

# Croeso i'r Blynyddoedd Cynnar

## Early Years Booklet 2021 -2022

*Dream, Believe, Achieve Together – Breuddwydio, Credu, Cyflawni Gyda'n gilydd*

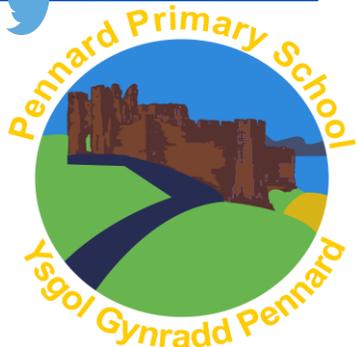
# Welcome to Pennard Primary School

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**Headteacher/Prif Arthrawes**  
Ms. Kerina Hanson

**Deputy Headteacher/  
Dirprwy Prif Arthrawes**  
Mrs. Victoria Eynon

A very warm welcome to our fantastic school. Croeso i Ysgol Gynradd Pennard.

Pennard Primary School is a wonderful, happy school that places children at the heart of everything we do. We believe that children thrive in an environment in which they are happy, challenged and secure.

At Pennard Primary we aim to provide the best primary education in a stimulating and creative environment, so that every child realises his or her potential. We will instill a love of learning inspired by quality teaching, nurturing and developing individual strengths and talents. We will encourage and celebrate creativity, original thinking and imagination as well as effort and achievement. We will teach the importance of moral values and consideration of others.

Our children, when they leave us at Y6 will be confident, collaborative and independent young people, ready to succeed and enjoy the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead of them. Our vision is to prepare all our children with the knowledge, skills and values they will need to play their part as responsible members within the communities in which they live and learn.

I am extremely proud to lead a team that is committed to achieving high standards and providing the very best opportunities for the children in our care. Staff, supported by governors, work hard to deliver a rich and challenging curriculum; to prepare children for future education; and to help them acquire the skills and enthusiasm needed to pursue learning for the rest of their lives.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school, and to a happy and successful partnership with all our new children and families. Bydd yn dda eich gweld chi.

*Kerina Hanson*

Pennaeth

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# Welcome / Croeso

We want your child to have a very happy and successful time with us and hope this book may answer any questions or concerns you may have. We recognise how much you have taught your child already and how, from now on, school and home will need to work in partnership in continuing this education.

If you have any queries or things you would like to discuss with your child's teacher do not hesitate to do so. In the first few weeks of school especially, it is important that you feel happy and trust your child's teacher. This helps to build up your child's confidence. Equally if something different is happening at home that might unsettle your child, it helps if the teacher is aware of this as it might explain a change in behaviour.

We start welcoming children into school from 8.40am with school beginning promptly at 8.50am. The children can hang up their bag and coat and will then be welcomed into class by the Early Years staff. We aim to encourage children to manage as much of this as they can on their own but we are there to lend a hand and support. If you would like time to talk to the teacher, please make an appointment after school, the beginning of the day is very busy! The children leave the school through the main school door at 11.20. Our afternoon nursery begins at 12.50pm until 3.20pm \* Please note afternoon nursery will enter and leave through the classroom door.

**If it is vitally important that you tell the teacher if someone other than you are picking them up.**



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# Our Learning Environment

We aim to provide your child with a secure, caring and happy environment in which they can develop their personal, social and physical skills, communicate confidently and create a positive self-image. We have a range of learning areas set up both inside and outside that the children can access freely throughout their time in school.



**Reading area**



**Creative area**



**Playdoh station**

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**Sand and water play**



**Maths area**

**Role-play areas**



# Outdoors

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating outdoor environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad and balanced curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their individual needs.

Playing outside provides opportunities for children to use all their senses, to experience wonder and enchantment, to work on a larger scale and to enjoy a greater sense of freedom and independence.

Children will have access to the outdoors at all times throughout the school day.



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# Meet the staff

Bae un is led by Mrs Eynon and Mrs Davies who are supported by a highly skilled and dedicated team of support staff.



