



Crickhowell Community
Primary School

Information for Parents – Autumn Term 2026

Class: Reception

Topics for this half term: **Cynefin**

I hope you all had a lovely summer and are ready for an exciting new school year in Reception!

This term our topic is "Cynefin", a special Welsh word that is all about the places, people and experiences that give us a sense of belonging.

We will begin by learning about ourselves, our families and homes, before exploring our school and the local area of Crickhowell / Crughywel. We will then discover more about our beautiful mountains, river and woodlands, explore the changes that happen during autumn, and learn about woodland animals and their habitats.

Throughout the topic, children will enjoy stories, songs, creative activities, practical investigations and outdoor learning. We will also learn Welsh vocabulary including cartref (home), teulu (family), ysgol (school), coed (wood/trees), afon (river), mynydd (mountain) and hydref (autumn).

Where possible, our Literacy, Numeracy, Science and Technology, Expressive Arts, Music and Digital learning will be linked to our topic. Our regular Wild Wednesday sessions will give the children lots of opportunities to explore and learn outdoors.

We will also celebrate Harvest, Bonfire Night and Christmas through a range of fun, cross-curricular activities.

We are looking forward to a wonderful first term, discovering what makes our Cynefin so special!

The children are entitled to use both the indoor and outdoor classroom during child-initiated time therefore we advise that they are sent to school with a warm hooded coat, hats, scarves and gloves (all clearly named) We also recommend that they have a pair of wellington boots to keep at school, clearly named. PE will be on a Wednesday this term, children can come into school wearing their PE kits/ Wild Walk clothes.

Before reading develops they need to be able to pronounce the letter sounds correctly so that they can blend sounds together to make words. The children will start with picture books which need to be discussed and encourage their own story ideas. Once they can blend sounds together they will start to bring home books with words. We use the Read Write Inc. (RWI) scheme to teach children short, clear sounds that form the foundation for reading and writing.

To support your child's progress, we kindly ask that you:

Practise the sounds sent home with your child on a regular basis.

Encourage correct letter formation alongside these sounds.

Any other ways parents can help:

This year Wild Walks/ Theme Days will be on Wednesdays. We will be doing activities in the school grounds and going for walks in the local area and would be very grateful for your help on these walks. You will be given a list of dates and a form to return to us informing us when you are able to help.

In Reception we build a strong classroom community where every child feels a sense of belonging. To help us do this, we would love to create a special display of our families in the classroom.

Please could you send in one family photo for us to include on our display. The children really enjoy seeing familiar faces around the room, and it helps us celebrate the important people in their lives.

All photos will be kept safe and returned to you at the end of the year.

The school dinner menu is available online. We kindly ask that you discuss the options with your child so that they are aware whether they will be having a school dinner or bringing a packed lunch.

Any other general reminders:

Please send in a healthy snack (fruit or vegetable) for your child's snack every day.

Please can you ensure that your child always has a named change of clothes in school.

In Reception, we love to explore the outdoors in all weathers. The children will have the opportunity to play on the grass during playtimes and to go on regular wild walks, whatever the season.

To make sure they can join in comfortably, please provide a named pair of wellies to be kept in school.

This will help keep their feet dry and allow them to enjoy exploring nature every day.

Please make sure everything has your child's name clearly marked on it.

We will be going out in all weathers, please remember your child's coat.

Please practise putting on and removing coats, shoes and jumpers.

On Wednesdays please can children wear old clothes, no uniforms.

Can your child practise recognising and writing their name.

If you need any more information, please come and speak to us.

Important Dates for this term:

School Individual photographs: Friday 18th September

Parents Evening: Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th October

Flu vaccination: Friday 2nd October

Harvest Festival: Friday 23rd October

Half Term: Week beginning Monday 26th October

Christmas Fayre: Friday 27th November

Christmas Concert: Tuesday 8th December 6pm & Wednesday 9th @ 2pm

Christmas Carol Service: Friday 18th December

End of Term: Friday 18th December

Thank you for your help and support.

Miss Joyce and Miss Brown