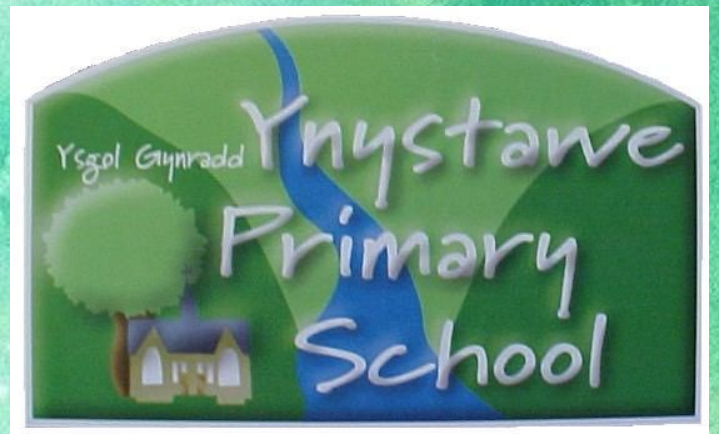


**Dirty knees,
messy hair,
muddy shoes...**



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know Ynystawe is a hands on creative school. In Earth Phase especially we carry out a lot of messy play as it offers so many opportunities for learning. It is crucial to foster growing in all areas of development. We are outdoors a lot, due to its physical, mental and emotional benefits.



**...enquiring minds,
sparkling eyes
and
happy hearts!**

Physical Development

Children will be given the tools to develop and practise fine motor skills and eye hand coordination. Activities such as stacking, pouring and spooning will develop eye-hand coordination. Practising cutting, writing in shaving cream and using tongs will develop fine motor skills. Hands-on activities will provide opportunities for children to compare textures such as smooth, rough, hard and soft. While respecting each other's personal space, children will gain an understanding of their own body space.



Communication and Language Development

During messy play, children will be given many opportunities to speak and listen. They will use words and gestures to share resources, explain actions, negotiate plans and take turns. Teacher and caregiver will ask open ended questions to encourage thinking skills. The use of letters in the activities, leads to understanding the symbolic nature of written language.

Personal, Emotional and Social Development

Messy Play is designed with children's natural curiosity in mind. It encourages a positive approach to new experiences. There is no "right" way for children to do messy play. This builds self-confidence and self-esteem. Through messy play, children can develop concentration, problem-solving and planning. Working with others fosters self-respect and respect for others. It also presents opportunities for making relationships. Messy play can offer an outlet for feelings, experiences and thoughts.

Intellectual Development

Children will investigate, explore, design and create leading to a better understanding of the world around them. Children will learn to group and classify, arrange items in a logical order, identify and match and understand cause and effect. As they observe, predict, try out solutions, observe the results, and evaluate information they gain a greater understanding of the scientific method.



Mathematical Development

Messy play offers many opportunities for counting, calculating and measurement. The children will sort objects, fill containers and create patterns. Numbers will be involved in many activities providing opportunities to understand their symbolic meaning.

Creative Development

Children are given endless opportunities with a variety of materials to build imagination and creativity. Through sensory experiences, they are able to respond to what they see, hear, feel, touch and smell. They will express their feelings and thoughts through colour, texture, shapes and forms in two and three dimensions.



Special Benefits

Messy play offers benefits to all children. It allows children of all abilities to become involved and get to know other children. Children who are in the process of learning English as a second language can join in and use the materials with their peers because messy play does not rely on words. Since there is no "right way" to do messy play, children with special educational needs can use these open-ended materials in their own way and still be a part of the group.



**'The world is mud-luscious and
puddle-wonderful .'**

E.E Cummings

In Ynystawe, we always encourage children to wear aprons for messy play, but as you can imagine, it is impossible to stop all mess splashing on clothes. It is best to dress Nursery children in clothes you don't mind getting dirty. For Reception, it might be best to buy cheaper uniform items.

Thank you so much for your support and sharing your lovely children with us!

P.s Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and check out our School Website.

Many Thanks Earth Phase Team



'Nature is wise. You can learn everywhere and from everything.'

Leonardo Da Vinci