



NURSERY
PARENTAL WELCOME
BOOKLET
2014/2015



H·S·L
HOWELL'S SCHOOL
Llandaff

YSGOL HOWELL
Llandaf
A GDST SCHOOL

NURTURING EXCELLENCE



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CONTENTS

Introduction by Catherine Scott, Head of Nursery	04
First 10 Wellbeing Programme Information	05
Meet the Teachers; Contact Numbers	06
Term dates 2014/2015	07
Travel and transport	08
Communication	09
The school day	10
Breakfast Club; After-School Care; TOOT Weeks	11
What will your daughter need at school?	
Nursery School Uniform	12
Sporting Activities and Woodland Explorers	13
Lunch Time; Cookery	14
The Curriculum	
The 7 Areas of Learning	15
The 2 Year Cycle	16
Woodland Explorers; Our Birthday Cycle;	
Home School Task	17
Number Formation	18
Alphabet Formation	19
Reading Skills Stages	20
Set 1 Sounds	21
Read Write Inc	22




NURTURING EXCELLENCE

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you and your daughter to Howell's Nursery. As a parent I understand how difficult this transition can be for little ones, but also for you as parents. When your daughter comes to Nursery for the first time we will do all we can to help her settle into Nursery life. In order to make this transition a happy one, your daughter will be part of a nurturing group for the first 6 weeks. During this time she will have one of her teachers to focus on her and helping her settle into the new routines, becoming familiar with her surroundings, and getting to know her new friends. Some girls settle in quickly, but some might need the extra support for that time and in some cases, longer. We will always telephone if we think your daughter needs shorter periods of time in school to help her settle which we can gently build up as she gains confidence.


It is perhaps that "indefinable other", the hidden curriculum that imbues our Nursery with a buzz; a hum of happy activity, something that is embodied in the tangible warmth of positive relationships between girls and adults. We aim to provide a broad and exciting child-centered curriculum which will stimulate her young mind and ignite a love of learning, enabling her to develop and flourish; but a Nursery I believe is surely about so much more than this. It is about the range of opportunities that open doors to our girls; it is about giving every little girl the opportunity to shine and be proud; it is about having the confidence to have a go at anything and the belief that you can succeed. It is about tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others and pride in what others do well. It is about the fun, magic and laughter of Nursery life and the making of all those wonderful lasting memories.

We understand that your daughter's first experience of school is a vital step in her learning journey and we are here to help guide, nurture and celebrate her achievements and to help her develop her curiosity, knowledge, skills, self-confidence and interests which will lay firm foundations for the rest of her life.

Catherine Scott
Head of Nursery



The **First 10** is a wellbeing programme designed to ensure that our Nursery girls settle into Nursery as quickly as possible. Over the **first ten days** girls will experience lots of new opportunities, supported by the Nursery staff. We hope that both the girls and their parents will feel welcomed and part of the Howell's Nursery family as a result of the **First 10** initiative.



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NURTURING EXCELLENCE

What will your daughter do to help her feel happy at school?



