


YSGOL GYNRADD GYMUNEDOL

SWISS VALLEY
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



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COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Heol Beili Glas, Swiss Valley Park, Llanelli, Carm. SA14 8DS
Telephone (01554) 774063 e-mail: admin@swissvalley.ysgolccc.cymru
Website - www.swissvalleyschool.wales

Headteacher
Mr J C Morris B.A. (Hons)
head@swissvalley.ysgolccc.cymru

Our School Ethos

Our vision for education at Swiss Valley Community Primary School is based on four core purposes which we want all of our pupils to develop during their time with us.

At Swiss Valley we want our pupils to be:

- Ambitious, capable learners
- Enterprising, creative contributors
- Healthy, confident individuals
- Ethical, informed citizens

Our vision is:

'To create a safe, caring and stimulating ethos where children interact with each other and staff in a challenging learning environment. We want all our children to develop a positive attitude to learning by providing an enquiry based approach, empowering pupils in acquiring the knowledge and skills required to reach their full potential and be able to make an active contribution to an ever changing technological, diverse society'.

To achieve these we aim:

To develop the whole child -intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically, morally and spiritually.

To cultivate a climate of success for all children, celebrating all of their achievements in all aspects of their lives.

To involve our pupils in the learning process and empower them to participate in all areas of school life.

To help learners to become confident, self-reliant, self-respecting and responsible global citizens who will make a positive contribution to society.

To develop in all individuals the capacity to work both collaboratively and independently and also the ability to determine the appropriate method for the task.

To develop a personal moral code, sensitive to the needs of others.

To actively seek to raise all standards and be part of an on-going self-evaluation process.

To promote equality of opportunity and respect for all irrespective of race, gender, ability, or religion. The school has an equal opportunities and anti-racist policy which all staff adhere to. This can be viewed on request.

To actively promote Children's Rights and responsibilities.
To preserve and develop our own cultural identity within Wales, while at the same time promoting an understanding of, and a respect for other cultures locally and globally.
To provide regular physical education lessons within school time and to offer, when possible, after school sporting activities which would include team and co-operative games.
To promote a healthy lifestyle (we are proud of the fact that we are accredited as a Healthy School).
To raise students' awareness of sustainable development issues through classroom study and community action.
To empower our pupils by becoming literate, numerate and technologically able to function effectively in an ever-changing Twenty-first Century.

Values:

As a school community we believe that the ethos of the school should be built on a foundation of values. These values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere.

The values we focus on are:

Dedication
Collaboration
Respect
Care
Friendship
Trust
Kindness
Responsibility
Perseverance
Honesty



*Welcome from Mr J C Morris, Headteacher Swiss Valley Primary School
Croeso gan y Pennaeth Mr J C Morris Ysgol Swiss Valley*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Choosing the right school for your child is extremely important in enabling them to reach their full potential, both during the time they are in Primary school and also in preparing them for Comprehensive School. We at Swiss Valley take a pride in our Educational Standards which are consistently of a high standard. Our relationships with partner Secondary schools are excellent and the vast majority of our pupils go on to excel at Secondary School and beyond.

All parents want a good education for their children but they also want them to be happy and to feel safe and secure in their school environment. At Swiss Valley School we believe we can offer all these things. We also pride ourselves on the broad, balanced and varied opportunities that we provide for each of our pupils throughout the school and also in the high standards of teaching and learning which are a credit to the hard work of both staff and pupils. Equally, we are also proud of the atmosphere of friendliness and cooperation which is always evident.

Visitors to the school often comment on the warm welcome they receive and also on the homely atmosphere within the school environment. We value all our pupils for who they are and we believe that their time in our school should be rewarding and fulfilling.

Should you choose to send your child to Swiss Valley I am fully confident that you will have made the right decision.

I look forward to meeting you soon and also showing you around. In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns, please contact me at school at any time.

Yours sincerely,

Ceri Morris

Headteacher



Hello and welcome to Swiss Valley Primary School,

We are the School Council, and we have been involved in the writing of this prospectus to tell you all about our school in Swiss Valley.

Our job as a School Council is to represent the school in various activities. We make decisions in the school by having regular meetings and asking the opinions of the other children in our class. We have been involved in the improvement of our outdoor areas and getting road traffic calming signs outside our school.

We hope you send your child to our school and we hope we see you soon!

