



Hampton Hargate Primary School

School Readiness Meeting
Tuesday 23rd May 2023

Welcome

The aim of this meeting is to help you prepare your child for when they start school.

All children are different and will all have different starting points.

Don't worry if you feel your child won't be able to do all the things we discuss tonight.

Come and talk to us; it is about a partnership.





Why school readiness?

We are responding to feedback from parents about how their child settled into school; how more information could have helped them prepare their child for starting school.



Why is school readiness so important?



We want the children to feel comfortable and confident when they start school.

They need to have certain skills to be able to do this.

Although we stagger the start for the children and have the opportunities to work with them in smaller groups, school is very different to pre-school/nursery.



Ready to Start School



Ready to Start School



Ready to **START** School

Help your child to be
...ready for school
...ready to learn
...ready to succeed

In Peterborough we have worked together to help every parent and carer to get their child ready to START school.

To do well in school children need to practise using pencils, paintbrushes, knives and forks; to listen and share and to say what they need.

This leaflet will give you tips so that you can make sure your child is ready for school.

Do not worry if your child cannot do these things by the time they start school: just keep practising together. If you need help use the contacts on leaflet.

If your child is ready to start school it is likely that they will do well in their whole education and get a job they enjoy.

You are your child's first teacher: trying the tips in this leaflet will really help your child to like learning, feel good about themselves and be happy to start school.

There are lots of things you can do to get your child ready for school. When your child starts school it will help to be able to do the following:

Shoes, socks and put on clothes

- ✓ Show your child, then encourage them to keep practising.
- ✓ Allow extra time in the mornings or when going out.
- ✓ Think about clothes and shoes that will be easier to get on and off. Make sure clothes and shoes have name labels.
- ✓ Choose clothes depending on the weather.
- ✓ Practise making sure clothes and shoes are the right way round.
- ✓ Practise buttons and zips.
- ✓ Let your child practise putting on their school uniform.
- ✓ Aim for them to get faster at getting dressed: make it a fun game.
- ✓ Give positive praise for trying.

Talk, listen, share and follow instructions

- ✓ Switch off technology for a while.
- ✓ Talk to your child about what you are doing around the house.
- ✓ Talk to your child about what they can see/hear/smell/feel/taste.
- ✓ Take your child to meet other children.
- ✓ Sing songs, read stories or share a book and talk about the pictures daily.
- ✓ In the evening, talk to your child about their day.
- ✓ Encourage turn taking within the family.
- ✓ Praise your child for following clear instructions.
- ✓ Borrow books from your library. It's free.

Ask for help

- ✓ Encourage your child to have a go at things and to ask for help when they need it.
- ✓ Model how to ask for help using a full sentence: "Please can you help me?"
- ✓ Let your child ask for things in shops, and be involved in choosing and paying when they're old enough.
- ✓ Talk about who to ask and find out who they have good relationships with - such as teachers, other children and nursery staff.
- ✓ Tell your child that it is ok to ask for help.
- ✓ Visit your library to choose a book with your child.
- ✓ Play alongside your child and talk about what you are doing.

Ready to try different foods and tools

- ✓ Find fun activities to get the hands and fingers moving e.g. playdough and Lego®.
- ✓ Sing and play finger rhymes e.g. Tommy Thumbs.
- ✓ Use pencils, crayons and paintbrushes to practise drawing and painting.
- ✓ Buy and explore new foods together.
- ✓ Show your child how to hold and use a knife, fork, spoon and scissors.
- ✓ Give your child a child-sized portion.
- ✓ Eat family meals together.
- ✓ Praise your child for trying new foods and using different tools.

Toilet on their own

- ✓ Talk to your child about using the toilet and washing their hands.
- ✓ Show your child how to wash and dry their hands.
- ✓ Remind your child to wash their hands after the toilet and before eating.
- ✓ Make sure your child wears clothes they can take down themselves.
- ✓ Give positive praise for trying to do this independently.
- ✓ Try using a reward chart to encourage your child.
- ✓ Ask for support from your health visiting team (aged 0-5 years) or school nurse (school age child).
- ✓ Tell your child it's ok to ask to use the toilet at school.

Build your child's confidence so that they start school curious and ready to learn. Positive encouragement from you will enable your child to feel good about themselves.

For further information and other helpful facts visit www.peterborough.gov.uk/START



Ready to Start School at Hampton Hargate



We have looked carefully at all the information in the Ready to Start School Leaflet and, after discussions with members of the Reception Team, we would really like you to support your child with the following:

- Pre-reading skills/early phonic activities.
- Listening skills
- Language skills.
- Independence.
- Concentration
- Fine motor control.





Pre-reading skills



- Reading plays such an important part in a child's education
- It lays the foundation for other literacy skills, it helps to ignite a child's creativity and imagination which has an impact on their writing.
- Please spend time reading to your child every day. It will help to develop a love of books and will also help to develop their language and listening skills. Ten minutes a day can make a huge, significant difference to your child's progress in school.

Pre-reading and Listening skills

- Getting into a reading routine will help you and your child when reading books are sent home from school. If they are use to spending a specific time with you each day sharing books it will be easy to continue this when they start school.
- Spending time reading to your child will help develop their listening skills. When they start school we will expect them to spend short periods of time sitting on the floor area listening to us teaching or reading them a story. If they are use to already having quiet times when they are expected to listen to you, it will help them in the long run.



Pre-reading skills / early phonic activities

- We don't expect children to know their letter sounds when they start school. There are however lots of early phonic activities and games you can play with your child before they start school.
- The emphasis is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills which form the basis of learning to read and write.
- We have provided you with a selection of activities that you can complete at home with your child to help develop these early phonic skills.