Find her peg and remember where it is



Enjoy a healthy snack with her friends



Put on and take off her coat



Listen to a story



Say goodbye happily to mummy, daddy, grandparents or carer



Take a class photo home to share




Learn her teachers' names



Receive a newsletter



Make some new friends and learn their names



Have a tour of the Nursery, Infant and Junior School

MEET THE TEACHERS

Head of Nursery – Mrs. Scott

Teacher – Miss Gordon

Teaching Assistant – Mrs. Peter

Teaching Assistant – Mrs. Price

Teaching Assistant – Miss Hughes

CONTACT NUMBERS

Main number – 029 2056 2019

Nursery Number – Extension no. 19882

TERM DATES 2014/2015

Autumn Term

1 - 3 September 2014 – Inset days

4 and 5 September 2014 – School closed

Monday 8 September 2014 – Term begins

20 October - 31 October 2014 inclusive – Half Term

Friday 19 December 2014 – Term ends

Spring Term

Tuesday 6 January 2015 – Term begins

16 - 20 February inclusive 2015 – Half Term

Friday 27 March 2015 – Term ends

Summer Term

Monday 20 April 2015 – Term begins

Monday 4 May 2015 – May Day

25 - 29 May inclusive 2015 – Half Term

Monday 1 June 2015 – Staff Training Day

Thursday 16 July 2015 – Term ends

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

Areas served by transport: arranged by parents, bus companies and school

Route	Contact
City Flyer – various points around central Cardiff	Chrissie Hall-Davis, Admissions Officer, Howell's School - 029 2026 1832 chrissie.hall-davis@how.gdst.net
Pontprennau – Penylan – Cyncoed – Howell's	Chrissie Hall-Davis, Admissions Officer, Howell's School - 029 2026 1832 chrissie.hall-davis@how.gdst.net
Nelson – Caerphilly (Nantgarw Hill) – Rhiwbina – Howell's	Chrissie Hall-Davis, Admissions Officer, Howell's School - 029 2026 1832 chrissie.hall-davis@how.gdst.net
Newport – Cwm Lane – Highcross – St Mellons – Howell's	Chrissie Hall-Davis, Admissions Officer, Howell's School - 029 2026 1832 chrissie.hall-davis@how.gdst.net
Marshfield – Wentloog – Cardiff Bay – Howell's	Chrissie Hall-Davis, Admissions Officer, Howell's School - 029 2026 1832 chrissie.hall-davis@how.gdst.net
Thornhill – Lisvane – Llanishen – Birchgrove – Heath – Howell's	Walton's Coaches - 029 2048 9955 waltonsoaches@btconnect.com
Barry Town Centre – Cosmeston – Penarth – Sully – Howell's	Chrissie Hall-Davis, Admissions Officer, Howell's School - 029 2026 1832 chrissie.hall-davis@how.gdst.net
Cowbridge – Bonvilston – St Nicholas – Ely – Howell's	Mr B Edwards - 01446 781662 Wheadon's Coaches - 029 2057 5333
Merthyr/Aberdare – Pontypridd – Howell's	Jonathan Martin - 07779 273434
Cyncoed – Heath – Howell's	Chrissie Hall-Davis, Admissions Officer, Howell's School - 029 2026 1832 chrissie.hall-davis@how.gdst.net
Tonteg – Creigiau – Rhydlafer – Howell's	Mr R Lawrence, Cavalier Cabs - 01443 491972
Church Village – Groes Faen – Radyr – Howell's	Cavalier Cabs, as above

COMMUNICATION

All parents receive frequent emails so please ensure you have registered your email address with us.

A Newsletter is emailed weekly. This gives news and views of the school's and individual achievements and keeps you up-to-date with our activities.

Invitations to school events, other letters, news of school trips etc. may be sent home with your daughter. These have an attached slip for your reply. Copies of all letters can be found on the school portal. Please check your daughter's peg pocket and her bag for notes or letters.

If you are not receiving relevant documents, please contact the Junior School Office.

Why not follow us on Twitter?: @HowellsSchool

- ▶ We will send home via email a weekly photo collage of things we have done that week. This will give you the opportunity to discuss with your daughter the different activities she has taken part in.
- ▶ A 'Stay and Chat' session is held termly in the Junior School library for parents or grandparents to attend to discuss matters related to your daughter's year group. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for future dates.

THE SCHOOL DAY

9:00am	Welcome to Nursery – self registration
9:15am	Carpet time
9:30am	Teacher led activities
10:10am	Playtime
10:30am	Pastoral group time – Amser Snac
10:50am	Teacher led activities
11:45am	Wash hands, lunch time
12:30pm	Outdoor play
1:15pm	Circle time
1:30pm	Teacher led activities
2:40pm	Story and rhyme time
3:00pm	Home time

Part Time Hours

AM session	9:00am - 12:30pm (including lunch)
PM Session	11:30am - 3:00pm (including lunch)

BREAKFAST CLUB

7:45am - 8:30am (Junior School Hall)

The girls are brought to Nursery at 8:30am and are settled in before we open the doors at 9:00am.

AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

3:15pm - 6:00pm (Junior School Hall)

The girls are collected from Nursery by the After School Care staff and are taken to the Junior School hall.

TOOT WEEKS

During the holidays we have an exciting holiday club which is held in the Nursery. Each week takes the girls are taken on new adventures and experiences. Keep a look out for themes to come!

