













Welcome to Class 1

Things you can do to prepare for starting school

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- ❖ Share a book with a grown up every day
 - ❖ Practise drawing and writing using a tripod grip to hold your pencil.
 - ❖ Practise cutting out shapes and pictures.
 - ❖ Play board games with your friends and family.
 - ❖ Recognise and name colours.
 - ❖ Recognise your name and practise writing it.
 - ❖ Dress and undress yourself in school uniform and PE kit.
 - ❖ Put on your own shoes.
 - ❖ Use a knife and fork to eat your dinner.
 - ❖ Go to the toilet by yourself.
 - ❖ Practise counting to 10.
 - ❖ Help to tidy up at home and set the table for mealtimes.

<p>Share a book with a grown-up each day</p> 	<p>Books you might like to share with your child about starting school: 'Charlie & Lola - I am absolutely too small for school' (Lauren Child) 'Starting School' (Allan & Janet Ahlberg) 'Harry and the dinosaurs go to school' (Ian Whybrow) 'Topsy and Tim go to school' (Jean & Gareth Adamson)</p>
<p>Practise drawing and writing</p> 	<p>Encourage your child to hold a pencil using the 'tripod' grip and encourage them to pick up a pencil in this way each time they are writing and drawing so that it becomes natural for them to do so.</p>
<p>Practise using scissors</p> 	<p>Encourage your child to hold scissors correctly and practise cutting out pictures from magazines or along straight and wiggly lines. Remind them how to carry scissors around the room by holding the blades in the palm of their hand.</p>
<p>Play games with your family and friends.</p> 	<p>In school we have limited amounts of equipment and toys, so it is vital that your child is able to share and take turns when playing games. Games like 'Snakes and Ladders' 'Jenga' 'Kerplunk' or various card games are an excellent way for your child to understand all about sharing and taking turns.</p>

<p>Recognise and name colours</p> 	<p>Point out different colours when you are out and about, or refer to clothes and objects around the house by their colours to familiarise your child with the different colours and their names.</p>
<p>Recognise your name and practise writing it.</p> 	<p>Encourage your child to write their name in birthday cards or on gift labels for relatives. If they are drawing or painting remind them to write their name on their picture just like they will do when they come to school. This will help them recognise their possessions and things like their coat peg and work books in class.</p>
<p>Dress and undress yourself in school uniform and PE kit.</p>	<p>In school, we try to encourage independence and expect the children to attempt to put on their own clothes wherever possible, though adults in the classroom will help wherever necessary. If your child has the confidence to dress and undress independently, this will be a massive boost to their self-esteem and avoid anxiety about this aspect of school life.</p>
<p>Put on your own shoes.</p> 	<p>Encourage your child to put on and fasten their own shoes (it's probably a good idea to avoid lace ups at this stage!) Remind them which foot is which and please remember to put their name in their school shoes (along with any other garments that are going to be worn in school) as we often find children have the same style and size school shoes.</p>
<p>Use a knife and fork to eat your dinner.</p> 	<p>All children in Key Stage 1 are eligible for free school meals, which the majority of them have. Each day they receive a cooked dinner and a pudding. We encourage them to eat their dinner with a knife and a fork, saving the spoon for their pudding. By showing your child how to hold them properly, they will be happy and confident to enjoy their meal and the social aspect of dining in a group without the worry of how to eat.</p>

<p>Go to the toilet by yourself and wash your hands.</p> 	<p>Once again, we want your child to feel happy and relaxed about being in school. Inevitably, they are going to need to use the toilet at some stage during the day. By encouraging them to do so independently at home they will gain the confidence to do so in school, without the embarrassment of asking a new person they have just met to help them. Remember to remind them to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Obviously, staff will assist where and when necessary - the last thing any of us want is for your child to have 'an accident'.</p>
<p>Practise counting to at least 10.</p> 	<p>Encourage your child to spot and recognise numbers when you go out - car number plates, buses, house numbers or even price labels in the supermarket. Sing counting songs and rhymes with them to familiarise them with the order of the numbers. There are lots of examples on Youtube. Encourage them to count around the home - how many knives and forks do they need to set the table? How many socks have come out of the washing machine? How many toys of a particular type do they have? Etc</p>
<p>Help around the house.</p> 	<p>It's important to look after things and in school we encourage the children to tidy equipment away once they have finished with it and that it is kept in its proper place so everyone knows where to find things. By encouraging your child to tidy their toys and other things away at home you are reinforcing this message and encouraging good habits that will continue in the classroom. You are also giving your child the responsibility for their actions and their possessions, which is also something we will be encouraging in school.</p>
<p>I hope that these suggestions along with the Summer activities will help you prepare your child for starting school and that you have an enjoyable Summer. I am sure your child will have lots of questions about what is in store and maybe these will help to inform them about what is in store! We are all very much looking forward to meeting you and your child and working alongside you in the coming year as your child begins their full time education. If you have any queries or need further information, please contact the school - teachers will be available to speak daily from September either after school or over the telephone)</p>	