*Mrs Eynon*



*Mrs Davies*

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# Meet the staff



*Mrs Man*



*Miss Thompson*



*Miss Hughes*



*Mrs Sabharwal*

# The First Few Weeks

**Starting Nursery/Dechrau'r Tymor:** Children are admitted into Nursery as soon as possible following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. When children first start school we should not underestimate what an emotionally and physically tiring time it is for them. Although most children will have been used to attending some pre-school settings they will find that school is a different sort of place. There is a lot to learn and adapt to; the routine of the day, where everything is kept, where the toilets are, being part of a larger group– the list is endless. When your child first starts school do not be surprised if they tell you very little about it. Some children like to reflect and absorb what is going on, others enjoy their own 'secret life', while some chatter constantly about it. Our Early Years staff are here to help your child settle in and most settle very quickly, your role as parent is vital, please tell the staff if you have any worries or concerns about your child settling.

**Medical Needs/Anghenion Meddygol:** Please notify the school if your child has specific medical needs to ensure that a medical plan is agreed with the Headteacher. If medication is required during school time e.g. asthma pumps, an authorisation form must be completed and permission given by Ms. Hanson (Headteacher) or Mrs. Eynon (Deputy Headteacher).

**Illness or Accidents / Salwch neu Damweiniau:** Should your child become ill or sustain an injury at school, every effort will be made to contact parents or carers, please ensure you keep your contact details up to date at the school office. In an emergency, appropriate emergency services will be called. If your child is ill, please inform the school as soon as possible.

**Toilet accidents/Damweiniau Toiled:** If your child has a minor toilet accident, staff will change your child. Please notify the class teacher if you do not wish your child to be changed in school. Children who have a tummy upset and have a toilet accident will be sent home to avoid spreading germs.

**Milk and Snack/Llaeth a Byrbrydau:** All children participate in Snack Time each day. We would be grateful if you could send a contribution of £1.20 a week for fruit snack. Water is available through the session for children. Please notify the class teacher if your child does not drink milk or has any allergies.



## Learning and Teaching/Dysgu ac Addysgu:

Our teaching is tailored to your child's individual needs. For most of the time your child will be taught in the area that they are playing in. Some examples are learning numbers in the construction area, letter sounds in the role-play area, learning letter formation in the outdoors. Each adult in the Bae supports your child in their learning, provides challenge and guides them to move onto their next step.

# The Curriculum





## Resources/Adnoddau:

We try to use as many natural materials and real life resources as possible and provide a neutral classroom environment.

# The Curriculum



# Curriculum for Wales 2022

It is exciting to have a new curriculum for Wales! At Pennard, we have started making changes to our school structure, learning environments and learning experiences.

The new curriculum for Wales has the 4 purposes that sit at its heart.



As well as learning Literacy, Numeracy and Digital skills across the curriculum, there are 6 Areas of Learning and Experience.....

- ▶ Language and Literacy and
- ▶ Mathematics and Numeracy
- ▶ Science and Technology
- ▶ Wellbeing
- ▶ Expressive Arts
- ▶ Humanities

## Continuous and Enhanced Provision

- We take a holistic approach to children's development, building on their current skills, previous learning and knowledge and experience.
- Your child will experience a variety of **continuous provision** such as a role play corner, math's area, writing corner, reading corner, small world, construction and outdoor area.
- The **enhanced provision** activities will change based upon the children's open inquiries.



# The Curriculum



# Outdoor Learning



## What do we do in Outdoor Learning?

During the Outdoor Learning sessions safety is discussed and becomes embedded in the learning. Children learn to recognise risk, why rules apply and how to be safe in an outdoor environment. Over time the children risk assess their own situations enabling them to explore, discover, problem solve and learn using the seasons, nature and the outdoor environment. Elements of the curriculum are delivered outside and therefore sessions are part directed and part child led. The children have a drink and a snack taking it in turns to be snack helpers. Manners are encouraged at all times. When appropriate the children will learn safe tool use, bushcraft skills, seasonal nature based activities and outdoor cooking. All activities are small achievable tasks that encourage the children to succeed.

## Why is Outdoor Learning important?

Outdoor Learning is an important and valuable dimension to the children's school experience at Pennard Primary School. It enables children to connect with nature and it fosters a sense of respect and ownership with the outdoor environment. Outdoor Learning activities are designed to develop self confidence and self esteem through hands on learning experiences using natural materials. The children learn how to be safe, keep their friends safe and treat the site with respect. Outdoor Learning offers all children wider opportunities to thrive and celebrate skills that they wouldn't have the chance to share in the classroom.

