



Ready... Steady... Go!

Starting in Reception

September 2025



READY - PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

Many of the skills your child will need in school develop through play. You, as parents, are already teaching and encouraging these skills in everything you do with your child. The ideas that follow may help you to focus on the ones that build a child's confidence and independence, whether at home or at school.





TALKING

Talk with your child about the world around them. A child learns such a lot from talking. Talking means speaking with, listening to, answering and asking questions. Encourage your child to ask 'why?' and 'what if?' It is also very important to emphasise the need for children to listen carefully to what an adult is saying and not to interrupt. They must learn to wait until it is their turn to speak, especially in a large group situation. Talk is central to all areas of curriculum development – 'if you can't say it, you can't write it!'

COUNTING

Counting, sorting and comparing are skills we use every day. Can your child sort the shopping out? Which packets are the largest or the heaviest? Can your child sort buttons or count out how many knives and forks are needed for tea? How about trying to match up all the socks in the washing basket! There are also many board games available, which help with counting and encourage the use of strategies. It is also important to learn to take turns. Children need to know how numbers are written, what a number means in practical terms and to recognise the written number. Many children can rote count but have difficulty in understanding what a number really means.

PLAY

Imaginative play is an important part of our curriculum offer. It forms the basis of much of your child's early experiences. It offers children the opportunities to negotiate compromise and listen to other people. Children enjoy this type of play in all areas of the classroom, through role play, and during construction activities, small world play, during sand and water play or the early stages of writing. In progression Step One, play is an essential part of all areas of the curriculum. In school, play is carefully planned to encourage children to think, develop understanding and extend their language as well as to enjoy themselves. It enables children to investigate and explore, and gives them opportunities to experiment and predict. Play also helps develop social skills, such as co-operating with each other, taking turns etc.



WRITING

When it comes to writing, let your child see him or herself as a real writer. Encourage your child to send "real" messages or make a shopping list just like yours. For a long time it will involve scribble and pictures, but that scribble is the beginning of writing. The **important** thing is to take it seriously and send a message back. When your child is ready, help him or her to form letters starting with his or her name. They will be given a copy of the correct letter formation, showing the correct starting places and orientation of each letter. It may seem unnecessary, but it is important that your child forms their letters correctly from the very beginning if they are to become fluent writers as they move through the school. Use lower case letters putting capitals only in the proper places. Teach your child to hold a pencil properly.



READING

Just as you help your child to believe he or she is a writer, give your child the confidence to read. Let your child tell you familiar stories using the pictures and turning the pages as he or she goes. Make up stories together and sometimes write them down. You can make a little book together with your child's illustrations!

As your child becomes interested, ensure they follow the print from left to right and from top to bottom. Use our Parent Reading Handbook for more information.

RHYMES AND SONGS

Teach your child all the familiar nursery rhymes. You can have a lot of fun singing or chanting them together and your child is learning a skill that will help with learning to read at the same time! Thinking of words that rhyme or a game of 'I spy' help children focus on initial letter sounds, and are also good ways of passing time on a tedious car journey. Rhythm and rhyme are an important part of learning to read.



One of the main things that gives your child confidence when he or she first comes to school is being able to cope with practical things independently.

We will help your child with their toilet needs when they first start school; nobody wants anyone to be upset. However, we do encourage the children to become independent as quickly as possible.

If your child has an 'accident' in school we have plenty of spare clothing. 'Accidents' are very common – the children get very involved in their activities around the progression step one area and sometimes do not give themselves enough time to reach the toilet. The adults in the area will change your child and put any wet or soiled clothing into a small bag for your child to bring home. We will only contact you if your child is distressed.

- Is your child able to:
- use the toilet unaided?
 - use a knife, fork and spoon?
 - dress and undress without help?
 - generally tidy away toys, books and games?
 - communicate his/her needs clearly?



The best preparation for school is helping your children to feel good about themselves, to believe they already have many skills and to give them the confidence to ask for help when it is needed.



STEADY - WHAT HAPPENS HERE AT WICK

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

As we are a Church school, prayer and worship are central to our daily lives. Worship takes place each day as well as class prayers before lunch and at the end of the school day. Our worship takes many forms; both in school and at St. James' Church. The Ministry Area clergy regularly lead worship in the school and the children lead worship at St. James' and in school on a regular basis. You are always welcome to join us at our community worship throughout the year. You do not need to wear any 'special' clothes to attend our worship, but please make sure you turn off your mobile phone and refrain from eating or drinking during the worship. Please remember that you are joining us for worship, not a concert, and so we do not allow photography.

