



Welcome

Nursery School Parental Welcome Booklet

2023/2024



HOWELL'S NURSERY SCHOOL
Llandaff

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

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HOWELL'S SCHOOL
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Howell's School, Llandaff, Cardiff Road, Cardiff CF5 2YD

Tel: 029 2056 2019

www.howells-cardiff.gdst.net

 @HowellsSchool



Nurturing Excellence

It is a great pleasure to welcome you and your daughter to Howell's Nursery and I really hope that she, and you, have a magical time with us.

Howell's Nursery will offer her a world of adventure and imagination, whether she is exploring light through kaleidoscopes and mirrors, dancing in the rain or watching chocolate melt to make tea-time treats, our youngest girls grow more curious and more creative every day.

Individual care and attention from your daughter's teacher will provide her with an engaging, welcoming and, above all, safe educational environment. The early years of a child's education lay the foundations for all future learning. At Howell's the teaching is structured to ensure girls receive the best possible start. Our highly skilled staff understand that children learn best through enquiry. They use a wide variety of teaching strategies to encourage independence, promote confidence and foster intellectual curiosity.

Our aim is for your daughter to be excited and eager to learn as she moves through our school, well prepared by her early years' experience. I look forward to getting to know your daughter — and your whole family — now that she is joining us in Nursery.



Mrs Abby Matthews
Head of Prep School

Term Dates 2023/2024

Autumn Term

Monday 4th September - Inset Day
 Tuesday 5th September - Inset Day
 Wednesday 6th September – Inset Day
 Thursday 7th September – Term begins
 Monday 23rd October to Friday 3rd November
 inclusive – Half Term
 Wednesday 20th December - Term ends

Spring Term

Monday 8th January – Inset Day
 Tuesday 9th January – Term begins
 Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February
 inclusive – Half Term
 Friday 22nd March - Term ends

Summer Term

Monday 8th April - Term begins
 Monday 6th May – May Bank Holiday
 Friday 24th May – Inset Day
 Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May
 inclusive – Half Term
 Thursday 11th July – Term ends

COMMUNICATION



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

There is a weekly Learning Train which is put on the Nursery Firefly page. It will keep you informed about some of the exciting activities your daughter has done, as well as what she will be learning the following week.

If you are not receiving relevant documents, please let us know.

Why not follow us on Twitter?:

[@HowellsSchool](https://twitter.com/HowellsSchool)

'Stay and Chat' sessions are held during the school year for parents, grandparents and/or carers to attend. This gives you the opportunity to discuss matters related to your daughter's year group. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for future dates.



First 10

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.

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 independently

Listen to a story

Say goodbye happily to mummy, daddy, grandparents or carer

Develop independence with hygiene and self help skills

Learn her teachers' names

Self regulation – develop an understanding of her emotions and to empathise with the emotions of others.

Make some new friends and learn their names

Develop her leadership skills in her role as "Helpur Heddiw" (Special Helper)

Wrap Around Care



THE CROCODILE CLUB (HOLIDAY CLUB)

During the holidays we have an exciting holiday club which is held in the Prep School. Each week, 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 Crocodile Club.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The booking forms for Breakfast Club and After School Care are sent via email every Tuesday. Booking for the following week must be in by 12pm on Friday.

Drop off for Breakfast Club is between 7:45am - 8:20am (Prep School Hall)

Nursery doors open at 9:00am.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

3:15pm - 5:45pm (Prep School Hall)

Nursery finishes at 3:00pm, however, if you would like your daughter to go to After School Care, she will be collected from Nursery by the After School Care staff and taken to the Prep School Hall where she will have her snack or tea and take part in a variety of fun activities.

The After School Care telephone number (Prep School Hall) is 029 2026 1811.





Nursery School Uniform

We are pleased to confirm that our uniform and PE kit are now both supplied by School Blazer
www.schoolblazer.com



Items from our incumbent supplier - John Lewis - can continue to be worn, but their uniform shop will close in August 2023.

Important reminders:

- No earrings to be worn in school.
- White Velcro trainers or black Velcro shoes are to be worn to school.

What Will Your Daughter Need At School?

Please label all items brought to school.

To leave at school:

- Raincoat.
- Wellington boots.
- 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).
- We will provide a daily snack and milk or water. The girls have access to drinking water throughout the day.



Physical Education and Woodland Explorers

Your daughter can come to school wearing the kit below on days in which they have these activities:



Woodland Explorers

- Tracksuit
- Polo shirt
- Coat (waterproof)
- Wellington boots (to be kept in school)
- Hat

All-in-one waterproof suits are provided.

Our beautiful school grounds provide the perfect opportunity to ensure that we can harness your daughter's natural wonder and eagerness to explore and understand her world. Woodland Explorers, our 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.



PE

- Polo shirt
- Tracksuit
- Socks
- Velcro trainers

Your daughter will have 2 PE sessions a week which will be led by our specialist PE teachers. The aim is to develop her coordination, balance and ball skills. The PE sessions will include gymnastics, dance, games and athletics.





Prep School Sample Menu



	Meat Free Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main – Meat	Meat Free Monday	Chilli con carne, grated cheese	Roast of the day or oven baked sausages with gravy	Meatballs in a tomato and vegetable sauce	Oven baked cod
Main – Vegetarian	Vegetable and chickpea sauce, grated cheese	Vegetable and bean chilli, grated cheese	Lentil and roasted vegetable bake with vegetarian gravy	Quorn balls in a tomato and vegetable sauce	Vegetable burger
Vegetables	Peas Sweetcorn	Broccoli Green beans	Carrots Cauliflower	Green beans Mixed vegetables	Baked beans Peas
Carbohydrates	Pasta Garlic bread	Rice Tortilla chips	Roast potatoes Yorkshire pudding	Spaghetti	Chips
Dessert	Cheese and crackers	Banana muffin	Welsh cakes	Greek yogurt, honey and blueberries	Fruit pots

Available every day: jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings (always including baked beans, cheese and tuna mayonnaise), salad cart and fresh fruit for dessert

Lunch Time, Cookery and Birthdays



Lunchtime

We offer a balanced menu in the Prep 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. Mandy the cook has 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 weekly cookery sessions 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.

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.

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.

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 2 Year Cycle

AUTUMN TERM

- Twit Too Hoo
- Marvellous Me!

Celebrations

- Roald Dahl Day – 13th September
- Autumn Walk
- Firework/ Bonfire night
- Diwali
- Hanukah
- Eid
- Christmas

SPRING TERM

- A World of Wonder
- Let's Celebrate – Me, you, us!

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
- Ramadan
- Eid

SUMMER TERM

- Animal Boogie Woogie!
- Jungle and Farm
- Shiver Me Timbers! – Pirates
- Around the World Adventures
- Where the Wild Things Are!

Celebrations

- Summer Walk
- Sports Day
- Fathers' Day
- Nursery Show

Home School Task

Every Thursday your daughter will bring home her 'Learning Log' and library book. There is an activity linked to an area of learning we have covered that week to complete.

Travel and Transport



Howell's has an extensive bus network covering the South Wales area. Certain routes are available to the youngest members of the school community so should you require transport for your daughter please call our Transport Co-ordinator on **029 2026 1832** to discuss your needs.

Your Notes



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Howell's School, Llandaff, Cardiff Road, Cardiff CF5 2YD

Tel: 029 2056 2019 | **Fax:** 029 2057 8879

www.howells-cardiff.gdst.net

 @HowellsSchool

Girls' Day School Trust, 10 Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DH

Tel: 020 7393 6666 | **Fax:** 020 7393 6789

www.gdst.net

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