

Information For Parents



Headteacher

Mrs. J. Mundy

Chair of Governors

Mrs. M. Evans



Welcome to Rhigos Primary School

A Forward from the Chair of Governors

It is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to write the forward to the Rhigos Primary School Brochure. For many years I have had close connections with the school which continue with my post as chair of the governing body.

Like many other visitors when I go to Rhigos Primary School I am always impressed by the warm and happy atmosphere. The school provides its pupils with opportunities which develop their particular skills to the full and happy, caring and supportive environment.

I believe that a school should be a focal point of the community and that its very much the ethos at Rhigos. I am also very pleased with the strong links the school has forged with local colleges and the positive relationships with other local primary and secondary schools.

Finally I would like to welcome you and your children to Rhigos Primary School. I am sure that they will be as happy and contented at the school as the many generations of children I have seen pass through the school and onwards into the community. Rhigos Primary School will provide them with a sound foundation for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Mairwen Evans

Dear Parent / Guardian

A very warm welcome to Rhigos Primary School. We hope that this prospectus will provide a snapshot of life at our school. There is no denying that every child is unique and this is valued and celebrated at Rhigos Primary School.

Our ambition is to nurture every child, enabling them to achieve well, regardless of their starting point. We also feel strongly that it is our job as educators to encourage children to become resilient, confident, well-rounded people who know the difference between right and wrong.

A positive learning culture is evident throughout Rhigos Primary School; we encourage our pupils to develop enquiring minds and a “can do” attitude to all aspects of the curriculum. Alongside this, we provide a caring and supportive environment meaning that every child is given the opportunity to be the very best they can be.

This brochure provides a taste of the life, activities and successes of Rhigos Primary School. It includes day to day information which I am sure you will find useful. We take pride in our success in every field and in the personal progress of all our pupils, whatever their talents and abilities.

We hope that your son/daughter will take part in school life, and all within the very caring, happy environment which we enjoy at Rhigos Primary School. We welcome you in partnership and together we will provide the best education for your children.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Janine Mundy

(Headteacher)

Mission Statement

At Rhigos Primary School we are committed to:

- Creating a happy caring and secure environment where children are encouraged to become independent learners;
- Offering a wide range of rich and diverse experiences to allow all learners to fulfil their full potential;
- Inspiring children to become confident respectful and insightful individuals;
- Working together to develop an understanding of equality and strong moral values ;
- Maintaining and building upon each child's performance by having high expectations of all pupils in our care, preparing them to become lifelong learners.

Through working collaboratively at Rhigos Primary School we achieve these goals

Vision

We are committed to achieve the full potential of every child by:

- Improving confidence;
- Encouraging aspiration;
- Providing outstanding education;
- Developing social awareness with strong values.

To prepare our children for the next stage in their lifelong journey



School Details

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| School Address | : | Rhigos Primary School Heol-Y-Graig Rhigos Aberdare CF44 9YY |
| Telephone | : | 01685 811253 |
| E-mail | : | admin@rhigosprimary.rctcbc.cymru |
| Age Ranges | : | 3 - 11 Years |
| Type | : | Community Primary, Day and Co-Educational |
| Language | : | English |
| Academic Year | : | Autumn : 04/09/23 to 22/12/23 Half Term : 30/10/23 to 03/11/23 Spring : 08/01/24 to 05/04/24 Half Term :12/02/24 to 16/02/24 Summer : 08/04/24 to 22/07/24 Half Term : 27/05/24 to 31/05/24 |

There are five training days for teaching staff each academic year where the school is closed. There has been an additional INSET day awarded for preparation for the Curriculum for Wales.

Rhigos Primary School — Staff

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Headteacher | : | Mrs. J. Mundy |
| Teaching Staff | : | Mrs R. Murphy Deputy Head Mrs N. Bowman Miss K. Rees |
| Teaching Assistant | : | Mrs. G. Morris |
| Teaching Assistant | : | Mrs. J. Bergin |
| Teaching Assistant | : | Mrs. A Harris |
| School Administration Clerk | : | Mrs J. Jones |
| Caretaker | : | Mrs. J. Jones |
| Supervisory Assistants | : | Miss. Ivanovic Miss T. Leach |
| Catering Staff | : | Mrs. R. Davies Mrs. M. Moon |

Rhigos Primary School — Governors

Chairman of Governors : Mrs. M. Evans
Vice-Chairman : Mrs. P. Oliver
Headteacher : Mrs. J. Mundy
Teacher Representative : Mrs R. Murphy