In addition to our daily worship, each Friday we celebrate the children's achievements. Children are encouraged to bring certificates, badges etc that they have been awarded outside school e.g. swimming certificates, badges from Brownies etc. We also celebrate the successes and achievements that the children have had in school e.g. being a good friend, sharing, and listening carefully.



PROGRESSION STEP ONE: nursery and reception
PROGRESSION STEP TWO: years one, two and three
PROGRESSION STEP THREE: years four, five and six



CYMRAEG

Although we are an English medium school, we do not forget that we are in Wales! There is a strong Welsh ethos in school and your child will be introduced to the Welsh language and culture. At first this will mainly be through stories, songs and rhymes. Later they will learn simple phrases to use in the classroom, in P.E. lessons, and around the school. We have simple Welsh books and Welsh programmes, which the children really enjoy. We also celebrate St David's Day and use Welsh in our collective worship.

UNIFORM

We believe that wearing uniform helps to foster a sense of pride and belonging in our school. Our school uniform is available throughout the school year from Point Ink - Print and Embroidery, Llantwit Major.

www.pointinkembroidery.com

Across the school we place an emphasis on learning outdoors and we plan each week to use our extensive grounds. In addition to our school uniform, children will need to keep a pair of wellingtons in school. We provide waterproof clothing.

Our 'New To You' exchange area is open each day. Please feel free to take the uniform you need and donate any uniform you no longer require.

FOOTWEAR

Shoes may be black, navy or any suitable dark colour in any practical style (no high heels of course). Open-toe sandals are not advisable for the summer as little toes can be stubbed or grazed on the playground.

WINTER UNIFORM

- Navy trousers or skirt
- School polo shirt with logo
- School sweatshirt with logo

SUMMER UNIFORM

- Navy shorts with school polo shirt
- Blue and white checked dress

PE KIT

- Plain white t-shirt
- Navy shorts
- Black slip on / velcro daps

Attendance Matters!

Starting school is a really important time. It is the time when routines are established for the remainder of a child's school career. We know that here in Wick our parents work in partnership with us and attendance at the school is high

Establishing a good pattern of attendance starts immediately a child starts school. It is important that your child arrives in school on time; learning begins the moment a child arrives in the school grounds. By being just 10 minutes late each day throughout the year, nearly 7 days of learning will be lost.

At Wick the children are able arrive up to 10 minutes before the start of the school day, from 8.45am onwards. Staff plan activities in class between arrival and 8.55am, when the school day starts. By providing the opportunity to arrive in class before the school day starts we hope that we can eradicate lateness at the school.

We recognise that children may be unwell and should not come to school. The NHS guidance to school reminds us that children who have been sick or who have had diarrhoea should remain at home for 48 hours from the last episode of illness.

We also recognise that sometimes taking children away during term time is unavoidable. Please carefully consider if this is the only option. If you need to take your child out of school for a holiday then permission MUST be sought in advance.

100%	No absences from school	Perfection
99%	Equates to two days off school each year	Excellent
97%	Equates to 5 days off school each year	Good
95%	Equates to 10 days off school each year	Slight concern
90%	Equates to 20 days off school each year	Concerned
85%	Equates to 30 days off school each year	Very concerned

What we also recognise is that a few days of absence here and there can quickly add up. The chart above illustrates how quickly a few days can add up to create a concern about attendance.

Every lesson counts, every school day counts!



FAMILIARISATION

We are thrilled that you have chosen Wick as the school for your child. The following forms part of our familiarisation programme for our 2025 intake.

26th June - Meeting for families in school: Ready, Steady, Go!

14th July - Visit morning for children in reception classroom 9.30am - 11.30am

We try to make this experience as similar to the start of the new school year as possible. We will meet you at the school playground gate and older children will help take the children to their classroom. Adults should continue around the edge of the school to the school office to hand in their forms and their child's birth certificate. The certificate will be returned to you at the end of the morning. At 11.30am the pedestrian gate will be opened and you will be able to make your way to join your child in their classroom.

Your child will bring home a '*Welcome To School*' booklet. Many families ask what they can do to help their child prepare for school and the 'Welcome to School' booklet provides some activities you may want to complete before starting in September. Remember these are only suggestions and every child develops at their own pace. There is also a space where the children can draw, cut out and stick in pictures to share with us about the things that are important to them. The booklet forms an important link between the home and school.

Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th September: Individual consultations

You will be given an appointment to meet individually with your child's class teacher at the start of the autumn term. This is the opportunity for you to share information on a more personal level. Please return your child's Welcome to School booklet at this consultation.

Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th September: Your child's first day at school will be very special. Even if your child has been to nursery or playgroup from a very young age, they will find that school is different, new and exciting. There will be lots of children to meet and new adults to get to know. In order to make this day as comfortable as possible we stagger the intake so that your child can be welcomed individually at the door in a calm and quiet manner.



What your child will need?

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Your child will need a P.E. kit. This consists of **navy shorts and a white t-shirt**. The school will let you know which day your child has PE. Currently, on those days children attend school in their PE kit. It helps us to maintain a sense of pride in the way we look if the correct PE kit is worn.

Jewellery of any kind is not allowed in school. Your child will not be allowed to participate in P.E. lessons if they are wearing jewellery.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

Young children need to develop physical control, mobility, awareness of space and a range of manipulative skills. Safe and stimulating outdoor play is provided throughout the day in our areas of continuous and enhanced provision. There is also a mid-day lunchtime break. Please send your child to school with appropriate outdoor clothing including gloves and hats in winter and sun hats and sun cream in summer. All clothing **must be named**.



LUNCHTIME

During the school lunchtime, from 12pm until 1pm, your child will be looked after by our midday supervisors. It is their role to help your child in the dining hall and also supervise children in the playground or in the classroom when it is raining. It would be very helpful if you could make sure that your child is able to handle a knife and fork correctly, although our supervisors are always willing to help and encourage where necessary.



SCHOOL LUNCHES

The Welsh Government has committed to providing a meal at lunch time for every child in primary school. Your child will receive a choice of lunchtime meal each day (e.g. a hot main meal, a baguette, a jacket potato, a cold pasta pot with salad and a variety of fillings) which you need to book using the ParentPay system explained below. Please try to book your meals as far in advance as possible as this will support the school cook, Mrs Davies, in the ordering process. If your child is absent from school please try to remember to amend the booking so that a meal that is not required is not cooked. Diolch.



PARENT PAY

Once your child has started school you will be sent a registration letter for ParentPay. For families in our nursery provision, you have already been provided with an account on ParentPay. Please note that despite the name, the system isn't only for collecting payments. We use ParentPay to notify you of any school trips or visits, to collect payments (where they are required) or to gain consent for activities. Please sign up as soon as you receive the letter and notification from ParentPay.



SCHOOL TIMES

MORNING: 8.55AM - 12 NOON

AFTERNOON: 1PM - 3.30PM

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Here at Wick we take the well-being of all our children very seriously. We have a comprehensive Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. All staff and volunteers at the school who come into contact with the children have an Enhanced DBS check. All staff train annually in safeguarding issues. The school's safeguarding officer is Mrs Ceri Thomas. The deputy safeguarding officers are Mr Alex Payne and Mr Rob Ward. Contact may also be made with the LA officer, Mr Jason Redrup. He can be contacted on 01446 709867. There are several links in Hwb (a Welsh Government platform) that will help and provide advice on keeping your child safe in the online world. Please follow the link below.

<https://hwb.gov.wales/keeping-safe-online>

ARRIVING IN SCHOOL AND COLLECTING YOUR CHILD

Other than on their first day at school, the children should be brought to the pedestrian gate where the school staff will accompany them to their classes. The children become independent very quickly and love the feeling of being grown up. The school gates open at 8.45am and are locked at 8.55am. This means that learning can start promptly at 9am. If you arrive after the school gates are locked you will need to take your child to the school office - walk up the pedestrian path, follow the yellow lines to cross the car park and then walk around the school perimeter on the pavement. At the end of the school day the pedestrian gate is opened. Please join us on the school playground to collect your child. Please try to be prompt. Children become quite anxious if you are only a few minutes late. If your child is going home by bus, the school staff will escort them to the bus. Please notify us if your child is to be collected by someone else or if there is to be a change to their routine e.g. to be collected from school rather than travelling

MILK AND SNACKS

Milk and water are available for the children throughout the school day. In addition, the children may bring their own healthy snack (fruit or vegetables) to school each day. This does not need to be placed into a bag and can be carried in their hands.

The children are encouraged to use our snack station in the classroom where they are helped to pour their own drinks, eat their snack and wash up after themselves.

The children will need a water bottle. **Squash and fizzy drinks should not be brought to school.**



COMMUNICATION

As an Eco school, email is our main method of contact. You have included an email contact on your admission form and we will use this to send information home. This will include all curriculum information, newsletters and information from external sources e.g. library events and fundraising activities. If you do not want to receive information from the school you must notify us in writing.