- ▶ Please see additional booklet for more information about Breakfast Club, After-School Care and TOOT weeks.

WHAT WILL YOUR DAUGHTER NEED AT SCHOOL?

To leave at school:

- ▶ Raincoat
- ▶ Wellies
- ▶ Spare clothes (named) – small rucksack to be left on her peg in school to include 2 pairs of leggings, 2 tops, 4 pairs of pants, 4 pairs of socks
- ▶ School cap and sun cream (summer months)

NURSERY SCHOOL UNIFORM

- ▶ Pink polo shirt with Nursery logo
- ▶ Navy jogging bottoms with Nursery logo or navy skirt
- ▶ Navy round neck sweatshirt with Nursery logo

From August 2014 please note that school uniform is available from John Lewis, Cardiff.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES AND WOODLAND EXPLORERS

Your daughter can come to school wearing this kit on days in which they have this activity:

Gymnastics and Dance

- ▶ Polo shirt
- ▶ Tracksuit
- ▶ Velcro trainers
- ▶ Socks
- ▶ Gloves / hat / scarf / lots of layers (in winter months)

All-in-one waterproof suits are provided

Woodland Explorers

- ▶ Tracksuit
- ▶ Polo shirt
- ▶ Coat (waterproof)
- ▶ Wellies (to be kept in school)

Swimming

- ▶ Swimming costume
- ▶ Goggles
- ▶ Towel
- ▶ Named small rucksack bag

Tracksuit – NO SKIRTS AND TIGHTS ON SWIM DAYS PLEASE

We recommend the WIN UNIVERSAL SWIM BELT – DELUXE 8 BLOCK (swimshop.co.uk)

No armbands please

PE and Games

- ▶ Polo shirt
- ▶ Tracksuit
- ▶ Socks
- ▶ Velcro trainers

LUNCH TIME

We offer a balanced menu in the Junior School. This means that we only use brown bread, rice and pasta. Meals are carefully monitored for their nutritional value. All meals are eaten in our dining room. Mrs. Scott and Mandy the cook have lunch with the girls and this enables us to ensure that everyone has had a fulfilling meal.

Please let us know if your daughter has any dietary requirements or allergies.

COOKERY

We have cookery sessions once a week in Nursery. This allows the girls to explore scientific and mathematical themes as well as thinking about recycling and Fairtrade. If you would like to come in to run one of these sessions please let us know.

THE CURRICULUM

Our Creative Curriculum embraces elements of the Foundation Phase giving your daughter her all-important introduction to the learning environment. We have developed and established a curriculum that is broad and challenging, but one that will also be tailored to your daughter's individual needs. This enables us to maximize your daughter's learning potential. Child-led and adult-led activities include 'play' activities, which are the central learning tool. She will have real hands-on experiences with sand, water, modelling materials, arts and crafts, mark-making, books, games and puzzles. These will stimulate her ideas, increase her awareness of shape and space, develop her powers of communication and help her to learn how to work effectively with others.

We want your daughter to feel secure, valued and confident in her new Nursery. For her to develop a sense of achievement through her learning which is both rewarding and pleasurable. She will learn essential skills which will contribute to her all-round development.

The 7 Areas of Learning

▶ Personal and Social Development, Wellbeing and Cultural Diversity



▶ Language, Literacy and Communication Skills



▶ Mathematical Development



▶ Knowledge and Understanding of the World



▶ Physical Development



▶ Creative Development



▶ Welsh language Development



If you have a particular celebration or event that you would like to share with us in Nursery please speak to a member of staff to arrange a time to come in.

THE CURRICULUM CONT'D.

The 2 Year Cycle

AUTUMN TERM



TWIT TOO HOO!



Marvellous Me!

