



St. Andrew's CE Primary School

Welcome to Reception

Preparing your child for starting school

Lunchtime

Practise using knives and forks at home during mealtimes, drinking from an open cup, clearing their own plate when they are finished and peeling fruit.

If they are going to have packed lunch then have a practise opening and closing the lunchbox, opening packaging and cartons.

Toileting

Try to encourage your child to use the toilet independently, wipe themselves and wash their hands afterwards. If you have any concerns then please speak to the class teacher so that they are aware of any concerns that you may have.

Resources

Discuss with your child how they can take care of their toys and resources and encourage them to tidy up when they have finished playing.

Additionally, discuss with your child the importance of looking after their own belongings, for example their water bottle, coat/jumper and book bags.

Uniform

Please make sure that your child has the correct uniform when they begin school.

Please make sure that all uniform is fully labelled.

Give your child opportunities to practise getting themselves dressed and undressed independently. Practise with buttons, zips and poppers.

Encourage children to put their socks and shoes on by themselves. Shoes must be buckle or velcro fixings, no shoelaces.

Nursery Rhymes and Songs

Having a bank of nursery rhymes and songs is a great way to prepare your child for school. It supports children with recognising rhyming words, syllables and rhythm. Additionally, nursery rhymes supports other areas of their learning. For example:

- Story sequencing
- Listening skills
- Numeracy skills

Oral Segmenting and Blending

A vital skill in early phonics is oral segmenting and blending. Having the ability to orally segment and blend words will support your child in their future learning in phonics.

Segmenting is when you break down a word into singular sounds (phonemes) for example c-a-t. Blending is when you put those sounds together to make the word. For example, r-ai-n = rain.

Encourage your child to do this at home through games such as i-spy or Simon Says. For example, "Simon says, can you p-a-t your head"

Just a reminder, there is no expectation for children to necessarily know the letters and their sounds before they start school. Children will be introduced to these sounds in Reception when they begin phonics.

Early Writing

Writing is a crucial skill that children need to learn so that they can express themselves and communicate. In Reception, we teach formal writing through our phonics lessons. However, before children can begin to write they have to have the physical skills and strength that will enable them to be able to hold a pencil and form recognisable letters.

These skills can be developed through lots of different ways. Here are a range of activities that you can try with your child at home to support them with developing their fine motor skills so that they are ready for writing.

Playdough Disco Only when children can isolate their fingers from their palm will they be able to hold and use a pencil correctly. This activity helps support children with strengthening their fingers and hands which will in turn help them write effectively.

You will need:

- A small amount of playdough
- Access to YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9 CaeGiL1TE>

Writing on a large scale is a fun and engaging way to interest children in mark-making. Here are some suggestions:

- Chunky chalks outdoors
- Mark making on large sheets of paper or cardboard
- Paintbrushes and water on the floor
- Writing in gloop (water and cornflour)

Reading at Home

In order for your child to become a lifelong reader, it is essential that they learn to read for pleasure and not "just for school."

Sharing stories at home is a wonderful way to support your child's love of reading. Reading at home supports children with their vocabulary as well as their understanding and comprehension. It supports speech and language skills, such as listening, concentration and speaking. It has also been found that children that enjoy reading are more likely to be confident writers.

- We encourage parents to read daily with their child even if it is just for 5 minutes.
- Model how to hold books appropriately, how to turn pages and that print has meaning.
- When reading the story, talk about the pictures in the book and what is happening in the story.
- Make predictions of what you think might happen next. Use funny voices for the characters to make it fun and encourage your child to join in with repeated refrains.

Name Recognition

Provide your child with lots of exposure to their name so that they will begin to recognise it. This will support them with identifying their peg, which will support them to independently hang up their coats and throughout the day. Additionally, children self-register in the morning, this is where children have to find their name and move it when they arrive at school. Therefore, having the ability to recognise their name will support them to do this.

It is not an expectation for children to be able to write their name when they start school. However, we do encourage children to have a practise at this if they are ready to do so. It will also support children with labelling their work at school.

If you are going to practise this at home, we strongly encourage that children use only a capital letter at the start of their name and lower case letters for the rest of their name.

Books About Starting School

If you're looking for a book to share to help your child with the transition to school, here's a few you could borrow from the library or purchase.

Starting School by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

Going to School by Rose Blake

Come to School Too, Blue Kangaroo! by Emma Chichester

Lulu's Big Day by Anna McQuinn

Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School by Ian Whybrow

The Tale of Starting School by Natalie Talisman and Kirsten Taylor

The Colour Monster Goes to School by Anna Llenas

When a Dragon Goes to School by Caryl Hart and Rosalind Beardshaw

Mooncat and Me by Lydia Corry

Mouse's Big Day by Lydia Monks