The school operates a 'push messaging' service, Schoop. This service is free to families at the school. Please sign up using the school's unique number ID 28308. This will ensure you get messages and the school calendar directly to your phone, tablet or email.

Follow us on BlueSky. Classes post regularly and this is a good way to see what is happening in class in 'real time'!



Your child will not need to bring anything else to school. Please do not allow them to bring toys, games or special items from home. These can easily get lost or broken and this causes a lot of distress.

If we require items from home, e.g. as part of our project work, you will be notified by the class teachers.



GO - WHAT TO DO IF...?

..... my child is ill?

You must telephone the school in the morning, leaving a message on our absence line. It is always important that we know the reason when your child is absent.

..... my child develops a medical condition?

Tell your child's class teacher at once. If necessary they will inform other staff who need to know. Whatever the situation we will do our best to help you and your child cope in school. Asthma inhalers will be put in a place that is easily accessible to your child (label it clearly please). If your child needs to take prescribed medicine while they are in school you will need to complete an 'Administration of Medication' form.

..... I am unavoidably delayed and will be late picking my child up?

Telephone the school and we will look after your child until you arrive. If you arrange for someone else to collect them, please inform the class teacher. Your child may know the person who is collecting them but their teacher may not. We cannot take chances where your children are concerned. Whenever possible, please collect your children on time as they do get distressed if parents are late.

..... I think I have missed a school letter?

Our newsletters and school communications are sent to every family via email.

..... I would like to help in school?

There are various ways you can help:-

- become an active member of the Association of Friends.
- help on school trips, visits and activities.
- Help in school on a regular basis.
- Join one of our 'action' teams - groups that support the school on projects e.g. treating our outdoor equipment.
- respond to appeals in the newsletter for help in particular areas such as cookery.

Volunteering in school can be a very rewarding experience. It may include supporting work in the classroom e.g. craft activities, maths and reading games or helping on school visits. The Vale of Glamorgan Safer Recruitment Policy states that before you can begin volunteering at school, you need to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service enhanced check. To start the process, please contact the school office on 01656 890253. We will then send your details to the Vale of Glamorgan and they will email you with an online link to complete the process.

..... I would like to take my child on holiday during term time?

It is important that the children are in school during term time. Classes are constantly investigating new areas and children may miss vital parts of the curriculum. If you feel that taking a holiday in term time is **unavoidable**, please email the school to request your inclusive holiday dates. Please note that the Headteacher may only authorise up to 10 school days holiday per academic year. Any additional holiday absence will be unauthorised.

..... I am worried about my child?

Always talk to your child's class teacher. If something has happened that will affect your child in school that day please see the class teacher in the morning or telephone the school to let us know. Otherwise, please make an appointment to meet the teacher at the end of the day when they will have more time to spend with you.

..... my child has been sick or had diarrhoea?

Your child should be kept away from school for 48 hours following their last bout of illness. Our school is a very small environment where germs can spread very quickly.

WHAT WE DO IF ...?

..... your child has taken ill in school?

We will get in touch with you by telephone so that you can come and collect your child.

..... your child has an accident requiring emergency medical treatment?

Again we will get in touch with you immediately by telephone.

You can see how important it is for us to have your daytime number and also a second or third person to call, in case of emergency. These people **must be willing or able to come to school quickly**. If you give us a mobile phone number as one of your contact numbers, please remember to keep it switched on during school times. If any of your contact numbers change, please inform us immediately in writing.

..... we are concerned about your child in any way?

The class teacher or headteacher will ask to see you and explain the cause for concern. We will then work together as a partnership to sort out any difficulties.

..... your child falls asleep during the day?

We leave them to sleep quietly. Your child will get very tired, especially during the first term, and many children 'nod off' during the day. We will let you know at the end of the day if they have needed a little nap.



www.wickmarcross.co.uk

A quick guide to the key school staff and some of the regular 'visitors' you might meet in addition to your child's class teacher.

Headteacher - Ceri Thomas

School Administration - Maija Evans / Lisa Hewitt

Deputy Headteacher - Alex Payne

School Cook - Cheryl Davies

School Nurse - Meleesha Morgan-Jones

The Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area - Father Edwin Counsell and Father Craig Vaughan

Chair of Governors - Sam Newton

Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School

Church Street, Wick, Vale of Glamorgan, CF71 7QE

Telephone: 01656 890253 [Web-site](http://www.wickmarcross.co.uk) Schoop: 28308 [Blue Sky](#)

