

### About the school-

I was placed at School A for my bridging sessions. The school opened in 2001 and is an English-Medium primary school. There are 646 pupils from Early years to year 6, with the majority of pupils being from the local and surrounding area. Reception to Year 6 hold three classes per year that include up to 30 children. There is a 18.7% pupil: teacher ratio. The school also has 29.4% of pupils eligible for free school meals. This is higher than the national average of free school meals which is 21%. Additionally, the school recognizes that there are 25% of the pupils with additional learning needs. Within the 25%, 10 children meet the statement of special education. The catchment area of School A is described as economically disadvantaged area and is listed in the top 10% of the most deprived areas in Wales. School A has been rewarded with the 'Rights Respecting School'.



## Start at my Feet

### How the school works with parents, careers and the community-

- Within School A there are two family support officers that provide emotional, social and financial support for families that need help. They support families in weekly toddler groups, parents can attend the weekly drop-in sessions, help families with housing and benefits. These family support officers help break down barriers and act as a lifeline for some families in need.
- Family engagement sessions happen as School A regularly invites families to sessions on how to support their child at home. The family engagement sessions also work with drop-in Friday session for the parents to voice their concerns and to share experiences and advice. Within these sessions there will be weekly visits from the police for families to ask questions, seek advice, inform the police about issues in the community or even ask the police to speak to their children about behaviors. The health visitor also attends these sessions and advises the parents on vaccines that their child may be due to have.
- School A also work with vulnerable learners including service children, refugees, young carers and EAL. School A are a school of sanctuary meaning they welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers within the local community.

Doc Penfro - Pembroke Dock



### How the school works with families before the child starts school-

- Home visits are in place so that the teachers/staff can see the bigger picture into the child's home life. Before starting school, every child has a visit from the staff members to start building relationships with pupils and parents, check if there are resources at the home. If there are a lack of resources such as bedding, clothes, toys the school can help provide these to families. The staff can guide parents to their 'Help yourself trolley'. This trolley entitles anyone from the community to take what they need. Anything from bed sheet, coats, shoes to washing up liquid, shampoo and conditioner etc. The staff can help fill in forms that parents need to complete before their child starts school. Some parents are illiterate, and the staff want them to feel included in the process and not overwhelmed.
- Parent and toddler sessions were introduced for parents and children to build relationships with the staff members, ask questions before their child starts school and to familiarise themselves with the school surroundings.
- School A provide open days throughout the year for parents to come and visit. Parents are given a tour around the school, meet key staff members, ask questions and watch a PowerPoint that gives key information about their child starting school.
- Before the child starts school, the parent must give details of the child so the school can begin the process of starting their child into the school. For example, the child's name, age, current school (if there is a current school), any ALN or medical needs.
- To access any information about the school the parent can use School A's website and social media.
- Play and stay was put in place on Friday mornings for parents to stay at the school once they have dropped their child off to play with their children and to see their child's progress and to ask any questions to the class teacher.

### Relationships with the community whilst in the school-

- School A have a project called the 'Doc Leaf Project' that aims to get people in the community back into the workplace. Members of the public/community under unemployment can start the project within the school to gain a NVQ qualification in Childcare or Teaching and Learning with support of the local collage and a school-based mentor. It's done by volunteering for a minimum of 16 hours a week. More than 40 staff members within School A that have completed the 'Dock Leaf Project'.

### About the community-

- Population - 9,663 (2021)
  - Area- 4.296 Km<sup>2</sup>
- Population Density- 2,249/Km<sup>2</sup> (2021)
- 313 people working from home
- 3,398 people travelling to work over 5km



### How the school engages with the community to support learning-

- There are currently 80 devices loaned to pupils and families who do not have access to a device at home. School A have purchased WIFI pads for families to take home to access the internet.
- A teacher within School A has set up a community choir for all pupils, staff and welcome anyone in the community that is interested in singing and being in a community choir. The community choir is age ranged from 4-80 years old.
- School A ensures that each child feels part of the community. Therefore, the class teachers and the school make sure they invite local agencies into class to speak and inform the children about the importance of their role. These can include; Emergency services, Nurse/Doctors, vicars and life-guards. To engage proactively with the UK vaccination programme, the school offers some childhood vaccinations encouraging all to have this opportunity incase parents are not able to access primary care services. Staff members commented how well this is taken up.