Non-Teaching Representative : Mrs. G. Morris

Parent Representative : Miss C. Hopes
: Mrs S. Oliver
: Mrs. A. Morgan

Local Authority : Cllr A Rogers

Community Representative : Mrs. H. Wagner

Group Director : Mrs. Gaynor Davies

Education and Lifelong Services

Ty Trevithick, Abercynon

Mountain Ash CF45 4UQ

Tel 01443 744000

Fax 01443 744024

The School Day

Nursery, Reception and Year 1

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Start | 8.55 | |
| Registration | 8.55 — 9:00 | |
| Session 1 | 9:00 — 10:15 | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Assembly | 10:15 — 10:30 | |
| Break | 10:30 — 10:45 | |
| Session 2 | 10:45 — 12.00 | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Lunch | 12:00 — 1.00 | |
| Registration | 1.00 — 1:05 | |
| Session 3 | 1:05 — 2:20 | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Break | 2:20 — 2:30 | |
| Session 4 | 2:30 — 3:20 | 50 minutes |
| Total Daily Teaching time | 9:00 — 3:20 | 4 hours 35 minutes |

Years 2 — 6

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Start | 8.55 | |
| Registration | 8.55 — 9:00 | |
| Session 1 | 9:00 — 10:15 | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Assembly | 10:15 — 10:30 | |
| Break | 10:30 — 10:45 | |
| Session 2 | 10:45 — 12.00 | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Lunch | 12:00 — 1.00 | |
| Registration | 1.00 — 1:05 | |
| Session 3 | 1:05 — 2:20 | 1 hour 15 minutes |
| Break | 2:20 — 2:30 | |
| Session 4 | 2:30 — 3:30 | 1 hour |
| Total Daily Teaching time | 9:00 — 3:30 | 4 hours 45 minutes |

School Admission Policy

The governing body of Rhigos Primary School applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend the school.

We are an inclusive school that welcomes children from all backgrounds and abilities. The level of ability of a child or any special needs that she/he may have plays no part in the admissions policy of the school.

A regular risk assessment is carried out by the Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Caretaker in order to review health and safety issues around the school and arrangements for admission and access for pupils with disabilities. We ensure that disabled pupils would not be treated any less favourably than other pupils.

The school determines the admission arrangements in agreement with the Local Authority.

The Local Authority is therefore the “Admissions Authority” for our school. The Local Authority provided information about how parents can apply for a place in the school of their choice. Parents have the right to express a preference for the school of their choice and they should do so on the appropriate application form.

Forms are available from:-

Education and Children’s Services

Ty Trevithick Abercynon

Mountain Ash

CF45 4UQ

If you would like to know more about our school before filling in an application form please come to the school office where we can support you in the process.

Curriculum

The curriculum at Rhigos Primary School is wide and varied. It is delivered through a skilled based curriculum that builds on the Foundation Phase Curriculum 3-7 years olds and covers the National Curriculum. The aims of Rhigos School are to encourage pupils:-

- to read fluently and accurately with understanding, feeling and discrimination
- to develop a legible cursive style of handwriting with the appropriate punctuation, spelling, syntax and usage
- to communicate clearly and confidently in speech and writing, in ways appropriate for various occasions and purposes
- to listen attentively with understanding
- to acquire information from various sources, e.g. Multimedia, atlas, dictionary, reference book and to record information in various ways
- to develop skills to solve mathematical problems
- to develop and extend their mathematical language
- to present and record mathematical ideas in a variety of ways



- to explore the natural environment in which they live
- to experience master basic scientific ideas
- to develop their ability to apply knowledge, skills and values to the production of useful artefacts, systems and environments
- to experience the creative arts - model making, picture making through a wide range of media, dance, drama and singing. An introduction to notation through instrumental work
- to understand the part played by Christianity in the development of the western culture and to introduce them to the world's major religions
- to master basic skills e.g. catching, throwing, swimming and to play team games
- to learn and speak the Welsh language and have awareness of its related culture and traditions

Teachers provide a variety of learning and teaching styles to support all pupils.

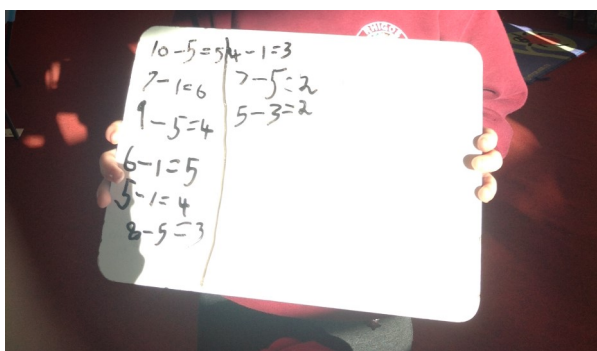
We Care, We Believe, Together We Achieve / Gofalu, Credo, Llwyddo Gyda'n Gilydd

Foundation Phase

The Foundation Phase is an approach to learning for children from 3-7 years of age throughout Wales. It is based on the principle that early years' provision should offer a sound foundation for future learning through a developmentally appropriate curriculum.