You can also catch up with what we are doing by visiting our school website at: www.swissvalleyschool.wales



Teaching Staff

Headteacher: Mr J C Morris

Mr. A. Christopher	Yr5/6 KS2 Leader (SLT)
Mrs P. Powell	Y5/6
Mr. N. Lane	Y5/6
Mrs J Spencer (0.5)	Y4
Miss AM Roberts (0.5)	Y4
Mrs H Davies	Y3 ALENCo (SLT)
Mrs A. Oakley (0.5)	Y2
Miss AM Roberts (0.5)	Y2
Miss L. Morgan	Y1 F.P. Leader (SLT)
Miss S. Williams	Reception
Mrs. A. Davies	Nursery - full time and part time pupils
Mr. T. Williams	PPA Cover
Mr. T. Williams	Catch up Support
Mrs. E. Hüge	NQT
Miss A. Wilson	NQT

Support Staff

Mrs. G. Davies	Admin/Finance Officer
Mrs. S. Jordan	Finance Officer
Mrs H Thomas	Teacher Assistant
Miss L Evans	Teacher Assistant
Mrs J Greening	Teacher Assistant
Mrs G Poole	Teacher Assistant (Maternity)
Ms L Morgan	Teacher Assistant (ALN)
Mrs. B. Weston	Teacher Assistant (ALN)
Mrs. E. Hall	Teacher Assistant
Mrs. A. Dalziel	Teacher Assistant (ALN)
Miss A. White	Teacher Assistant
Mrs H Keeling	Teacher Assistant
Miss N. Murphy	Teacher Assistant
Mrs. D. Nicklin	Teacher Assistant

Support Staff

Mr M, Stevens	Caretaker/Cleaner
Mrs J Vale	Cleaner
Mr A. Hallett	Crossing Patrol
Mrs J. Jones	Head Cook
Mrs J. Edmundson	Cook
Mrs H. Schofield	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Y. Andrews	Lunchtime Supervisor
Miss A. White	Lunchtime Supervisor





INTRODUCTION

Type of school Community Primary School

Age 3 to 11 years

Location of School

The school is set on open, elevated ground in the centre of Swiss Valley Park estate, and enjoys panoramic views of the Burry Estuary and Llanelli Town.

The main entrance is from the Oaklands area of the Estate with a new second entrance on the Penybryn side. The school is served by a circular bus route.

In the interest of safety and order, all parents and visitors must respect the parking limitations and note that:

The Education Authority and the Governors accept no responsibility for any accident, or damage incurred, when vehicles are inside the school grounds. Parents are therefore asked NOT to drive into the school grounds.

Times of Opening and Closing

Foundation Phase	9.00 am to 12.30 pm	1.30 pm to 3.10 pm
Juniors KS2	9.00 am to 12.30 pm	1.30 pm to 3.20 pm

Parents are requested to ensure punctuality and co-operate with official opening and closing times and are asked not to send their children to school before 8.45 am. **Doors open at 8.45 am.**

Admissions Policy

The school follows the guidelines issued by Carmarthenshire County Council. Parents may register their child for the nursery by contacting the head teacher or the administrative officer and via the LA for admission to all other classes within the school.

Entry to the Nursery is during the term of a child's 3rd birthday. All children have two terms of part time education before going full time in their third term. Children are admitted in September, January and April subject to the availability of accommodation. Where possible, parents are advised to register pupils prior to their third birthday. As of September 2022, all admissions will be made through Carmarthenshire County Council - the link to this is: <http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/schooladmissions>



Places are in demand so preference is given to catchment area children and siblings.

The statutory age for starting school is in the term following the child's FIFTH birthday.

Accommodation

The school has four distinctive areas. The original Foundation Phase wing is separated from the Lower Key Stage 2 wing by a multi-purpose hall, kitchen and administrative block. These two wings are of similar design with three classrooms in each opening into corridors and cloakrooms. The newer Upper Key Stage 2 block provides more purpose built accommodation for our oldest pupils. The school also has four demountable classrooms. The first is used as a privately run Out of Hours (Breakfast, Wrap Around Care, After School and Holiday) Club, the second is a colourful Year 2 classroom, the third is a well stocked library and the fourth houses our Nursery class. All classrooms have access to the outdoors and are equipped with C-Touch televisions or Interactive Whiteboards and all pupils have access to iPads, laptops and Chromebooks on a daily basis.



