

# First Days At St. Padarn's School Ysgol Padarn Sant

Just Playing

When I'm building in the block room, please don't say I'm "Just Playing".  
For you see, I'm learning as I play, about balance and shapes.  
Who knows, I may be an architect someday.

When I'm getting all dressed up, setting the table, caring for the babies  
Don't get the idea I'm "Just Playing". For, you see, I'm learning as I play;  
I may be a mother or a father someday.

When you see me up to my elbows in paint or standing at an 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 I play. I'm expressing myself and being creative.  
I may be an artist or an inventor someday.

When you see me sitting in a chair "reading" to an imaginary audience,  
Please don't laugh and think I'm "Just Playing".  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I may be a teacher someday.

When you see me combing the bushes for bugs, or packing my pockets with choice  
things I find. Don't pass it off as "Just Play".  
For you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I may be a scientist someday.

When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or some "plaything" at my school,  
Please don't feel the time is wasted in "Play".  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning to solve problems and concentrate.  
I may be in business someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods,  
Please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is "Just Play".  
I'm learning to follow direction and see differences.  
I may be a cook 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've 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.

Written by Anita Wadley

Welcome to St. Padarn's School / Croeso i Ysgol Padarn Sant  
Information for New Parents / Gwybodaeth i Rieni Newydd





## **Welcome to St. Padarn's School**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St Padarn's Catholic Primary School, a thriving, friendly school dedicated to the success of its children. Gospel principles lie at the heart of all that we do at St Padarn's, guiding us in our daily interactions and forming the bedrock of our community.

Parents and visitors to the school frequently comment upon the family atmosphere within the school which ensures that we have the best platform from which to nurture our children and their growth as individuals and as learners. Their continued capacity to learn and make good progress is supported by a marriage of talented and committed staff, supportive parents and a caring parish.

Superb relationships between staff and pupils result in excellent behaviour and a truly positive attitude to learning. St Padarn's is a vibrant and diverse school which values the individual yet celebrates our strong sense of community.

If you enjoy exploring our website and would like to find out more about our school, I would encourage you to make a personal visit - to experience for yourself the happy, purposeful atmosphere and strong commitment that we provide.

**Mr Peter Leggett**

**Headteacher**

## **Our Caring School**

It is our aim to provide a community that lives, worships and works together as a family. We see ourselves as an extension to each family, and our role, as assisting every family to nurture and develop their child to a full life in the church.

The religious life of the school is part of everything we do. It is not just by the religious lessons of the RE scheme, but by the relationships and love shared by the whole school community. Life in the school is determined by values such as respect for others, forgiveness, trust, freedom and justice. It is these values based on the life and teaching of our Lord in his church, concerning faith and moral living, that give the reason for our existence and life as a Catholic school.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

***Growing in faith . . . Growing in understanding . . .  
Growing in love . . .***

We believe that everyone is a child of God.  
We try to live like Jesus by :

Celebrating God in everyone and everything.  
Using our gifts to the very best of our ability.  
Being kind and helping each other.

### **Reception Class Staff 2015 – 2016**



**Miss Rhian Davies  
Reception Class  
Teacher**



Miss Ffion Walther  
Foundation Phase Teaching  
Assistant

### **The First Day**

In preparation for the first day it is important that your child knows exactly what to expect. He or she will be invited to spend some time in reception class before starting school. This is arranged by the class teacher prior to the New Parents meeting. If your child is unable to make the arranged visit then please make arrangements with the class teacher for another visit.

Talk to your child about starting school. Explain that you will bring him / her to school, go to do all your work and then come back to school for him / her.

When you leave your child in school, go quickly after you have said goodbye. Don't delay or he/she will sense that you are worried or upset - often more than they are!

Do ring us if you are at all concerned. We understand that it is a difficult time for many families.

## Toys

Please do not let your child bring toys to school for any reason. Toys other than those available in class always seem to cause disruption and often end up lost or broken.

## Things we need to know

At the beginning of each year a form is sent home with every child to enable us to update our records. This is a legal requirement and forms should be returned promptly, as these hold emergency contact information. We also ask that you read and sign the Home / School Agreement.

