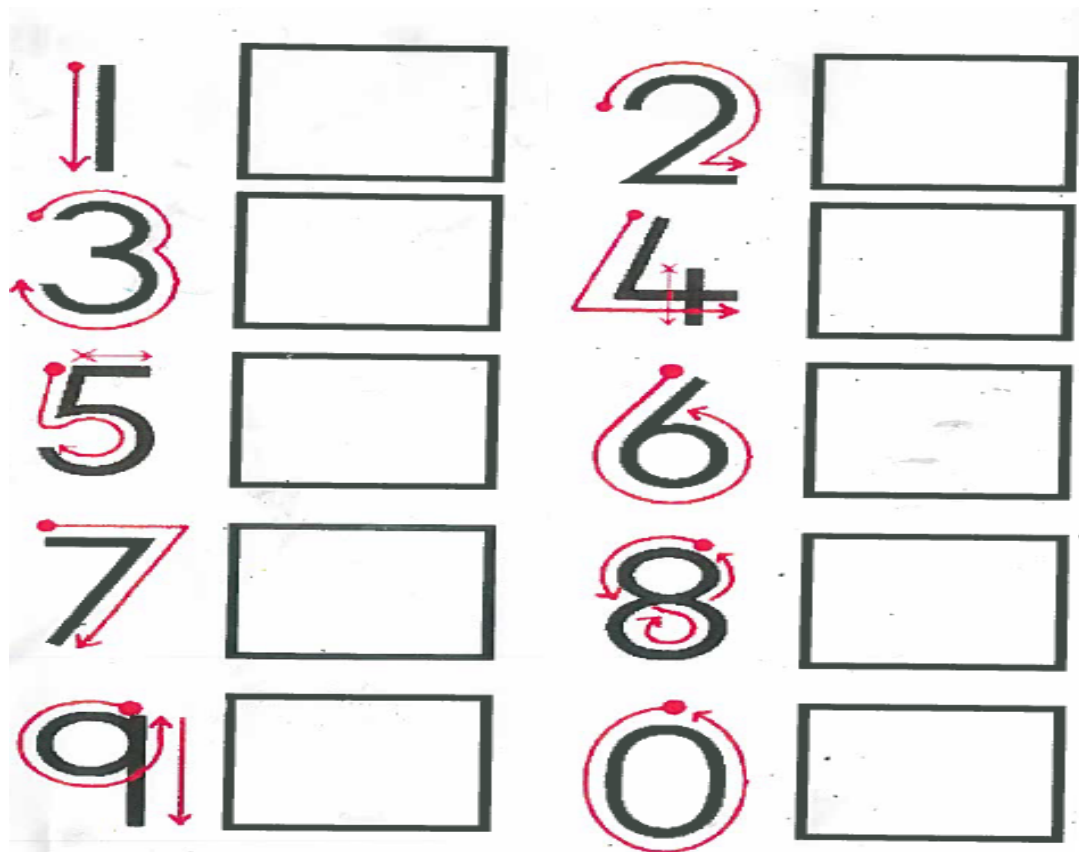
Your child will also learn:

- 2D shapes
  - square/circle/rectangles/triangle
- Early length concepts
  - long/short/longer/longest/shorter/shortest/tall/short/taller/shorter
- Comparing
  - less than/more than/before/after/fewest/largest/smallest
- 3D shapes
  - cube/cuboid/cone/pyramid
- Time
  - how long?/minutes/o'clock/long hand/short hand/lunch time/bed time
- Position
  - above/below/beside/next to
- Weight
  - heavy/heavier/light/lighter
- Capacity
  - Full/empty/half full/half empty/nearly full/nearly empty/holds the most
- Ordering

- largest/smallest/most/fewest/order/more than/less than/between
- Direction
  - Up/down/left/right/direction
- To play plenty of mathematics games
- To write the numbers 0 – 10 and beyond.







### **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

This relates to children's everyday lives, their homes, families, other people, the local environment and the wider world.

Throughout the Foundation Phase they will learn about Places and people, Time and people, myself and other living things and Myself and non-living things.

We will develop your child's natural curiosity to discover, ensuring they notice things, ask questions, explore and investigate.

Throughout our school day your child is involved in play activities which provide opportunities for these experiences.

They will learn to:

- Observe
- Compare
- Classify
- Predict
- Investigate
- Communicate
- Ask questions
- Think
- Evaluate



## **Outdoor Learning**

The Foundation Phase promotes using the outdoor environment for children's learning. We will get muddy and wet.

**There is no such thing as bad weather only unsuitable clothing.**

At Ysgol Meifod we encourage outdoor learning and all children will have the opportunity to experience the outdoor environment.

The outdoor environment is an extension of the indoor classroom, where activities can be done on a larger scale and with less restrictions.





## **Physical Development**

Physical development will focus on your child's personal development.

Children will be given the opportunity to develop:

- Co-ordination
- Gross motor skills
- Fine manipulative skills
- Body movements
- Confidence
- Sensory awareness

They will participate in adventurous and physical play and develop an awareness of health, fitness and safety.

## **Creative Development**



Your child will undertake art, craft, design, music, dance and movement.

In Reception your child will have plenty of opportunities to develop their imagination and creativity across the curriculum. They will be given experiences in:

- Rhythm, music-making and percussion
- Drawing, painting and model making
- Making choices about colour and mediums
- Dance and imaginative drama

## **Welsh Language Development**

During the Foundation Phase your child will learn to use and communicate in Welsh to the best of their ability. Your child will listen to Welsh being spoken and learn to respond appropriately in familiar situations.

We also promote aspects of Welsh life and living in Wales so they gain a sense of belonging to Wales and understanding the Welsh heritage.



## **Further information**

The Reception class has computers and an interactive whiteboard that will further aid your child's learning and enjoyment. The children also have access to Ipads.

The school has a wonderful reputation for its singing, music making and art work. Your child will fully participate in all these activities.

Your child will work in groups undertaking focused tasks with the teacher and learning support assistants, in pairs or as an individual.

We hope this information has been useful. Please ask if you have any queries.

You will receive a report at the end of the school year on your child's progress and there will be Parent Meetings throughout the year when you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with his/her teacher.

We look forward to an enjoyable, successful time for your child at Ysgol Meifod.

Mr Arwyn Jones  
Head teacher