The large spacious hall has a multi-purpose role and is used for dining, morning assembly, physical education, drama and music lessons. The dining tables are of modern design and can easily be folded for storage.



All Foundation Phase classrooms are comfortable and adequately provided with storage space. Each room has two toilet units 'ensuite' and its own water supply. Foundation Phase classrooms have convenient access to three large secure external play areas. Two of these areas have all weather playing surfaces and a covered areas so that our younger pupils can experience constructive outside play in all weather conditions.



The original Key Stage 2 classrooms are of similar design, are spacious and comfortable with girls' and boys' toilets located in the adjacent corridors.

The staffroom, Head's office, "Cwtsh" and administrative office are located near the main entrance. The "Cwtsh" is used as a meeting room and group withdrawal area.

Outside play facilities also consist of two large rectangular tarmac areas. One is used as a Foundation Phase playground and the other as a Key Stage 2 playground. These areas are surrounded by a sloping grassed area of approximately one acre. The school also has a large allotment area and has 14 large, raised beds. All classes have designated growing areas and the school community recently created a new "Peace Garden".



Charging Policy

All education during school hours is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

When organising school visits or trips which enrich the curriculum and educational experience of the children, the school invites parents to contribute to the cost of the excursion. All contributions are voluntary, however, if we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may have to cancel the visit.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the school, which require voluntary contributions from parents. This list is not exhaustive:

- Sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- Swimming lessons
- Musical events
- Outdoor adventurous activities e.g. orienteering
- Residential Visits to Long Barn and Llangrannog
- Visits to the cinema/theatre
- Visits to art galleries or museums
- Visitors to the school - e.g. artists, travelling theatre groups, musicians etc.

The school organises two residential visits for Years 5 and 6 pupils each year (pre-Covid.) during school time which is to provide a number of outdoor adventurous activities which we cannot provide in school. We do not make any charge for the education, however, we do make a charge to cover the costs of board, lodging and travel expenses.

All children study music as part of the normal school curriculum. We do not charge for this. There is no charge for individual or group music tuition. The peripatetic music teachers teach individual or small group lessons to pupils in Years 4-6.



The school organises swimming lessons for all children in Year 5 or 6 every day over a three week block. These take place in school time and are part of the National Curriculum. Donations are requested to ensure that these can go ahead.

School Organisation

The school is currently organised into four Foundation Phase classes and five Key Stage 2 classes. All classes are of mixed ability and we currently have one split age group. (The average class size for September 2021 was 27 pupils).

The Welsh Language / Bilingualism

The medium of instruction throughout the school is English. Lessons in Welsh are a daily part of the timetable and the language is used and incorporated into the various aspects of daily school life, thus achieving a measure of bilingualism. The school is committed to the L.A.'s Bilingual Policy. Swiss Valley was the first English medium school in Carmarthenshire to successfully attain the Siarter Iaith Bronze and Silver Awards.



Staffing

Including the Headteacher, there are nine full time equivalent teachers and one school administrative officer. There are also eleven teaching assistants / learning support assistants who are essential to the smooth running of the school.

The school is also visited by two peripatetic music teachers who give violin, brass and woodwind tuition on a weekly basis. Pupils have the opportunity to perform in the Carmarthenshire Annual Concert and throughout the year in assemblies and school concerts. The school also employs a tennis coach who teaches all children from Year 1 - 6. Each class gets the equivalent of a term's tennis lessons each year. These lessons have proven themselves to be extremely successful and the school currently has the boys' Under 10 Welsh tennis champion and the girls' Welsh Under 10 and Under 12 champion.

Management of the School Day

Pupils in the Foundation Phase and, including Reception class pupils, receive 22.5 hours of tuition per week. This time does not include the collective acts of worship, registration nor break times.



When pupils leave the Foundation Phase at 7 they enter the Juniors which is Key Stage 2. Tuition time is then increased to 23.8 hours per week, excluding the activities mentioned above.

