

DINAS POWYS INFANTS' SCHOOL



Reception Booklet

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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 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.

Estyn Inspection 2007

"The School is very well prepared for the requirements of the new Foundation Phase". "Early years provision is a major strength of the School".

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



Foundation Phase - Reception

Our Reception Curriculum is developed from the Welsh Assembly Government Foundation Phase Documentation consisting of the following areas of learning:

Personal and Social Development, Well Being and Cultural Diversity.

Language, Literacy and Communication Skills

Mathematical Development

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Physical Development

Creative Development

Welsh Language Development

The Reception Year

Welcome to Dinas Powys Infants' School. Your child has now settled into our school routine. This booklet is to provide you with some information about the Reception Year.

Reception provides 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 in Dinas Powys Infants' School.

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 our Nursery these concepts have already been considerably reinforced.

We at Dinas Powys Infants' School 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 prepares 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
- and **LEARN**

So learning in Reception is enjoyable and fun.

Play is fundamental to intellectual development.

Personal and Social Development, Well Being and Cultural Diversity

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

The importance of motivation, perseverance, self-esteem and a positive approach to learning cannot be underestimated.

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.

Social skills will be further developed and they will continue to make friends, learn to care for others and take turns.

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



Language, Literacy and Communication

There will be a progressive development of your child's skills in:

- speaking
- listening
- reading
- 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. Our Storyphones allow your child to listen to stories whilst doing another activity.



See Reception Home Activity Booklet for ideas to support your child.



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 recently introduced Oxford Reading Tree 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 add any comments about your child's reading.

In Dinas Powys Infants' School we have a **Home Reading Library**. We would like our children to feel reading is an enjoyable and interesting activity. Your child will visit the library weekly, he/she will be given a Home Reading Book 'It's Fun to Read' - My Library Book Record. Please record the date and title of the book your child brings home, along with the author and 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 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**

Oxford Reading Tree Words

The words below are at the beginning of our reading scheme and learning these is an important part of the learning to read process.

**no, a, and, is, it, mum, dad, the, did, this, yes, get,
got, go, up, you, I, we, see, said, big, on, she, was,
to, went, he, look, at, can, clog, come, my, me, away,
this, day, little, cat, dog, going, they, am.**

Please help teach these words to your child.



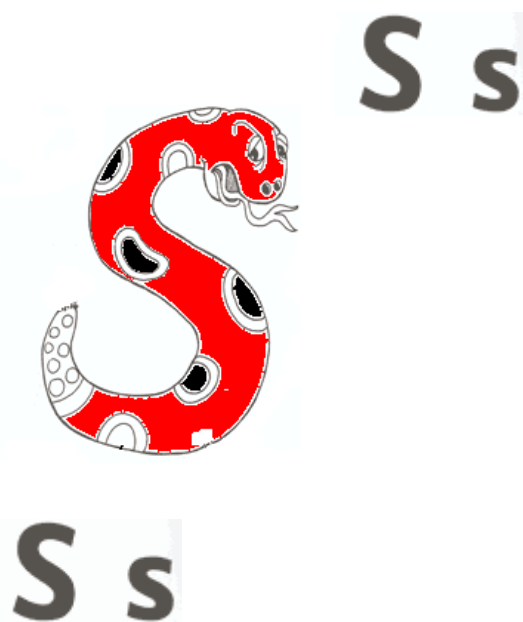
See Reception Home Activity Booklet for ideas to support your child.

Phonics

We teach Phonic Work in Dinas Powys Infants' School with the help of Jolly Phonics. There are 42 main sounds in English, not just the alphabet sounds. In Reception 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.

1. s a t i p n
2. c k e h r m d
3. g o u l f b
4. ai j oa ie ee or
5. z w ng v oo OO
6. y x ch sh th th
7. qu ou oi ue er ar



Code-Breakers

The children will be taught phonics throughout the Reception Year. We will be using Code Breakers methodology to support the teaching of phonics in our school. Code Breakers will tell your child what to do with the sounds.



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 hold and posture

Pencil hold

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



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 (on top of a yellow pen) and finally copying underneath with a pencil.