The Foundation Phase places great emphasis on opportunities to gain first hand experiences through play and active involvement rather than by completing exercises in books. They will be given time to develop their speaking and listening skills and to become confident in their reading and writing abilities.



Mathematics will be more practical so that children can see how problems are solved and how important mathematics is in their everyday lives. There is more emphasis on children understanding how things work and on finding different ways to solve problems.



There is a focus on using the outdoors. We ask that each child bring in wellington boots and a coat. The school has some equipment but advises parents to provide their own.



Nursery

Children may start in the Nursery the term after their third birthday, providing there is a place available.

Starting school will be easier if your child can:



- Use the toilet unaided and wash and dry their hands



- Put on and take off his/her own coat. (Please put their name in their coat.)



- Use cutlery and behave acceptably at mealtimes.



Before your child is 3 years old they can come and visit the Nursery with you by arranging a visit at the school office.

We also run a playgroup where you and your child can attend. Please contact the school for days and times.

The term after your child has reached their 3rd birthday they can start Nursery.

To help them build up stamina for a full week and to get to know the staff all children follow an induction this is tailored to individual children and their needs an example is shown below:

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| Day 1 : | 8:55 am - 11 am |
| Day 2 : | 8:55 am - 12 pm |
| Day 3 : | 8:55 am - 12.30 pm (with lunch) |
| Day 4 : | 8.55am—1pm |
| Day 5 | Full day |

All nursery children can have school dinner or go home. Dinner money is payable using RCT online payments at a cost of £13.50 per week or £2.70 per day.

Personal, Social and Sex Education

The Education Reform Act 1988 places a statutory responsibility on schools to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. The promotion of a healthy lifestyle through a planned programme of health and sex education is one of the ways Rhigos Primary School prepares its pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The knowledge, skills and attitudes acquired during childhood and adolescence are the foundation upon which a healthy lifestyle is built. Wishes and views of parents regarding this subject are always taken into consideration. Please the school if you have any questions.

Healthy Schools and Eco Schools

The school has an active Healthy schools and Eco Schools committee that is made up of both staff and

Arrangements for dealing with complaints

We believe that our school provides a good education for all our children, and that everyone at school works hard to build positive relationships with all parents. However the school is obliged to have procedures in place in case there are complaints by parents. If any parent is unhappy with the education that their child is receiving, or has any concerns to school, we encourage that they talk to the Headteacher or class teacher immediately. We aim to resolve any complaints through dialogue and mutual understanding, and in all cases, we put the interests of the child above all other issues. If the school cannot resolve any complaint itself, the LA may be asked to intervene. All parents as a last resort have the right to appeal to the Secretary of State for Education.

Religious Education and Worship

Rhigos Primary School is not affiliated to any particular religious denomination, but Religious Education is provided for every pupil in the school through class lessons and daily collective worship that is broadly of a Christian nature. The purpose of RE and worship is to promote the pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development.



Additional Learning Needs

“The purpose of education for all children is the same, the goals are the same, but the help that individual children need in progressing towards them will be different. Whereas for some the road they have to travel towards the goal is smooth and easy, for others it is fraught with obstacles” (Lady Warnock).

Through their professional experience and knowledge, the Head Teacher and teachers are able to identify pupils experiencing learning difficulties. In such instances the school adopts the principles, practices and procedures outlined in the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational needs.

Pupils experiencing learning difficulties are the responsibility of the teacher working in the school and not the sole responsibilities of the external agencies. A whole school approach refers to the overall organisation, curriculum and methodology. It relates to the degree of differentiation made for pupils experiencing difficulties in learning and the degree to which the teaching takes account of individual variations.

A child has special educational needs if he/she has a learning difficulty which is significantly greater than the majority of children of his/her age or has a disability which hinders or prevents him/her from making use of the educational facilities generally provided in school.

As with all our Curriculum Policies copies of the Special Educational Needs Policy are available for inspection on request at the school.

Sport

Rhigos Primary School encourages every pupil to participate in a wide range of sport. As well as offering extra-curricular coaching, we also enter competitions throughout the year. We provide swimming lessons for Years 3 to Year 6.