AGE	HOURS PER WEEK
Foundation Phase (3 - 7)	22.5
Key Stage 2 (8 - 11)	23.8



The School Curriculum

The school is currently preparing for the arrival of the New Curriculum for Wales, in September 2022. It provides a balanced and broad programme of learning experiences, which ensure that all areas of the Curriculum receive regular attention, and also sets out to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to acquire new skills and experiences in a safe and caring environment. Our aim is for all our children to be:-

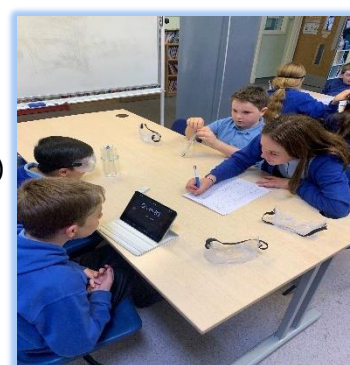
- Ambitious, capable learners
- Enterprising, creative contributors
- Ethical, informed citizens
- Healthy, confident individuals

Areas of Learning Experience (AOLEs)

A key part of the new curriculum is the focus on the six AOLEs as a basis for what we decide to study. These include:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Well-being
- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology

These areas of learning are often incorporated within themes or topics. Staff plan six themes across a two year cycle (three per year) to enable our children to be exposed to a broad range of skills and to receive a great variety of experiences. Examples of themes we cover include 'Superheroes', 'Scrumdiddlyumptious' and 'Roses and Royals'.





Sporting Aims

It is our aim at Swiss Valley School to give our pupils as many different sporting experiences as we can. In addition to the schools' teaching staff who themselves provide a range of sporting activities, the school is proud to have forged links with a number of professional external agencies who help with the coaching of our pupils e.g. Llanelli Scarlets, Llanelli Reds, CYCA, Glamorgan CCC, Llanelli Tennis Club etc.



Prior to Covid our pupils regularly participated in the following sports:- Rugby (Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6), Football (Boys -Years 3 & 4, Years 5 & 6 and Girls team), Netball, Cricket, Cross Country, Athletics, Bowls, Tennis, Orienteering, Swimming, Cycling, Climbing, Outdoor Adventurous Activities (at Long Barn - Canoeing, Archery, Mountain Biking and Abseiling; at Llangrannog - Trampolining, Horse Riding, Tobogganing, Go-Karting, Team Building Activities etc.).



The school has had success in a number of sports in recent years both on an individual basis and also in team sports. Indeed, Swiss Valley pupils have represented Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, Wales and also Great Britain in various sports over the last few years. Team highlights have included the boys' and girls' Football teams winning the Llanelli and Carmarthenshire Urdd Tournaments and the Tennis team becoming Welsh champions at the National Championships in Cardiff after initially having won the Llanelli and West Wales regional finals.

Although we are proud of the achievements of many of our pupils our main focus is on enjoyment and embracing sport as a means of developing a healthy lifestyle amongst all of our pupils.

Religious Education and Collective Worship

The school reflects a non-denominational approach to Christian teaching. Other religions are also studied, but the school is committed to the Christian Church.

Religious Education is also taught in accordance with the agreed syllabus set out by the Carmarthenshire Education Authority.

There are daily acts of collective worship, usually at the start of the school day and communal assemblies are held twice a week (whole school) with separate Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 assemblies. Guest speakers are encouraged to visit the school on a regular basis.

Parents have the right of withdrawal. Pupils who are withdrawn will be provided with work for the duration of the assembly.

Monitoring of Progress

On entering the school, your child is allocated a Pupil Profile where all records of his/her development and progress are kept. This profile accompanies the pupil through school and gives a full picture of your child's achievements whilst he/she has been a pupil with us. Parents may examine their child's work and will be informed of his/her progress during the parents/staff consultation evenings which will be held each term.

Children with Additional Needs

The school has an Additional Needs Policy which parents may examine. When a child experiences learning difficulties, the class teacher will discuss the problem at an early stage with the parents. Where possible children will receive individual attention and extra help within the existing framework by being referred to the Additional Education teacher; the Education Authority may also provide further support following an assessment of the child. This latter procedure is followed only after consultation with the parents, and the school compiles an audit annually. The school adopts a policy of inclusion. All pupils on the Additional Needs register have I.E.P.s (Individual Educational Plans).

If at any time you are concerned about any aspect of your child's schooling, please talk to the Headteacher or to the Additional Educational Needs Co-ordinator. The school will make every effort to cater for the needs of all pupils including disabled pupils.



Equal Opportunities

The school has a policy which promotes equal opportunities and good relations between all pupils of different racial groups and between males and females.

Provision for the More Able and Talented Pupils (M.A.T.)

