

Parish News May 2021 – Creating a classroom environment that nurtures positive well-being by Sol Goremano

It's a cloudy dreary day, however, upbeat music can be heard everywhere on the school grounds. Parents wave goodbye to their children, they are greeted with a warm smile from the Head Teacher. Eager and excited the children race to their podlets (our version of classes). You can see as they enter our podlet, their body language is positive, smiles are convincing and there is a positive atmosphere in the room. This is intentional and this was planned.



If there is one thing that this year has taught us, is that 'preparation, preparation, preparation is the key.' This short but impactful statement was announced by Winston Churchill. In order to continue providing the best learning opportunities for the children of Llanrhidian Primary school we resorted to updating one of our learning spaces. After many contiguous days of research and planning we had a mood board with exact colour schemes, we knew what furniture we wanted and above all, the positive creative atmosphere that would foster well-being in the podlet.

Feedback from the children tells us that they love the new learning environment. They love the pastel-coloured round tables with contrasting-coloured chairs, that create an intentional mismatch in colour implying ingenuity and creativity. We opposed squared lines of rectangular tables in favour of round tables in order to foster an environment of community and collaboration. Round tables bring you closer together, they invite you to work together allowing everyone to share look at each other's work.



We wanted to be quite contemporary with the layout of the podlet. We have areas that invite you to use them like the carpeted area which allows for group discussion, storytelling and social games. A well-being tent surrounded by green plants that give you the impression you are in a modern jungle. One of the children's favourite spot in the podlet is the 'Cwtch Darllen'. This is a navy-blue corner couch with a grey soft feel rug that invites anyone who gazes on it to grab a book and be lost

for a while. The podlet inspires flexibility and creativity but at the same time sticks to the traditional values of allowing children to learn and better themselves academically.

At the end of the day smiles greet smiles as parents and carers take their children home in order to embrace another day again. The same process repeats, and each day is an opportunity to make a positive impact on their wellbeing. In order to support the learners in our school we had to cater for and prioritise their well-being.

