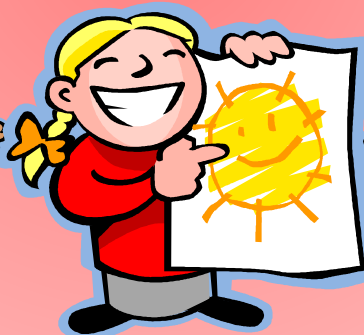
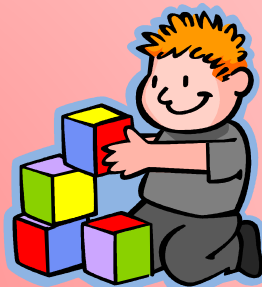
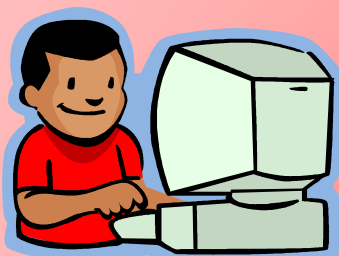


Nant-y-Parc Primary School



Starting School Handbook



Welcome to Nant-y-Parc Primary School
Croeso i Ysgol Gynradd Nant-y-Parc



WELCOME TO THE NURSERY!



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new parents and children to Nant-y-Parc Primary School Nursery.

We have a friendly and welcoming staff who will ensure the well being and happiness of your child.

We are always approachable and please feel you can come to us at anytime.

We look forward to having your child in the nursery. We hope this is the beginning of an important and supportive partnership between home and school.



School Information



School Address : Nant-y-Parc Primary School
Commercial Street
Senghenydd
Caerphilly
CF83 4GY

Telephone/Fax: 02920 832116

E-mail: nantyparcprimary@sch.Caerphilly.gov.uk

Website: www.nantyparcprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs N. Davies

Deputy Headteacher: Miss K. Nelson

Local Authority: Caerphilly County Borough Council
Directorate of Education and Leisure
Penallta House
Tredomen Park,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed,
CF82 7PG. .

Chief Education Officer: Mrs Keri Cole

Telephone (LA): (01443) 815588

E-mail: info@caerphilly.gov.uk



Nursery Staff



Miss. K. Ford
Assistant Head/
Teacher/ Lower school lead



Mrs. S. Skym
Teaching Assistant



Miss . H. Cotton
Teacher



Mrs. S. Block
Teaching Assistant



School Profile



Nant-y-Parc Primary School, which caters for pupils from 3-11, is situated in the village of Senghenydd in the County Borough of Caerphilly. The school, which was officially opened in 1988, comprises of the old Senghenydd Primary and Nursery.

The school occupies four separate buildings:

- The main building – seven classes catering for pupils from Year 1 to Year 6, the school's Library and iHVB radio station, two intervention rooms, admin offices, the school hall, a mini kitchen for pupils use and the 'ty crefft'.
- Two demountable classes: One Year 4 class and the second a professional learning area.
- The Nursery Unit: A self-contained unit for Nursery children age 3-4 years. The nursery operates from 09.00 a.m – 11.30 a.m (Morning sessions) and 12.45 pm – 3.15 pm (Afternoon session)
- Additional Unit in Nursery Grounds – Clwb -y-Draig offer both Flying Start and wrap around provision.
- Nearly all children who attend Nant-y-Parc Primary transfer to St. Cenydd Comprehensive School at the end of Year 6.

Please note that attendance of pupils at the feeder Primary School does not provide automatic entry to the chosen Secondary School. All parents are required to complete an admission form at the appropriate time. Places will then be allocated in accordance with the Authority's Admission Criteria as the school your child currently attends may not be their relevant catchment school.

Admission to Nant-y-Parc Primary School to children living outside Senghenydd will be allowed providing:

- Applications are made through the correct channels;
- Space is available.



Mission, Vision Statement and Aims.