We teach letter formation through the Penpals Scheme, where the letters are split into 4 groups:

- Long Ladder Letters – l, i, t, u, j, y
- Curly Caterpillar Letters – c, a, d, o, s, g, q, e, f
- One-armed Robot Letters – r, b, n, h, m, k, p,
- Zig Zag Monster Letters – z, v, w, x

See Reception Home Activity Booklet for correct letter formation.

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 Abacus Evolve (but we use many other cards/games etc.). Your child will undertake many practical mathematical activities.

Your child will learn

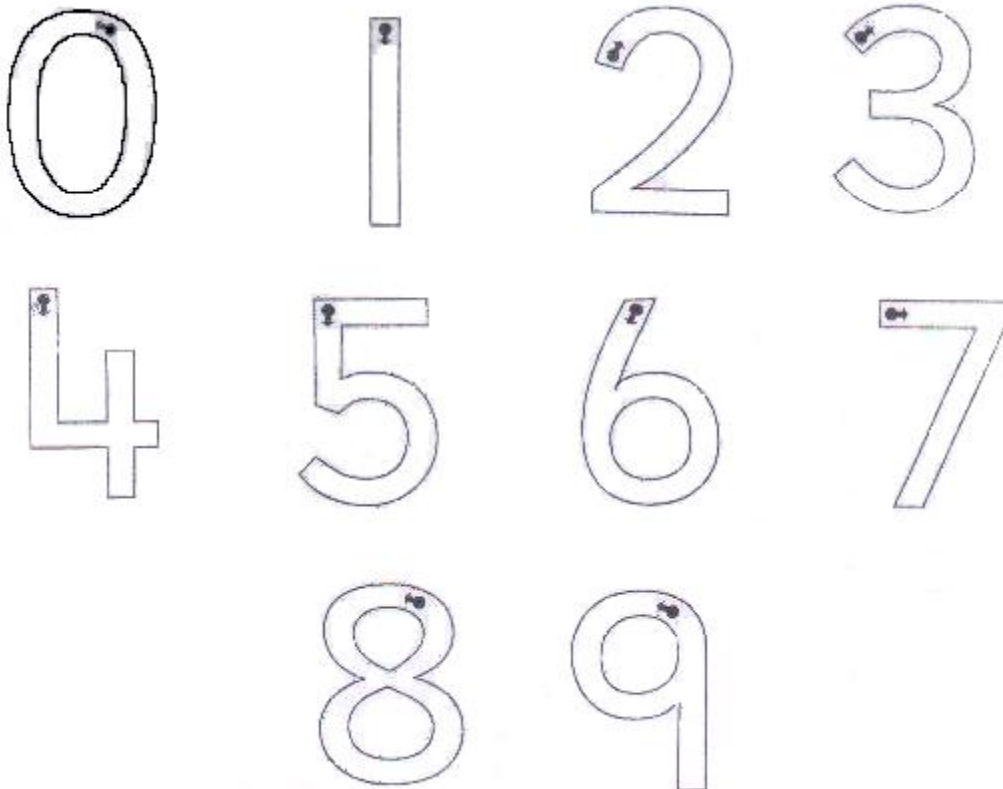
- ◇ symbols and values 0 - 20 and beyond
- ◇ addition and subtraction concepts
- ◇ counting and money recognition - how much?
- ◇ addition - count on/forward
- ◇ subtraction - count back/backward/take away/leaves/left



Your child will also learn

- ◇ 2-D 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
 - ◇ 3-D 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.

Please use the following formation



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 Dinas Powys Infants' School we encourage outdoor learning and all children will have the opportunity to experience the outdoor environment. Examples of outdoor activities include:

- gardening
- fruit & vegetable growing
- looking at insects in their habitat
- using the log story telling circle
- Forest School - A 6 week structured programme of Outdoor Learning, using natural resources.



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 opportunities 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 understand the Welsh heritage.

Further Information

The Reception area has several computers and two interactive whiteboards that will further aid your child's learning and enjoyment.

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 also receive a Curriculum Information Sheet termly which will inform you of the curriculum details covered each term.

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

We look forward to an enjoyable successful Reception Year for your child. The first of three happy, stimulating years in Dinas Powys Infants' School, or the continuation of your child's successful start in our Nursery.

Julie Thompson (Mrs)
Headteacher