PE Kit

We feel it is important for children to get changed for PE and therefore ask for you to provide a PE kit. This can be kept in school in a named bag. All articles of clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name. An indoor PE kit should consist of:

- Shorts/joggers — preferably black
- T-shirt — preferably white

If the weather is dry PE lessons may be taken outside so please have suitable footwear for outdoor sport. For Outdoor PE children will also need a tracksuit.

For safety reasons no jewellery is to be worn. Stud earrings should be covered with a plaster.

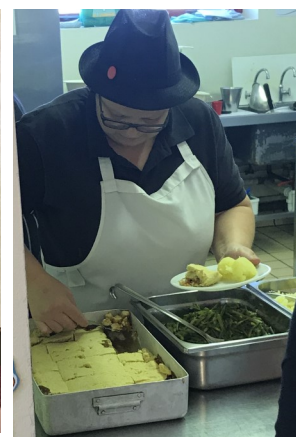
School Uniform We are very proud of our school uniform. We believe that our uniform provides a sense of identity, ownership and pride. The basic colours are burgundy tops and grey/black trousers/joggers/skirts/pinafores.



School Meals

Cooked lunches are provided at a daily cost of £2.70

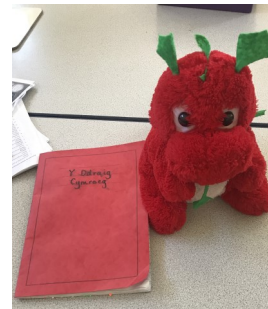
Payment is made using RCT online payments. For details please contact the school office. Pupils may bring a packed lunch. Drinks should be in plastic containers or cartons, not glass. We are a nut free school. The secretary will be pleased to advise parents who wish to enquire about their children's entitlement to free school meals. The Welsh Government are rolling out a programme of universal free school meals for all children. The roll out has covered Reception to Year 4. From April



2024, the offer will be extended to all Y5 and Y6 pupils and eligible Nursery.

The Teaching of Welsh

We aim to foster pupils' sensitivity to and understanding of Welsh through active participation in a variety of activities. Welsh is delivered through a variety of teaching methods. Where appropriate Welsh is taught through a cross-curricular approach, thus enabling the teaching of the basic skills as well as supporting other areas of the curriculum.



Welsh is taught as a second language with the emphasis on oral work in addition to reading and writing. Welsh culture and history are also taught and an Eisteddfod is held every year. Children are encouraged to speak Welsh in the playground and a Welsh assembly is held each week.

Each class has a Helpwr Heddiw and some marking will be done in Welsh for the children to read.

Extra-Curricular Activities



All pupils have the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities. Parental permission is required for those activities which take place between 3.30pm. and 4.15pm. Clubs are organised by the school council and run by members of staff.

During the academic year we organise many educational trips and parent are asked to encourage their children to attend, as these visits form an important part if their studies. Visitors regularly come to Rhigos Primary to give talks and perform.



Every term each class performs an assembly for parents. Our annual sports day is held in the second half of the Summer Term and we hold Christmas plays, Eisteddfod, and Harvest Festival annually. At the end of each academic year we hold a Prize Giving Assembly for our Year 6 leavers.

Homework

Homework is set by the class teacher. All children have been issued with homework book. Homework is given on a Friday and we asked that it is returned completed on Wednesday.

At Progression Step 1, pupils take home their reading books so they may read with their parents/carers. Spellings are also sent home.



In Class 2 and 3 children are required to take home homework tasks, weekly spelling lists, learn the multiplication tables and read regularly at home from both their school reading book and library books.

Additional homework may be given at the discretion of the class teacher.

Charging and Remission Policy

Although the majority of school visits are financed or subsidised from school funds parents may be requested to donate a voluntary contribution, although no child will be exempted from inclusion as long as there are enough contributions to make the trip viable.

Medicines

If any child requires medication, the school must be informed. All inhalers and other medicines will be kept in the school office.



Transition

At the end of their normal primary school career the Year 6 children transfer to Comprehensive School. Information is given to parents during the Summer Term and much preparation work is done by the school so that the transfer of pupils is a natural extension of their school careers. Some of this transition work includes familiarisation visits.

Children will also have the opportunity to work with a member of staff from Action for Children to talk about any worries they have about moving onto secondary school.



Pastoral Care

Good behaviour is a necessary condition for effective teaching and learning to take place, and an important outcome of education which society rightly expects.

Schools have a responsibility to create a secure and safe environment for pupils in their care and at Rhigos Primary School we ensure that children's education takes place in a caring and protective atmosphere.

