

SWISS VALLEY



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Welcome/Croeso

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 well above both Carmarthenshire and All Wales comparisons. 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 children deserve a good education, they want to be happy and also want to feel safe and secure in their school environment. At Swiss Valley School we believe we can offer all of these things. We also pride ourselves on the broad, balanced and varied opportunities that we provide for each of our pupils both during and out of school hours 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. We are constantly challenging ourselves to get better and better and we have gained a number of local and national Awards which recognise these efforts.

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
Head teacher



Aims and Values

Swiss Valley School is committed.....

...to creating a happy secure and visually pleasing environment in order to stimulate effective learning and instil a sense of pride for school, community and country.

...to delivering a well structured and varied curriculum so that each child is educated according to his/her various needs and abilities.

...to developing the child's self-awareness and sensitivity to others by acquiring moral values and a code of acceptable behaviour.

...to creating and maintaining high standards of achievement.

...to encouraging each child to develop to his/her full potential.

...to creating a close partnership between the home, school and community.

...to a positive attitude relating to the social and educational inclusion of all pupils and staff, providing equality of opportunity to all.

Our Mission Statement

"Our School exists to provide opportunities which promote the whole development of each child so that they may attain their full potential within a safe, stable, stimulating, happy and caring environment enabling them to take their place in an ever changing world as responsible citizens of the future."

Our Curriculum

The school provides a balanced and broad programme of learning experiences, ensuring that all aspects of the National Curriculum receive regular attention, and sets out to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to acquire new skills and experiences in a caring environment. We firmly believe in the importance of teaching the 'basics' and emphasis is placed on children achieving competence in literacy and numeracy before they transfer to Secondary Education. Our "Read, Write Inc." programme has been particularly successful in recent years with reading and spelling skills improving significantly.

There are lap tops in every classroom and the school has a purpose built I.C.T. suite which houses 17 PCs and 4 Apple Macs as well as an interactive white board and projector. All pupils have access to this suite on a weekly basis. All classes also have overhead projectors and whiteboards whilst our recently acquired iPads are also available for use in all classes.



Learning activities in all areas of the curriculum are not always apparent as 'subjects'. They are incorporated within themes or topics. Each class will study a new topic each half term and each of these is developed so as to ensure that essential skills are taught progressively throughout the school. Each theme aims to provide memorable experiences and rich opportunities for high quality learning and wider personal development and well-being. These programmes are also highly tailored and cater for the needs of all learners. Examples of these creative and imaginative topics include, "Wriggle and Crawl", "Electric Rainbow", "Big Wide World", "Heroes and Villains", "Champions" and "Off with Her Head".

We aim to provide an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities after school and during lunchtimes in order to help children further develop their range of skills and talents in a relaxed atmosphere. We have a full range of Educational Visits which link closely and help stimulate interest in the topics studied whereas our Residential Visits are thoroughly enjoyed by older pupils and these greatly enhance the curriculum in really exciting ways.

Our privately run "Out of Hours Club" is very popular with working parents and this runs from 7.30 am to 8.45 am and between 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm each school day. It also runs throughout the holidays. For details contact Mrs. Nicola Williams on 07974760550.

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Home School Links

Learning at home is an essential part of good education and we strive to develop a partnership with parents and carers in order to maximise the learning experience for each child. Regular homework is an important part of this since it gives pupils the opportunity to practise at home the skills taught in school. It also encourages children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their school lives and beyond.

The school aims to communicate regularly and clearly with parents and carers in the following ways:

- Key information will be posted on our child friendly website: www.swissvalleyprimary.ik.org
- Starter Packs for new children joining the school
- Regular text messages
- Regular letters providing information about school visits, visitors to the school, PTA events etc.
- Half-Termly Newsletters
- Parents'/Carers' Evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms
- Annual Report
- Presentation Evenings providing information regarding new initiatives e.g. "Read, Write, Inc.", "Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning" – SEAL etc.
- Information about help that can be given to children at home

- Swift response to enquiries made by telephone, letter or e-mail
- Information displayed in classrooms and on noticeboards
- Our Open Door Policy – appointments can be made to see the teachers or Head teacher within a couple of days of a request being made

A Happy School

At Swiss Valley we believe that children who are treated with respect will learn how to offer and respect others. We believe that good behaviour has a positive effect on progress and learning. In order to achieve this we operate a very positive and firm behaviour policy. We believe that all have a responsibility to help children achieve a high level of positive behaviour. We promote this through our Golden Rules, Celebration Assemblies, Merit Awards, Raffle Tickets, Team Points and much more!

Our new whole school “Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning” – SEAL programme ensures that all children are respected for who they are and are always encouraged to be responsible for their own actions. We aim to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety. We support all children by establishing a climate of trust and respect for all.