The school recognises that some pupils display exceptional ability at an early age in one or more of the curricular areas.

These pupils will be provided with additional work in order to extend and broaden their interest and also develop those areas in which they are less confident.

The school clearly recognises the need for sufficiently differentiated work programmes for all pupils. The school has a "More Able and Talented" policy which parents can examine on request.



School Rules/Discipline

Whilst at school we expect your child to adhere to a number of rules and regulations.

These are necessary to ensure that the school runs smoothly, to prevent accidents, foster good behaviour, courtesy and keep the school in good order.

Courtesy, consideration and thoughtfulness for others are virtues which we feel are important and underline the ethos of the school. Our aim is to develop self-discipline within every pupil. Persistent offenders will be reported to the Headteacher and where necessary the parents will be informed.

Pupils who display behavioural difficulties will be referred to the Headteacher. In-appropriate behaviour may result in a loss of privilege or a loss of part or all of a play-time. In the event of severe or persistent naughty behaviour the Headteacher will inform the parents and a plan will be put in place to prevent a reoccurrence of this unacceptable behaviour. The Governors will also be informed at this point if considered necessary. Should there still be no improvement the head teacher has the right to exclude a pupil for a fixed period, and if deemed necessary in extreme cases may permanently exclude a pupil if this is considered to be in everyone's best interest. (NB External professional support will be sought to support any pupil displaying persistent challenging behaviour - with parental consent).



The School has an Anti-Bullying Policy which clearly states that bullying will not be tolerated (again this policy may be examined on request). Parents seeking further information of disciplinary procedures are advised to contact the Headteacher.

Safety/Security

Running along the corridor or anywhere in the school building is not permitted. Pupils should not arrive on the school premises earlier than 8.45 am. It is likely that they will be unsupervised before this time. Pupils are forbidden to bring hot drinks to school. The Headteacher has delegated powers to oversee Health and Safety within the school. The Governing Body hold regular meetings and carry out regular checks on the condition of the building and its grounds. Security cameras are located in strategic places to provide additional security for our pupils.

Attendance/Absence

We are proud of our excellent attendance record which constantly averages over 94%. However, we have a target of 95.5% attendance for each child for 2017/18. To support us in our efforts to further improve these high standards, parents are requested whenever possible to notify the school on the first morning of an absence, either by telephone message or by sending a note in with another child. Please do not wait until the child is ready to return to school as we would be concerned and would have to make enquiries ourselves in order to guard against the possibility of truancy. All schools now have to publish attendance figures in its Governing Body Report. Please also supply a letter explaining the reason for your child's absence on their return. The Headteacher is no longer able to authorise holidays during term time. Any holidays taken during term time will be marked as unauthorised.



Annual Attendance Rates :- 2019/20 - 95.2%

Collecting Children from School

Please inform the school if someone else is collecting your children. Please also notify the school, whenever possible, prior to collecting your child, i.e. for a dental appointment or medical assessment etc. If you collect your child at playtime or lunchtime, please inform the teacher on duty. Please report to the office and sign your child out before leaving the premises.

Sex Education

One of the main aims of the School is to enhance the social and emotional development of the pupils.

Sex Education is, therefore, provided as part of a broader Personal Social and Health Education programme PHSE.

This is based on **FAMILY VALUES**. Matters relating to sex education will be answered within the context of family life and loving and caring for one another.

Questions will be dealt with frankly and honestly when they arise, or within other subjects of the National Curriculum.

The information provided will be sensitively tailored to suit the age and maturity of the pupils. The school has a strong "Healthy Schools" tradition and the school nurse regularly comes in to support the school.

Towards the end of Key Stage 2 pupils are taught about body changes and human reproduction as part of their science programme.

Parents with reservations about our Sex Education programme are invited to discuss their concerns with the Headteacher.

School Trips

School trips are regularly organised in order to enhance an aspect of the topic or theme being covered by the class. Your child will bring home a note outlining the details of the proposed visit and you may be required to make a donation towards the overall cost. You must then decide whether or not to grant permission for your child to go on the visit. In the event of insufficient parents giving their permission or being unwilling to make a contribution towards the visit it may be necessary to cancel the outing. The school does not charge for curricular activities.

Pupils in Year 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to attend residential visits to both Long Barn Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Llandysul (2 nights) and the Urdd Residential Centre at Llangrannog (4 nights).