Celebrations

Roald Dahl day September 13th • Autumn Walk • Firework/ Bonfire night
Diwali • Hanukah • Eid • Christmas

SPRING TERM



Turrets and Tiaras
Nursery Rhyme Land
Fairy Tale Land



Adventures from
The Magic Faraway Tree

Celebrations

Winter Walk / Spring Walk
Saint Dwynwen's Day 25th January (Welsh Valentine's Day)
Chinese New Year • Pancake Day • Saint David's Day • Mothering Sunday
Red Nose Day • Sport Relief • Easter

SUMMER TERM



Animal Boogie Woogie!
Jungle and Farm



Shiver Me Timbers! – Pirates
Around the World Adventures

Celebrations

Summer Walk • Sports Day • Father's Day

Woodland Explorers

Our beautiful school grounds provide the perfect opportunity to ensure that we can harness your daughters' natural wonder and eagerness to explore and understand her world. Woodland Explorers, a forest school themed group activity, will give her the chance to explore the wonders of the forest as she builds dens, creates trails, forages for mini beasts, and paints with mud, thus inspiring a love for the natural world.

Our Birthday Circle

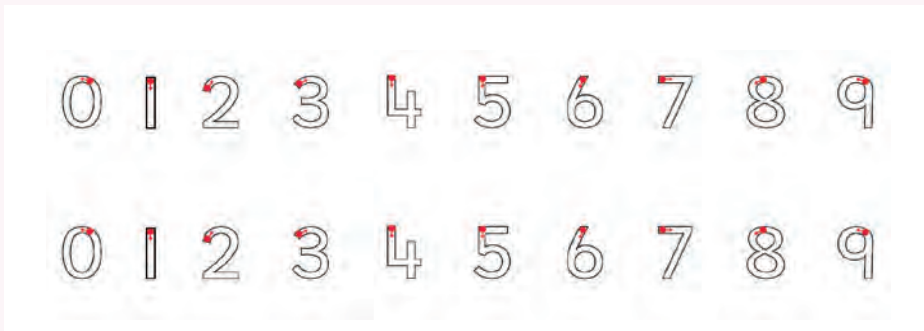
When it is your daughter's birthday you are invited to celebrate with us in Nursery around her birthday circle. Please bring in an item from when she was 1, 2, and 3 years old. The girls really do enjoy this time and especially having mummy or daddy come in to celebrate with them. We usually hold this session in the morning 9:15am - 9:30am or in the afternoon 2:45pm - 3:00pm. Please talk to a member of staff to discuss a suitable time for you.

Home School Task

Each term your daughter will be asked to complete a task at home linked to an area of learning she is developing in school. It is entirely up to you how you do it; the more individual the better!

THE CURRICULUM CONT'D.