## Why is play important?

Young children learn through play, they readily engage in and enjoy playing. At the same time, play makes a major contribution to all aspects of children's development and learning. Play allows children to develop in a variety of ways, it allows them to listen and observe, to talk, to explore, investigate, experiment and to create. Play allows children to express their ideas and feelings in a variety of ways. Different types of play provide opportunities to explore alone, alongside others or co-operatively.

Through carefully planned opportunities for play and a wide range of other activities we aim to develop learning in a range of ways. Our role as educators here at Pennard is to help children and guide their play, to offer choices, to challenge children with care and sensitivity, to encourage them and to move their learning along.

### **Languages, Literacy and Communication / Ieithoedd, Llythrennedd a Chyfathrebu**

Children develop language, literacy and communication skills through many carefully planned opportunities to listen to stories, to learn rhymes, to report on experiences, to ask and answer questions. A wide range of first-hand sensory experiences give children opportunities to:

- Listen to and carry out instructions
- Speak in a variety of group situations
- Show and interest in books and choose to look at books with or without an adult
- Enjoy listening to stories that are told to them
- Experimenting with mark making, using a variety of media
- Producing pieces of emergent writing
- Communicate by using symbols, pictures and words

### **Welsh Language Development/ Datblygiad y Gymraeg**

Children are encouraged to learn and use simple Welsh phrases and commands in their play and throughout the day. They are given opportunities to;

- Show that they understand basic instructions
- Join in with simple rhymes and stories
- Speak, substituting words in familiar patterns
- Recite or sing Welsh, poems, songs and raps
- Experiment with mark-making, using a variety of media
- Follow stories read to them and respond as appropriate

### **Mathematical & Numeracy / Matheateg a Rhifedd**

Carefully structured play experiences enable children to develop their mathematical skills to solve mathematical problems, communicate mathematically and reason mathematically.

Children are given opportunities to:

- Develop an interest in, and an understanding of number
- Sort and classify sets of objects using one or more criteria
- Use number in their play and daily activities, including number rhymes, songs, stories and counting activities for Wales and around the world.
- Understand and use measures
- Play with shapes; make models and pictures

# What & How will my child learn?



# What & How will my child learn?



## Humanities, Science & Technology / Dyniaethau, Gwyddoniath a Thechnoleg

We aim to foster and develop children's natural interest about people and the world around them using their senses to find things out. Many of the planned learning experiences take place outdoors. We have a number of staff trained in Outdoor Learning. The philosophy of Outdoor Learning encourages and inspires children through learning about the natural environment, how to handle risks and more importantly, how to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. This all aims to develop their emotional and social skills. We have sets of waterproof clothing available for each child to support our Outdoor Learning. We ask parents to provide a pair of Wellington boots, labelled with your child's name, these should stay in school for use during outdoor play and Outdoor Learning. Children will be given opportunities to develop an awareness of religious celebrations and festivals, and to develop empathy towards those whose beliefs are different to their own. They will be encouraged to develop curiosity and knowledge about the world.

## Expressive Arts / Y Celfuddau Mynegiannol

Children's art, craft and design skills, musical skills and creative movement skills are fostered and promoted through using their senses, imagination and experience. Through rich multi-sensory experiences and by using a wide variety of resources children will be given opportunities to:

- Mix, shape, arrange and combine materials to create their own images and objects that communicate and express their ideas, feelings and memories
- Explore and experiment with a variety of techniques and materials
- Explore a range of sound sources and experiment with different ways of making and organising sounds
- Enjoy singing and joining in with a range of songs and rhymes
- Develop their control by linking movement to create a series of changing body shapes and pathways

## Health & Wellbeing / Lechyd a Lles

Physical Development focuses on increasing the skill and performance of the body. Activities planned give opportunities to:

- Be able to move safely with increasing control and co-ordination
- Use a range of tools and equipment to develop skills in visual discrimination, hand/eye co-ordination and manipulation
- Become knowledgeable about spatial awareness and relationships such as behind, underneath, below, over, under and on top of
- Recognise the effects exercise has on their bodies as they move

Health and Well Being is at the heart of the curriculum. At Pennard we place the child at the centre of all we do. We aim to build on their previous learning at home and give them opportunities to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to achieve the best possible learning outcomes. Our Early Years provision strives to contribute to all areas of children's development ensuring equal opportunities in respect of race, gender, disability or special need. Carefully planned experiences will help them to:

