



**Titchmarsh**  
Primary School

**Early Years Foundation Stage**

# Getting ready to start school

A guide for Parents and Carers

## Willingness to communicate



Being able to talk to the adults and other children in school is vital for every child as they settle into school. Your child will want to talk to their friends as they play, to explain their ideas and create stories. They will also need to be able to ask for help if they need to. At home, encourage your child to talk clearly and confidently about the world around them, especially when exploring new situations.

## Being independent



At school your child will be encouraged to have a go at doing lots of things for themselves, especially in terms of organising their own things! Help your child to remember what their belongings look like and help them by getting them to have a go at being responsible for carrying them into school!

## Using the toilet



Toileting at school; it would be really helpful if your child is able to manage their own toileting and personal hygiene. We will be there to help any child who needs some support but it is important that they are willing to have a go on their own.

## Scissors and pencils



Using pencils and scissors can be tricky for little hands and it requires lots of practise. In school we will do lots of activities to strengthen gross and fine motor skills but there are lots of fun things you can do at home to help too. Why not play games such as Operation or Buckeroo! Try threading games, using tweezers, playing with dough and using pegs!

## Dressing and undressing



At school we will often change into our uniform from our PE kit, pull on coats and water proofs, swap into wellies and even try on dressing-up clothes! Zips, buttons, Velcro, tights and pulling clothes on can all be tricky for children so praise your child at home when they have a go! Help them to practise getting dressed independently and also show them how to make sure their clothes are the right way around!

## Eating



At school the children will eat their lunch with their friends and will be supervised by the mid-day supervisors. If your child is having hot dinners please help them to practise using a knife and fork, as well as sitting at a table to eat. If not, support them in being independent in opening their own packets and eating tidily.

## Separating from carers



Settling into the school environment can be tricky for some children and they may feel unhappy when you drop them off. Help your child by reassuring them that you will be back to pick them up soon and keep dropping off times brief.

## Positive attitudes towards learning with others.



Your child will interact with lots of other children at school, in many different situations. We will do lots of work on sharing, empathy, cooperation and taking turns. All children and adults will be expected to show respect to each other and their learning environment and resources.

## Reading



Share books with your child every day. Encourage a love of stories and show them how to look after their books. Ask them to answer questions about the story, recognise familiar characters and join in with repeated phrases. Make learning letter sounds fun by keeping sessions quick and easy and by looking for letters everywhere you go, especially those in their name!

## Writing



Encourage your child to practise writing the first letter of their name or more letters in their name. We have provided a laminated name card and if possible, please encourage your child to trace over the letters of their name using a dry-wipe marker pen. Drawing and colouring activities also support children with their fine motor skills and pencil grip.

## Counting



Being able to count is a fundamental skill. Help your child to develop a love of numbers by counting everyday objects and actions, such as steps, stairs and cars. Encourage them to spot numerals in the environment when you are out and about for example, bus numbers, when shopping.

As your child starts school there are lots of things you can do to support them. I will offer more ideas to support with specific areas once your child starts schools.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Mrs Moulam