Mission Statement

No Limits to Learning! – Dim Ffiniau i Ddysgu!

Vision

Nant-y-Parc Primary School: a school at the heart of the community where children are provided with experiences that allow them to realise their ambitions and dreams making anything possible

In order to achieve this vision we aim to:-



- Use the four purposes to drive our curriculum.
- Build a sense of Cynefin amongst learners ensuring that learning starts local and develops to global.
- Diversify our curriculum using the themes identified in our framework.
- Involve the community in all that we do.
- Offer a breadth and depth of learning experiences with pupil wellbeing at the forefront of all we do.
- Develop cultural capital amongst our learners.
- Offer ten non-negotiable experiences to all learners within their time at our school.
- Invest in high quality professional learning for our staff.



Nursery Times



Morning / Afternoon Sessions

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. / 12:45 p.m – 3:15 p.m

- At the beginning of each session, please ensure that your child is admitted by a member of staff and **not left alone** to wait for the start of Nursery.
- Please ensure that you collect your child from a member of staff at the end of each session. Children must be collected by a known adult. Please let us know if someone other than the usual person is to collect your child.
- Please collect your child promptly at the end of each session. Little ones often become distressed if they think they have been forgotten.
- Thank you for observing these points. We want your child to be safe and happy.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2025

- Autumn term starts and the first day of the school year Monday 1 September 2025
- Half term starts Monday 27 October 2025
- Half term ends Friday 31 October 2025
- Autumn term ends Friday 19 December 2025

Spring Term 2026

- Spring term starts Monday 5 January 2026
- Half term starts Monday 16 February 2026
- Half term ends Friday 20 February 2026
- Spring term ends Friday 27 March 2026

Summer Term 2026

- Summer term starts Monday 13 April 2026
- Half term starts Monday 25 May 2026
- Half term ends Friday 29 May 2026
- Summer term ends and the last day of the school year Monday 20 July 2026

The school will be closed for 6 days during the academic year for training purposes. Dates will be circulated to parents via the Diary of Events / Newsletter.



Aims



We aim to provide a caring, relaxed and happy atmosphere which will allow your child to enjoy the learning experiences offered while developing their potential at their own time and pace.

Within our nursery there is a strong emphasis on the importance of play in the curriculum. Learning experiences are play based to ensure wide ranging and first hand experiences for all. Play helps to develop children's imagination, communication and understanding. Play is the principal means of learning in early childhood and it is a necessary part of their lives in school and at home.

We must always remember that 'play' is the young child's work and that the ground we cover will lead automatically to readiness for reading, writing and number work in school.



Just Playing



When you see me up to elbows in paint,
Or standing at easel, or moulding and shaping clay,
Please don't let me hear you say, "He is just playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as a play,
I just might be a teacher someday.

When you see me learning to skip, hop, run and move my
body.
Please don't say I'm "just playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning how my body works.
I may be a doctor, nurse or athlete someday.

When you ask me what I've done at school today,
And I say, 'I just played. "
Please don't misunderstand me.
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.

I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in my work.
I'm preparing for tomorrow.
Today, I am a child and my work is play.



Nursery Life



Nursery is a very busy, active place. Your child may feel bewildered, shy or even tearful. This is normal and to be expected, but with your help your child will soon be confident and happy.

General Points

- 1) Nursery can be messy – your child will be happier by being sensibly dressed. Do not send him/her in his/her best clothes. At Nant-y-Parc we have a school uniform that makes us proud to belong to our school. You can pick up an order form from the school office, or buy similar versions from supermarkets. **It is much cheaper to dress children in uniform and as we do so many messy activities, it avoids spoiling children's other clothes.** There is also a uniform cupboard on school site that you can access uniform free of charge.