- Develop positive attitudes to new experiences and learning
- Make friendships, learn to share and have consideration for others
- Develop a good understanding of their rights and encourage a sense of responsibility
- Make choices, use their initiative and ask for assistance when needed
- Develop confidence, a positive self-image and become aware of different emotions
- Respond to ideas and questions enthusiastically, sensitively, creatively and intuitively
- Develop independence and an ability to concentrate for lengthening periods
- Foster an understanding of their own and different cultures, religions and beliefs
- Gain an understanding of right and wrong

# What & How will my child learn?



# Dough Disco & Squiggle while you wiggle!

'Dough Disco' is a fun activity which combines the use of play dough with a series of hand and finger exercises designed to improve fine muscle control. The movements develop children's fine and gross motor dexterity, hand-eye coordination and self-esteem.

'Squiggle While You Wiggle' is a fantastic approach to aid and stimulate early writing. We use movement to music to help develop our motor skills and get us ready for our writing jobs. We grab two bits of cloth, one for each hand, put on our favourite music and have a boogie! Whilst we are dancing, we use our Flipper Flappers to create different shapes in the air. We create letters, numbers, circles and stripes. We even do simple 'up and down' and 'side to side' movements.

Dough Disco and squiggle while you wiggle is part of our daily routine, warming up those important muscles in our hands, arms and shoulders in preparation for a busy day in Bae Un!



# Working in Partnership

## Parental Partnership/Partnrtaeth a Rhieni:

We aim to build on what your child has already learned at home and to work with you in order to continue this development. We keep you informed about your child's progress through open evenings which are held in the Autumn and Spring terms. You will also receive a written report at the end of the Summer Term. We operate an '*Open Door Policy*', if there is anything you would like to discuss with the teacher regarding your child apart from these times, please feel free to arrange a time to come and do this.

We are extremely lucky to have parents who volunteer to help us in many ways adding to our rich curriculum. We welcome parents who would like to help out in any way, especially with swimming, outdoor learning or cooking. If you are interested in helping or have an area of expertise that you would like to share please inform the Early Years staff or Headteacher indicating the way in which you would like to help.

We would also like parents to become involved in the work of the P.T.A. and the life of the school. You will be notified when a PTA meeting is to take place and everyone is welcome to attend.

Our Fortnightly Friday Flyer will keep you informed of any other relevant information about your child or school matters.. As a school we utilise the services of a texting system. This enables us to keep parents informed of events and school issues.

**Change of Address or Contacts/Newid Cyfeiriad neu Gyswllt:** Please notify the Headteacher or Secretary in writing of any changes of address, telephone numbers or contact persons immediately to ensure your child's details are correct in the case of an emergency.



# Useful information

**Uniform/Gwisg Ysgol:** We encourage all children to wear our school uniform. Our uniform consists of a royal blue jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo, a white or pale blue polo shirt, grey or black trousers / skirt or a blue gingham summer dress. We also have a school PE T shirt

Please see links below to purchase our school uniform.

<https://myclothing.com/pennard-primary-school/11963.school>

<https://www.bergoni.co.uk/collections/pennard-primary>

Please make sure that all clothing and coats are labelled with your child's name.

**Safety of pupils / Diogelwch Plant:** At Pennard Primary the health and safety of all children is of paramount importance. Parents send their children to school each day with the expectation that school provides a secure and safe environment in which their children can flourish. We therefore ensure that this expectation becomes a reality. A wide range of measures are in place to secure children's safety. Safeguarding procedures and associated policies are available from the school office on request or can be found on the school website.

The school safeguarding lead is **Ms. Hanson**. The governor with responsibility for safeguarding is **Mrs. H Lythgoe**.

**You must only enter the school from the front main entrance.** If you are helping in school or attending any meetings you must sign in at the office first.



# Finally...



We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our school community. Nursery is a special time in your child's education, we believe that it is a time that should be enjoyed and not rushed in order to reach the next stage. Your child has just one chance to experience all that Nursery education has to offer and we believe it is vital to provide a wide range of rich opportunities and experiences that allow your child to explore and develop their understanding of the world.

It is an important step that both you and your child are making and we strive to make it as enjoyable and educationally fulfilling as possible. We look forward to sharing this exciting journey and working in partnership with you to meet their needs. We are here to help guide, nurture and celebrate achievements and to help develop the curiosity, knowledge, skills, self-confidence and interests which will lay firm foundations for your child's lifelong love of learning.

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