

Welcome to Brynmill Primary School

Brynmill Primary School
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- **What is the daily timetable?**

School starts at 8.50 a.m. and finishes at 3.20 p.m. each day.

We have two Nursery sessions, morning Nursery is from 8.50 a.m. until 11.20 a.m. and afternoon Nursery is 12.50 p.m. to 3.20 p.m.

Lunch time for Key Stage 1 is from 12.00 p.m. until 1 p.m. and for Key Stage 2 is from 12.15 p.m. until 1.15 p.m.

- **What happens at drop off and pick-up times?**

Children should not arrive at school before 8.40 am and infant children should have an accompanying adult with them until the bell goes at 8.50 am. When school finishes at 3.20 pm infant children should be collected by a responsible adult. If there is to be a change to the normal collecting arrangements the school should be notified. Before

and after school children are your responsibility and parents should ensure that their children are safe and not, for example, swinging on the school gates.

- **What happens if the weather is wet?**

If it is raining, children will be let into the school hall from 8.40 am.

- **Lateness**

If you arrive at school after 8.50 a.m. please come to the school office and sign the late register.

- **What should I do if my child is absent from school?**

If your child is absent from school you should notify the school on the day, either by Telephoning (463019) or e-mailing (Brynmill.primary@swansea-edunet.gov.uk) If you know your child is going to be absent for any reason please inform the school in advance. This is your responsibility and you should not send a message with another child.

- **First Response**

The school operates a first response system, whereby parents are contacted by text if the school has not received a reason for a child's absence.

- **Walking Bus**

The school has a Walking Bus that operates on Thursday and Friday mornings. The bus walks from the top of Hawthorne Avenue to the school. Please see Mrs Liane Davies for details.

- **What happens at lunch time?**

Children can either bring packed lunch to school each day, or they can pay week by week for school dinners. The dinners are cooked at the school and there is a choice each day, with a vegetarian option always available. The dinners at present cost £1.90 each day and parents are asked to give their child £9.50 (in advance) for the week's meals every Friday morning, which they hand to their teacher. The children are supervised by dinner ladies and when they have finished their meal they play in the playground.

- **What is the uniform?**

We encourage the wearing of uniform, and many parents find that it solves the day to day problem of what the children should wear. The basic uniform consists of a navy blue sweatshirt and trousers, skirt or jogging pants, with a yellow or blue polo shirt. Sweatshirts and polo shirts with the Brynmill School logo can be bought from local school uniform suppliers (Nash Sports or J & S Products). Whatever the children wear, you must label it! (e.g. www.simplystuck.com) Young children often lose clothes and things can be difficult to find unless the child's name is on them.

- **What do children need for sports?**

Children should bring a gym bag containing a pair of shorts and a T-shirt and a pair of trainers. Please follow the school colours, the shorts can be navy and the T-shirt blue or yellow. Again, these things should all be labelled with your child's name. This gym bag is then kept in school and brought home again at the end of the academic year.

- **What sports are on offer?**

In the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 1 children do P.E. and ball skills as well as music and movement. A variety of seasonal sports are available in Key Stage 2.

- **What about snacks?**

We are part of the Healthy Schools Initiative, and run a fruit tuck shop. Children pay £1 per week (payable half termly in advance) and have a piece of fresh fruit at break time.

- **Is there an after school club?**

An after school club is available from Monday to Friday between 3.30 and 6.00p.m. The cost is approximately £7.00 per session. Please contact Playworks on 029 2086 4780 or for more information visit their website www.playworks-childcare.co.uk

- **Is there a breakfast club?**

There is a free breakfast club, which opens at 8.00a.m. Breakfast is served from 8.10 to 8.30. Children are then supervised until school starts. Please ask for a registration form at the school office.

- **What can be brought to school?**

Children are not encouraged to bring their own things to school. School cannot be responsible for any toys brought in and mobile phones are not permitted. We discourage children from bringing in the latest 'craze' such as football cards, as these can cause arguments. Playground toys e.g. balls, hoops and skipping ropes are provided by the school.

- **How am I kept informed?**

We have a weekly newsletter, which informs parents of school activities and includes dates for your diary. We send this out via e-mail using Parentmail. Paper copies are available to parents without email.

We also use Parentmail to inform parents by text if after school activities are cancelled or if the school needs to close in an emergency.

- **What about homework?**

Children in Key Stage 1 will not be given much homework other than their reading book to take home. In Year 2 they also have a short list of words that they should practice spelling each week. Children in Key Stage 2 will have a Learning Log to complete, further information is provided with the Learning Log Book.

- **Are there opportunities for music in the school?**

As well as general music activities in class all children have the opportunity to experience music-making with a specialist music teacher, who teaches all the classes on a rotational basis. In Key Stage 2 there is a school choir and children have the opportunity to learn the violin, and join the school orchestra. There are also woodwind and brass lessons on a weekly basis. Contact Mrs. Howard for further information.

- **When can I meet my child's teacher?**

Two parent's evenings are arranged in the course of the school year, one at the beginning of the autumn term and the other in the spring term. In the autumn term the

class teachers give a presentation to parents on the curriculum and the terms themes. In the spring term you can make an appointment to see your child's teacher and talk about how things are going in school. There is also an Open Afternoon at the end of the summer term, at which you can see your child's work. If you have anything you want to discuss with your child's teacher at any other time, then you should approach the teacher at the start or end of the school day and arrange a convenient time to meet.

- **Will the children go on educational visits and have special visitors in school?**
We may decide to enrich the terms educational activities by either organizing a trip or by having visitors come to the school. We try to keep the costs to a minimum, but we do feel that these extra events are a valuable part of the children's education, and ask parents for voluntary contributions. If we do not receive enough contributions to cover the cost of an event, then unfortunately we may have to cancel it.
- **What is the school approach to discipline?**
Children at Brynmill School are encouraged to be independent and self-controlled. The approach to discipline is one of emphasising the positive and also trying to develop a culture where 'It's ok to tell'. The school assembly time is often a focus for encouraging the children to think about how their actions affect others, and to focus on positive role models. Bad behaviour and name calling is never ignored and is always dealt with. A system of playground 'Chums' has been developed where older children are given responsibility to help the younger children in the playground, and to watch out for potential trouble brewing or to spot children who seem lonely and so on. This encourages a community spirit and helps to develop a family atmosphere.
- **Can parents help in school?**
The school is very happy for parents to help in the classroom. If you would like to help in some way, then you can let your child's teacher know or speak to Mrs Perkins who organises our parent helpers. We do require a valid CRB check, and the school office can help you apply for one.
- **The Parent Teacher Association and School Grounds Group.**
We are very lucky to have an active PTA in the school. Through events such as discos, fetes, quizzes and sponsored events the PTA raises funds and helps to create a warm community atmosphere in the school. We also have a group of parents who concentrate on improving the School Grounds, they provide practical support, such as helping children to plant hanging baskets, renewing the play bark, and building the minibeast area. Your ideas and input are always welcome. Please join us at a meeting or an event and see what we have to offer.

Brynmill strives to be a friendly welcoming school community. If you have any questions, suggestions about how we could improve what we do, or would like further information about any of the items listed above, please drop in or call the school.