- 2) Often a nursery child leaves it to the last moment before dashing to the toilet, so please help by dressing him/her in clothes that are easy to remove – tight jeans, dungarees and belts/braces are not advisable. Tracksuit bottoms or leggings are practical for both boys and girls. Pupils will **need to be fully toilet-trained** to attend nursery unless it is due to a medical condition. Following a diagnosis of a medical condition, parents will be invited into school to meet with our health and safety officer to devise a toileting risk assessment. If children with no medical condition are not toilet-trained, their place in the nursery will be kept until they are trained.



- 3) There are many opportunities for 'Outdoor Learning.' Please ensure that your child has a warm coat he/she can put on easily (no all-in-one suits please). Children will have access to waterproof trousers and wellies in school.



- 4) Encourage your child to dress him/herself and show him/her how to do up buttons/zips as he/she will be expected to put on his/her own coat after the first few weeks.

- 5) Please label all coats, cardigans, hats, wellingtons, etc., clearly with your child's name to avoid them getting lost.



- 6) Pupils will have rolling snack time in class. There is not cost to this. Alternatively, please send your child to school with a snack of their choice. For example, apple, banana, chopped cucumber, etc, are marked clearly with their name. We also have milk every day.

NO NUT BASED PRODUCTS PLEASE

Our Nursery Curriculum – Developmental Pathways

This curriculum recognises that every child in our nursery is unique and that their development is rapid between birth and five years of age. It supports holistic development by keeping the developmental needs of our children at the forefront of our pedagogical practice. This curriculum links closely to the principles of child development, as well as to the four purposes of the curriculum and the statements of what matters of the six areas of learning and experience. It provides for appropriate breadth and depth of learning, in a range of contexts. The realisation of this curriculum should ensure progression for all children through the descriptors of learning at Progression step 1.

Central to this curriculum are five key developmental pathways that are fundamental to the learning and development of all young children. These developmental pathways are child-centred and are interdependent, having equal value in supporting overall development and progress. They focus on what is important for the child and link closely to the key principles of child development, as well as to the overarching statements of what matters and descriptions of learning of the six areas of learning and experience. They have been developed to ensure children can be supported to make progress at their own pace and in their preferred learning environment. These five developmental pathways are:

1. Belonging
2. Communication
3. Physical Development
4. Well-being
5. Exploration

Development within and across the five developmental pathways is dependent upon the quality of our interactions and the learning experiences and environments we create. Taking a holistic approach to teaching and learning will ensure that our pupils have opportunities to develop skills within and across the developmental pathways. We will ensure that we provide ample time and opportunity for the successful mastery of skills, with long periods of uninterrupted play during which pupils can become absorbed in their learning.

It is usual for pupils to make faster or slower progress along some developmental pathways, dependent upon the quality of interactions, experiences and their individual developmental journeys up to the point of entry into our nursery. It is therefore our responsibility to provide developmentally appropriate practice, within nurturing relationships, which meets the needs of all pupils. We can lay the foundations for positive dispositions and attitudes towards learning through ensuring learning experiences are relevant, meaningful and responsive to the needs and interests of the pupils in our care. The five developmental pathways will be used holistically when planning learning experiences to ensure authentic and purposeful learning takes place

Pedagogy

Effective, child-centred pedagogy, which is responsive, dynamic and embedded in strong relationships, is essential to realising the ambition of this curriculum. Although the principles of effective pedagogy are embedded throughout this curriculum, it is particularly important for us to ensure that the learning environment within our setting provides consistent opportunities for the following:

- play and play-based learning
 - being outdoors
 - authentic and purposeful learning
- physical literacy.



General Information



Health

Regular daily attendance is expected, but sometimes absence is unavoidable through sickness. Please inform the school if your child is not able to attend.

Parents are asked not to bring their children to the nursery if they are unwell. Infections spread very quickly through the nursery setting; it is important that unwell children do not return to the nursery until they are completely recovered. If there is any doubt as to whether a child is well enough to attend nursery a GP's opinion may be requested.