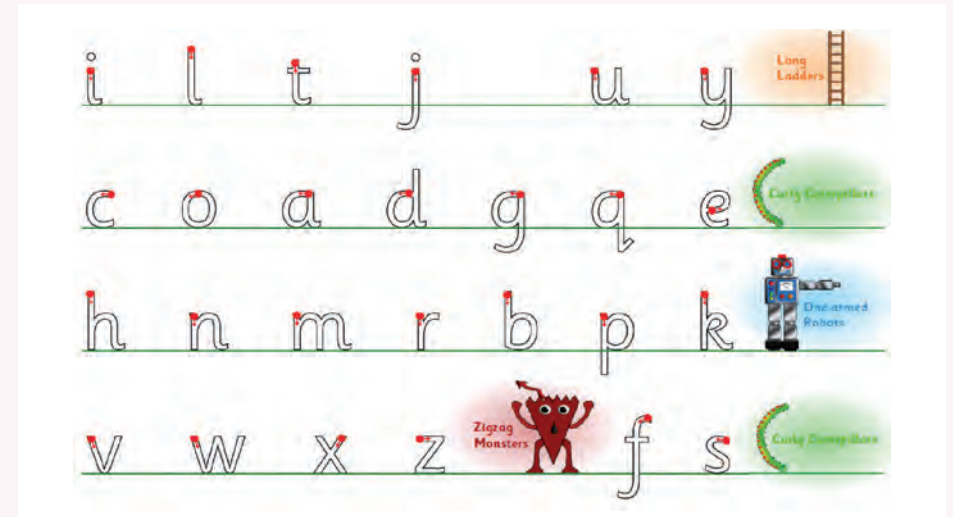
Number Formation



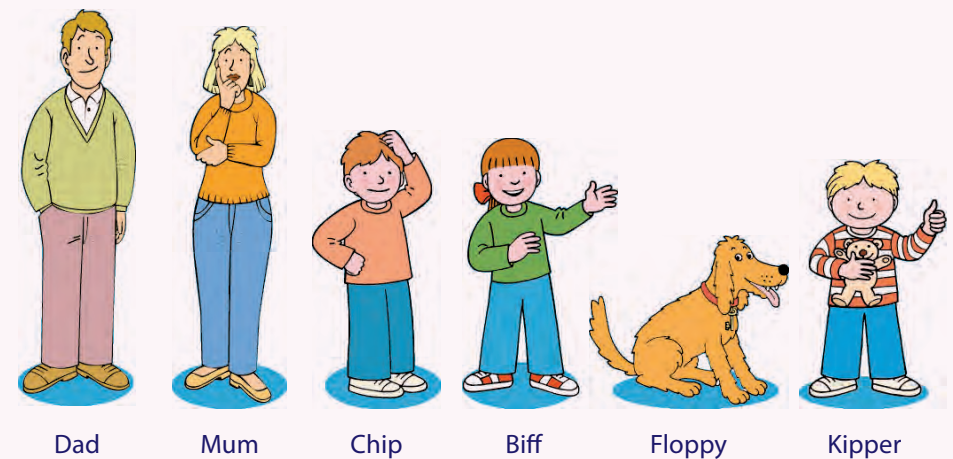
Writing number rhymes

- 1 – straight down the line
- 2 – over the bridge and along the river
- 3 – bumpy bumpy number 3
- 4 – straight down, straight across, down through the middle
- 5 – straight down and a big fat tummy and a hat on top
- 6 – down and curl
- 7 – straight across and straight down
- 8 – sssssssss join the ends
- 9 – around the face, straight down the legs to the floor

Alphabet Formation



Meet the Oxford Reading Tree Family:



THE CURRICULUM CONT'D.

Reading Skills Stages

Reading skills Stage 1	Reading skills Stage 2
Enjoys sharing stories	Enjoys sharing stories with others
Contributes to discussion	Handles books confidently, knowing where to start and finish
Knows how to open a book and turn pages	
Knows the meaning of the following book terms: Front Cover Title Author Illustrator Back	Responds to feelings of characters
Talks about own experiences and how they relate to the story	Follows print from left to right
Recognises and talks about characters	Notices repeated words and recognises some out of context
Understands and recalls sequence of events	Recognises stage 2 words
Uses illustrations to predict what might happen next	Notices full stops and capital letters
Can put four sequencing cards in order and retell story	Recognises letter sounds/names
Recognises that print carries meaning	Locates single words within sentences
Recognises that some words begin with the same initial sounds	Reads stories using: Text Prediction Picture cues
Recognises all of key words at stage 1	
Recognises some key words at stage 1	Can put 4 sequencing cards in order and retell story

Set 1 Sounds



THE CURRICULUM CONT'D.

Read Write Inc.

Here is a list of the letter sounds and their rhymes to help your daughter with writing letters.



- a Round the apple down the leaf (apple)
- b Down the laces to the heel, round the toe (boot)
- c Curl around the caterpillar (caterpillar)
- d Round his bottom up his tall neck and down to his feet (dinosaur)
- e Lift off the top and scoop out the egg (egg)
- f Down the stem, and draw the leaves (flower)
- g Round her face down her hair and give her a curl (girl)
- h Down the head to the hooves and over his back (horse)
- i Down his body, and dot for his head (insect)
- j Down his body curl and dot (jack-in-the box)
- k Down the kangaroo's body, tail and leg (kangaroo)
- l Down the long leg (leg)
- m Down Maisie, over the mountain over the mountain (Maisie and mountains)
- n Down Nobby, over his net (football net)
- o All around the orange (orange)
- p Down his plait and around his head (pirate)
- qu Round her head, up past her earrings and down her hair (queen)
- r Down his back, then curl over his arm (robot)
- s Slither down the snake (snake)
- t Down the tower across the tower (castle tower)
- u Down and under, up to the top and draw the puddle (umbrella)
- v Down a wing, up a wing (vulture)
- w Down up down up (worm)
- x Down the arm and leg and repeat the other side (Exercise)
- y Down a horn up a horn and under his head (yak)
- z Zig-zag-zig (zip)

www.readwriteinc.com





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