The law regarding attendance registers is very specific. All absences have to be recorded by the school; therefore a note with a brief explanation of absence is required by the school, alternatively, you can register your child's absence via the school's website on [www.stpadarnsschool.weebly.com](http://www.stpadarnsschool.weebly.com) under the 'Contact Us' tab. A phone call before 9am on the day of absence is acceptable, so we are aware that your child is not in school. We will attempt to phone you at home if we haven't heard from you.



Illness and infections are very easily passed from child to child. We therefore ask that should your child fall ill or pick up an infection, you keep him/her home until the risk of infection has passed. It would also be appreciated if you could telephone the school so that we may be aware of the possible cause of illness in other children.

Headlice infestations are quite common among young children and can cause a great deal of discomfort. Please check your child's hair regularly and notify the school so that we can inform others to check. There is no need for any embarrassment, it is a common occurrence and headlice do prefer clean hair!

## Problems or Difficulties.

As a Catholic School we believe that we are an extension to the family as part of the parish community. In this light we wish to foster home - school co-operation and cordial relations which can only lead to your child's enjoyment of school.

Teachers are always willing to listen to problems. No problem is too small or insignificant. If you feel that you would like to inform us or ask about something please do so, as it all leads to a better understanding of each child. Teachers are available at the beginning and at the end of each school day.

If you feel you would like to discuss a matter but not at a time when children or other parents are around, please telephone Mr. Leggett to arrange an appointment on 01970 630632.

### **Foundation Phase Curriculum**

We have a theme each term and at least 50% of our work is related to this whilst the other 50% is child initiated, it may follow the same topic or may be about something that is interesting the children at the time. Parents will be asked to help their children with home-tasks such as looking after 'Spencer Bear', finding out information or creative activities.

### **Seven Areas of Learning**

#### **Language, Literacy and Communication Skills**

These skills will be developed through talking, singing/communicating with and listening to children, encouraging them to listen to a variety of stories and rhymes and nurturing in them a love of books. They will be given opportunities to enjoy mark-making and writing experiences.



#### **Personal and Social Development, Well Being and Cultural Diversity (Catholic Education)**

These skills are at the heart of our curriculum. Children are encouraged to learn about themselves, to live, work and play together by developing a sense of co-operation and independence. They learn about others needs, abilities and views. They are encouraged to celebrate different cultures and gain a positive awareness of their own culture and religion.

#### **Mathematical Development**

Through number rhymes, songs, stories and counting games the children will learn to sort, match and compare familiar objects. Much of the work is oral. They will become aware of appropriate mathematical language and relate it to every day living.

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

The children are given the opportunity to learn about their environment, and are encouraged to make decisions and choices. They will begin to understand past events, people and places, living things and the work people do.

#### **Physical Development**

The children are given the opportunity to learn how their bodies work, by encouraging spatial awareness, balance, control and co-ordination. They will

be given the opportunity to use small tools e.g. pencils, scissors in order to develop their fine motor skills. Health and safety is emphasised.

### **Creative Development**

These skills are integral to our curriculum and the children will be continually developing their imagination and creativity across the curriculum. Through painting, drawing, music, movement and role play children will explore and experience many multi-sensory activities.

### **Welsh Language Development**

The children will learn to use and communicate in Welsh to the best of their ability. Children will listen to Welsh being spoken and respond appropriately in familiar situations. Emphasis at this level is placed on oral skills.

Within the above seven areas of learning, the children will have access to finding out about Wales and appreciate the many things that are integral to Wales today. They will gain a sense of belonging to Wales and begin to understand the Welsh heritage.

### **Literacy and Numeracy Framework**

Through topic based work the children will be encouraged to use and apply the skills that are linked with the Literacy and Numeracy framework across curriculum areas.

### **How you can help**

Give your child the opportunity to use a variety of creative, writing and drawing materials such as crayons, pencils, paint, glue and scissors.

Help your child to recognise his/her own name. Use capital letters only at the beginning of his/her name e.g. Emily

When talking about letters of the alphabet, introduce the children to the letter sounds rather than then letter names.

Talk to your child positively about how much he/she is going to enjoy school. Tell him/her what you will be doing while he/she is in school.

Remember to say that you will collect him/her later when he/she has had time to play.

### **Assessment**

As your child settles in school, he / she will be observed by the class teacher. This enables the teacher to establish what your child can already do and plan the way forward. We call this '**Foundation Phase Profile**'. There will be a parents evening for you to attend during the Autumn and Spring Terms and the opportunity to chat to the class teacher, shortly after your child starts school.