Please inform the nursery staff if:

- Your child has recently suffered from diarrhoea or vomiting. To prevent the spread of infection children will not be admitted to the nursery until 48 hours has passed since the last episode.
- Your child has a non-contagious infection or is in any pain.
- Your child has had any medication before arrival at the nursery or has recently been immunised.
- Your child has any, or develops any, allergies or other medical conditions.
- Please advise us of any medical problems your child may have, particularly when there is an allergy to materials or food.
- Medicines are not administered in school unless there are exceptional circumstances and a child has a long term condition, e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy.

Additional Information

- 1) Please do not allow your child to bring sweets, money or toys to Nursery.
- 2) Please bring a change of footwear if wellingtons are worn, and ensure that they are named.
- 3) Please do not smoke in the school grounds.
- 4) Please do not bring dogs into the school grounds.

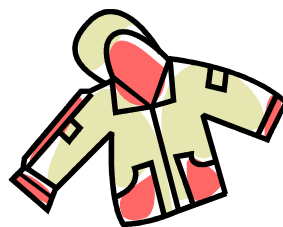
Thank you for your co-operation.

NURSERY TARGETS



Personal and Social Targets

- Use a toilet with confidence and be self-efficient in toilet hygiene.
- Wash their hands after using the toilet.
- Put a coat on.
- Have opportunities to use a scissors.
- Recognise their belongings.



Maths' Skills

- Recall a range of number rhymes, songs and stories.
- Begin to understand the concept of less and more.
- Begin to count orally to 5.
- Begin to record numbers using marks.
- Distinguish between large and small objects.

Language, Literacy and Communication Skills

- Talk about experiences
- Respond to simple instructions
- Recognise their first name.
- Sing the alphabet.
- Hold a pencil correctly.
- Begin to record letters using marks.
- Know nursery rhymes.
- Hold a book correctly and turn the pages.
- Distinguish between pictures and print.



Help your child to think.



Talk about everything!

Talk as you do things together- going for a walk, laying the table, buying the groceries, looking for special cars, the change of seasons, buying a present.

Notice everything around you!

Discuss colours, shapes, sizes, smells, sounds, tastes, textures, materials.

Compare everything!

Is it bigger, smaller, wider, narrower, fatter, thinner, heavier, lighter?

Use the question words!

When? How? What? Where? Why?

Measure everything!

How long? How wide? How thick? How tall? How deep?

Count everything!

Tins in cupboards, packets on shelves, biscuits for tea, chips, knives & forks etc.

Say where everything is!

Behind, in front, upside down, back to front, on the top, underneath.

Essential words!

What do you think? What would you do? How could we...? Is there a better way? How could we change this? What would happen if?

Say how things are done!

Take things to pieces, build them again, cook together, paint together, and clean together.

Have a dressing up box!

Pretend, imagine, invent, create, re-design, re-build.

Collect a treasure box!

Gather for making and painting- shiny paper, coloured bits & pieces, small & big boxes, stickers & ribbons, buttons & bows, interesting rubbish.

Praise them when they do well!

Have sticker stars, points for good behaviour, red & green lights or flags for "Stop! & Go!"

Fair Discipline!

Agree ground rules, discuss problems, talk things through, and use fair sanctions.

If throughout the year you would like to see the class teacher to discuss any matter, then the school policy is to make an appointment by either calling into the office or ringing the school.

Normally, the teacher would be able to see you the same day if they do not have any prior engagements. If it is urgent then the Head Teacher or the Deputy Head will be able to discuss the matter with you straight away.

As you can appreciate, the class teacher cannot leave their class at anytime during teaching sessions, this would pose a serious health and safety risk to pupils in the class. Although, as mentioned above the school has clear procedures to deal with your concerns quickly and efficiently.

The teachers look forward to meeting you all in the Parents' Evenings, but if in the meantime you have any concerns or issues please do not hesitate to make an appointment to come and discuss them, the teacher will be only too glad to help.