Pre-reading skills / early phonic activities

- We have provided you with a selection of activities that you can complete at home with your child to help develop these early phonic skills.
- If you do want to teach your child some sounds before they start school please make sure you teach them the letter sounds not the letter names.

Language/social skills



- It is important that you help to develop your child's language skills so they are able to communicate effectively with a range of adults in school.
- Spending a little time talking to them each day will help them to become effective communicators, it is like practising having conversations.
- This could be after their daily story time? Talking to them about what you have done during your day, asking them about what they have done. Expecting them to wait when you are speaking will help them to wait their turn in school.



Language/social skills

- Play games with your child as this will help to develop their listening and social skills. It will help them to be able to listen into instructions, wait their turn to go (and to speak) and to help develop concentration. Be sure to use the language of turn taking to help your child, like “Whose turn is it next?” and “Thank you for waiting”.
- If your child still has a dummy please reduce its use as much as possible leading up to them starting school. This will help them to develop their communication skills.



If your child is having speech therapy please make their class teacher aware (when they start school).

Language/social skills



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Independence

- Please spend time between now and September helping your child to become as independent as possible.
- Encourage them to use the toilet independently, cleaning themselves and washing their hands.
- It would be really helpful if they could put their coat on by themselves and by Christmas they will need to be able to dress and undress independently.
- When eating meals, please encourage them to use their knife and fork. Even if they can't cut up all their food, just a little would be a big help.



Independence

- In the early days it would also help if the children are able to put their shoes on and take them off independently. Velcro fasteners are much easier than laces (this goes for their P.E trainers too)



Concentration

- Being able to concentrate in 10-15 minute bursts will be really useful at school. This is roughly the amount of time we will be working with the children for when they start school.
- Enjoy extended play together – building kits like Lego are great for encouraging your child's resilience and concentration.
- Following instructions gives your child the opportunity to build up their levels of concentration.



Fine motor control

- Help develop your child's fine motor control by giving them opportunities to use pencils, pens, crayons and paint brushes.
- An ability to mark make using different equipment will give them a good starting point when they start school.
- If you would like to spend time helping your child to write their name please do. Please be mindful that your child only needs a capital letter at the start of their name (**they shouldn't be writing all their name in capital letters**).





What we expect from parents



Preparing for Starting School

- You will receive a letter at the beginning of June informing you of your child's class or who your child's class teacher will be. You will also receive information about their session times for September.
- End of June you will be invited into school for a short stay and play session. This will give you the chance to meet your child's class teacher and to spend time with your child in their classroom. This session will either take place on June 21st or June 28th and will be an afternoon session.



Preparing for Starting School

- We will hold another stay and play session for your child at the beginning of July. This time your child will attend without you and you will be invited to a new intake meeting when I will provide you with lots of information about school life. This will be a morning session.



Preparing for Starting School



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June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Reception Class One Group One Stay and Play Sessions

I would like to invite you and your child into school for two stay and play sessions as part of our transition process. This will give you and your child the opportunity to meet their class teacher/s before September and to also become familiar with their new classroom.

The first session will take place on Wednesday 29th June at 1.15-2.00pm. Please come to the front of the school at least 5 minutes before the sessions starts and you will be taken down to your child's classroom by a member of the Reception Team. As we will be holding another session later in the afternoon we will need to make sure we start promptly at 1.15pm so please can I ask that you do arrive before this time. This session is not suitable for younger siblings so we politely ask on this occasion that alternate child care arrangements are made for them. Unfortunately, if you do bring any younger children with you, we will not be able to allow you or any of your children to stay for this session.

The second session will take place on Wednesday 6th July at 9.15-10.15am. This session will be slightly different to the first in that the children will spend the time in their classroom with just their teacher and teaching assistant. Whilst the children are in their session, I would like to invite you to attend a new intake meeting in the school hall where I will share with you lots of information about our school and what to expect when your child starts school in September. Again, this meeting is not suitable for younger siblings so please can we ask you to make alternative arrangements for their childcare.

Due to the complexities of the timetabling and the current teaching commitments of the Reception Team, we are not able to offer any arrangements to attend different sessions if you are unable to attend your allocated session.

I look forward to meeting you and your child.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Arora
Foundation Stage Team Leader



Jeśli potrzebujesz tłumaczenia tego listu prosimy skontaktować się z jednym z pracowników sekretariatu.
if you need this letter translating please contact the office staff.



Preparing for Starting School



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Your child's school sessions Class One, Group One.

+	<p>Week 1</p> <p>Tuesday 5th September – Friday 8th September</p>	<p>Your child will attend school in the mornings (8.45am – 11.00am)</p> <p>Please drop off your child at their classroom door (via the main school entrance) and pick up from one of the designated points at the front of the school.</p>
	<p>Week 2</p> <p>Monday 11th September – Friday 15th September</p>	<p>Your child will attend school in the mornings (8.45am – 11.00am)</p> <p>Please drop off your child at their classroom door (via the main school entrance) and pick up from one of the designated points at the front of the school.</p>
	<p>Week 3</p> <p>Monday 18th September – Friday 22nd September</p>	<p>Your child will attend school in the mornings (8.35am – 11.45am)</p> <p>Please drop off your child at their classroom door (via the main school entrance) and pick up from one of the designated points at the front of the school.</p> <p>Friday 22nd September – 8:35am – 1:15pm Children will stay for lunch</p>
	<p>Week 4</p> <p>Monday 25th September onwards</p>	<p>Children will attend school full time</p> <p>Monday – Friday 8.35am – 3.15pm</p> <p>Please drop off and collect your child from their classroom door.</p>



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Thank you!