### **The School Day**

Please always arrive in good time in order to encourage punctuality. Children arriving with parents from 8.45am should be brought into the Reception Classroom, where there will always be a member of staff present from 8.45am. All pupils arriving in school before that will be asked to join the Morning School club which runs between 08:15am – 08:45am. During fine weather, club will be held outside on the playground, but all pupils should go to the hall to register for club when it is raining. There is no charge nor need to register beforehand.



### **Infant Timetable.**

9.00	School starts. Classtime
10.30 - 10.45	Playtime.
10.45 - 11.45	Classtime.
11.45 - 1.00	Lunch break.
1.00 - 2.15	Classtime.
2.15 - 2.30	Playtime.
2.30 - 3.30	Classtime.
3.30	School closes, Hometime.

### **Hometime 3.30 pm**

We ask parents to collect their children from school promptly. Reception class children should be collected from the patio area outside the reception classroom.

We will not let children go to the care of someone we do not know. Please let the school know if someone different is collecting your child. Even if the adult is known to the child, we must be informed, otherwise the pupil will not be released.

All parents are asked to ensure that they, or whoever is collecting their child, parks considerately in the Vicarage Field car park. This is essential as the traffic conditions at the bottom of the school drive can be very dangerous. For this same reason children are not allowed to go past the end of the drive to meet their parents, as parents are expected to come in to the school grounds to collect them.

## **What to eat**

### **Morning Playtime**

Children may bring a piece of fruit to eat during this breaktime. Crisps, sweets or biscuits are **not** allowed. All reception class children are provided with **free** school milk.

### **Mid-day Break**

We encourage children to have school meals, which are well-balanced and nutritious. Dinner money is collected on Monday and is **£11.50** per week/ £2.30 per day. This money as with all money should be sent to school in a sealed envelope clearly marked with your child's name. Cheques to pay for School meals should be made payable to "Cyngor Sir Ceredigion". During lunchtime the children are supervised by the lunch time supervisors both on the playground and in the dining hall. Hot meals are cooked on the premises by Mrs Cory and her staff. A drink of water is provided with the school meals. Free meals for those eligible are available by application to the Education Department, Canolfan Rhiedol, Aberystwyth. Please ask for a form if you have not received one already.

## **What to wear**

School sweatshirts and polo shirts are purchased in Ffigar Sports which is located on Portland Street in Aberystwyth town centre. School uniform **must be worn** by all pupils. We recommend trousers with elasticated waistbands (no belts please) and shoes with Velcro straps. **Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labeled.**

Reception class requires a PE kit of shorts, T-shirt and trainers. We tend to have our PE session every Tuesday, however we do advise parents to leave PE kits at school all term. (We do send them home when they are in need of washing). Please bring this in a bag on which the child's name is clearly displayed.

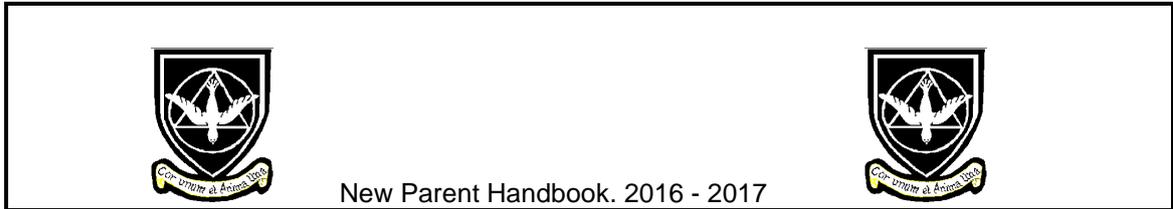
The outdoors is an integral part of our curriculum, therefore, we also ask you ensure that your child has a suitable rainproof/warm coat. We will be out in all weathers!

## **Further Information**

Should you require any further information about the school please do not hesitate to call in or phone us, we are always happy to help.

First Days at St. Padarn's School - A handbook for new parents  
2016 -17

You can also find newsletters, dates for your diary and further information on our school website <http://stpadarnsschool.weebly.com/>  
Or follow us on Twitter @stpadarnsrbp.



Revised by Rhian Davies. June 2016