In our disciplinary system the emphasis is always on the positive approach of ENCOURAGEMENT and PRAISE rather than on the negative one of criticism and punishment.



Good to be Green

At Rhigos Primary we follow the Good to Be Green behaviour scheme. It proves an effective way to promote positive behaviour in the classroom. It allows for recognition for pupils who behave appropriately, while keeping track of pupils who find it harder to meet the school's behaviour code. Good to be Green sticker charts, certificates and praise pad and many more resources are available to help manage and reward behaviour in the class.

**Warning
Card**

**Consequence
card**

Child Protection

The health, safety and well-being of all our children are of paramount importance. Our children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability.

In our school we respect our children. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves. Our teaching of personal and social education and citizenship helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children and make them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. We also teach them to recognise different risks in different situations and how to behave in response to them.

All staff in our school are clear about the actions necessary with regard to a child protection issue. The Designated Child Protection Teacher is Headteacher Mrs Mundy. In her absence it becomes the Deputy Headteacher Mr Mathieson. The school's Chair of Governors is the designated governor with responsibility for Child Protection. If any person suspects that a child may be a victim of abuse, he/she must inform one of the three individuals named above. Abuse can be of a sexual, emotional or physical nature. It can also be neglect. The school works closely with the Social Services department and the LA Child Protection Team when investigating any allegation. The interest of the child is of paramount importance.

Looked after children

The teacher designated as having responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of looked after children is Headteacher Mrs. J. Mundy. The school aims to work with the family and actively attends conferences.



Security of pupils, staff and the school premises

The health and safety of all the people who work or learn at our school are of fundamental importance. We aim to provide a safe, secure and pleasant working environment for everyone.

We do all we can to ensure the school site is totally secure. We require all adult visitors to the school to sign the visitors' book in the foyer. We do not take any child off site without the prior permission of the parent/carer.

Parents Visits to School

Parents interviews are held twice yearly in the Autumn and Spring Term when appointments are made with the appropriate class teacher to discuss your child's progress. Parents are also invited to attend class assemblies, concerts, matches and sports day and are encouraged to come and help in the school.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality are essential and expected of our pupils.

When a child is absent for genuine reasons such as sickness, this is classed as an "authorised" absence. On the first day of absence please ring the school office and leave a message giving a reason for the absence. An unexplained absence i.e. no note, no telephone call or message is classed as an "unauthorised absence".

Medical or dental appointments should be verified in advance by showing your appointment card. Your child should attend school regularly and punctually to take advantage of the educational opportunities available.

At Rhigos Primary School:

- Lateness will be discouraged.
- All pupils' absences — illness, medical or dental appointments etc. will require explanation, preferably by parental note, personal contact, telephone call or appointment card.
- Explanations such as minding the house, looking after other children, birthday treats or shopping trips within school hours will not be accepted as reasons for absence and by Welsh Assembly directive will be categorised as "unauthorised absence".
- Where there is a regular pattern of unauthorised absences the Education Welfare Officer will be informed.

In accordance with the directive of the Welsh Assembly Government and the Local Education Authority, parents must make a written application for authorisation to take a pupil on holiday during term time. Each application will be considered individually against the agreed criteria. The Head Teacher will review the child's attendance, general school record and achievement before making a decision. Please note you may request authorisation for a maximum absence of **10 days** in any one academic year.

Access to pupil records

Parents have a right of access to information on pupil records on request to the Head Teacher.

Fundraisers

The school is pleased to have a strong, active Fundraising Committee. Various functions are held throughout the year and if you feel you could help in any way we would welcome your input. Information regarding the meetings will be sent home and displayed around the school.



Community Involvement

The school is part of the community and welcomes involvement at any events.

How Parents can help our School

- Join our group of parents and grandparents who involve themselves in a variety of activities at school.
- Support our fund raising activities.
- Send your child to school to arrive punctually.
- Support your child in their learning and also encourage him/her to read regularly at home.



Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast club is sponsored by Welsh Government. It is free and available to all. It is run by 3 members of staff.

All children can have toast, cereal and juice, it start at 8.10 am - 8.30 am for breakfast. Then the children will be supervised with different activities before school starts.

Opportunities

We also believe all children during their time at Rhigos Primary School should:

- Have regular opportunities to take part in public performances.
- Take part in at least one residential experience.
- Have the opportunity of hearing live music at least once a year.
- Have opportunities to work with professional artists and dancers.
- Have the chance to see live, professional theatre at least once a year.