School Medical Services

During their time in the school pupils receive regular health checks by the school medical service. Parents are notified and may attend the medical/dental examinations if they wish.

If your child suffers from any medical condition which you feel we should know about, then please contact us so that we may be aware of any special needs which this may present.

Members of staff are not permitted to administer medication, however, the Headteacher will do so providing the dosage is made clear and providing the parents give their full written permission for him to do so.

Change of Address or Contact Numbers

Please help us to maintain accurate records of parents' home and work addresses and telephone numbers by informing us of changes in writing as soon as possible after the move to the new address.

School Uniform

Governors and Staff encourage the wearing of school uniform and we request parents to support it, as it promotes a positive atmosphere, a good attitude, a sense of belonging and assists in the aim of self-discipline already mentioned.

Girls:

Grey skirt or trousers, blue or white polo shirt, royal blue Sweatshirt or cardigan, blue gingham check dress (Summer).
Sensible black shoes.

Boys:

Grey trousers, blue or white polo shirt, royal blue.
Sensible black shoes.



Clothing

Parents are asked to clearly mark or label all articles of clothing and all other belongings.

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care of the pupils is the concern of all class teachers, with the Headteacher having overall responsibility.

When a child is ill or has a minor accident, then a member of staff administers simple First Aid. (All staff have received basic First Aid training). The Headteacher uses his discretion regarding notification of the parent.

In the event of an apparent serious illness or major accident the parent will be informed immediately and if necessary, the child is conveyed to the hospital casualty department via ambulance. Please keep us informed if you change your address, telephone number or place of work so that no time is wasted if we have to contact you.

School Meals

Meals are prepared and cooked on the school premises in the modern canteen with serving hatches to the main hall, where pupils partake of their meals. Children who prefer to bring their own packed lunches also eat in the main hall.

Water is provided for all children during the meal. Vacuum flasks, glass containers, hot soup, pop etc. are not allowed on school premises. Children are supervised throughout the lunch period.

Dinner money is paid via the ParentPay online platform. If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals then you should apply to the Local Authority.



Transfer to Secondary School

Pupils will transfer to the Secondary school of their choice on 1st September following their eleventh birthday.

Secondary School Links

The school enjoys an excellent relationship with all its partner secondary schools. Most of our pupils go on to attend Bryngwyn Comprehensive School, but parents have the right to send their children to any Secondary school and consequently we help parents make an informed choice by obtaining copies of various prospectuses and by liaising with the comprehensive school of their choice. Indeed, some pupils also go on to attend St. John Lloyd, St. Michael's or Coedcae comprehensive schools. In recent years some pupils have also won scholarships to Cheltenham Girls School and St. Michael's. Regular meetings are held with all our partner secondary schools and every effort is made to ensure that there is a smooth and happy transition from Swiss Valley.

Links with Parents

We believe that it is important to encourage a good liaison with parents. During the Autumn Term (this may vary) an opportunity is given to parents to visit the school and to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher during their initial 'settling' in period in a new class. A similar evening takes place at the end of the second term and provides a further opportunity for parents to review progress. At the end of the school year you will receive a written report regarding your child's progress and you will have a further opportunity to discuss the content of the report if you so wish. If you feel that there is an area of concern regarding your child then naturally this needs to be addressed as soon as possible. The school operates an 'open door' policy whereby parents are welcome to discuss their concerns with the Headteacher and staff. Parents should contact the school secretary to make the appropriate appointment.

We believe that by encouraging good dialogue with parents we are better equipped to understand your child so that he/she develops intellectually, socially and emotionally and is able to take full advantage of all the opportunities the school has to offer. Parents are requested to complete and return the Home/School Agreement which is given out at the beginning of each academic year.



The Friends of Swiss Valley School

The school has a very enthusiastic Parents and Friends Association which has made a considerable contribution by providing the school with numerous resources e.g. new furniture for the Library.

The Annual General Meeting is usually held in January and a committee representing the parents is elected to organise fund raising events and administrate the work of the Association.

The Association is always ready to welcome new members and we hope that you will be able to lend your support by coming along to some of the events organised during the year. We look forward to seeing you.

School Activities (Extra-Curricular Activities)

There is an Out of School Club facility on site, which is fully supported by the Governors. This club will look after children before school between 7.45 am and 8.45 am and after school between 3.00 pm and 6.00 pm for Infants and between 3.30 pm and 6.00 pm for Junior aged pupils. For further details contact Nicola Williams (Club leader) on 07974 760550.

There are a variety of school activities not previously mentioned, some of which are carried out outside of school hours. These include:-



Rugby, Football, Rounders, Netball, Hockey, Cricket.

Cycling Proficiency, Chess Club, Quiz Club, Recorder Club, Coding Club, Gardening Club, Clwb Hwyl, Mad Science etc.

Homework

At Swiss Valley, we see homework as being an important aspect in the link between the classroom and the home. Its purpose is to help parents fully engage with their child's current learning. By being involved in this way, parents can provide their children with the support and encouragement they need and become partners in the learning process.

Pupils in the Foundation Phase take home reading books or books from the school library. We believe that parents can contribute a great deal to their child's education by taking an interest in their schoolwork. Please talk to your child about what they have done in school recently and encourage them to follow up an aspect of learning that has captivated their imagination and attention.



Key Stage 2 pupils are given homework every week which can range from learning a spelling pattern to practising a mathematical concept or even doing a range of activities based around their class topic. In Year 5 and 6 we aim to increase the independence of the pupils by providing 'Takeaway Homework' which allows each child to have a choice in the homework they complete. They are given a 'menu' of activities based on their class topic from which they choose to do a given number across a term. We hope that by doing this they have greater ownership of their learning and are better prepared for when they go to their secondary schools.

We believe that developing a love for reading is so vital and therefore we encourage children to read for pleasure at home. It's important that children are able to select what they'd like to read and that it isn't seen as a chore. As well as the school library, we also enjoy our Book Fairs which provide a wonderful range of beautifully presented children's books to choose from. We suggest that you share your child's interest in the books they choose. Perhaps read it together and talk about the story line, the characters or the part of the book which they enjoyed most. We believe that active parental encouragement invariably bodes well for the future.



School Security

The security of pupils and staff during the working day is of extreme importance. One entrance only may be used to gain access to the building and all our visitors are obliged to report to the Headteacher or the new reception area.

Strangers will be required to show identification.

Parents are not allowed to enter the teaching areas without the consent of the Headteacher.

Consultations, unless very urgent, are by appointment only.

Private motor vehicles, with the exception of staff vehicles, are prohibited from entering the school premises.

Dogs are not allowed on school premises (except police dogs and guide dogs).

Safeguarding/Child Protection

Swiss Valley School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. All staff are trained in how to identify child protection issues and on how to follow school protocol.

In 2021/22 the designated person for child protection at Swiss Valley is the Headteacher - Mr. Ceri Morris.

The deputy designated persons is - Miss Lisa Morgan.

The nominated governor for child protection is our Chair of Governors - Cllr. Giles Morgan. The deputy nominated governors for child protection are Mrs. Jacqueline Arundel and Mrs Judith Thomas.

The local authority officer for safeguarding is Caryl Davies. (01554 742369)

Should you require any information regarding safeguarding/child protection please contact Mrs G Davies in the school office. All policies are available on the website or alternatively you may request a hard copy from the school office.

Complaints Procedure

Parents who have a complaint regarding any aspect of their child's education should approach the Headteacher who will attempt to resolve matters.

In the unlikely event of matters remaining unresolved then a formal letter of complaint can be written to the Chair of Governors. If the complaint is still not resolved, a parent may make representations to the LA.

Further information about this process is available from the school or from the LEA.

School - 01554 774063

LEA - 01267 234567

Health Promoting School

We are very pleased to inform you that the school has been given "Healthy Schools" status and the school has, for the fifth time, become part of the Welsh network of Healthy schools. This has been given in recognition of the work that we do in encouraging children to eat healthily and exercise regularly. It is also in recognition of the school's efforts to get children to care for their local environment and to be active in recycling initiatives. The school has a Healthy Eating shop which sells fruit at 25p per piece. All profits are spent on developing the existing resources and supporting children in Africa through the 'Adopt a Child' initiative.

We are also a *Heart Start* school which means that all pupils are given lessons to help develop their life saving skills.

Platinum Eco School Status

The School has been presented with four Platinum School Awards. This was in recognition of the school's efforts to 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' waste and also in recognition of its Health and Safety policies.



YSGOL GYNRADD GYMUNEDOL



SWISS VALLEY

COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

