

Hampton Hargate Primary School

School Readiness Meeting
Tuesday 20th May 2025



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

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

Ready to START SCHOOL

An easy guide to help your child to be
...ready for school
...ready to learn
...ready to succeed

PETERSBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

Ready to START SCHOOL

Help your child to be
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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:

S **T** **A** **R** **T**

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/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 Thumb
- 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

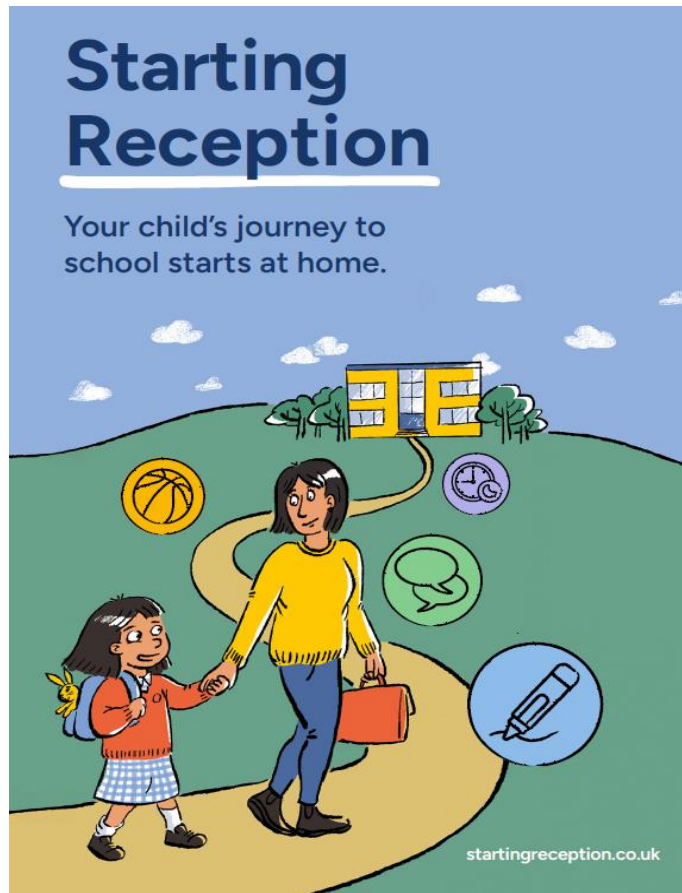
Build your child's confidence so that they start school curious and ready to learn. Positive encouragement from you will enable your child to feel good about themselves.

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



Our Expectations

- When we ask for children to be ready for school, what does this mean?



The definition: skills to practise before starting Reception:

New skills take time to learn. Practising at home will help your child move into school more easily and with confidence.

Growing independence



Taking care of themselves

- ✓ Putting on/taking off their coat and shoes
- ✓ Using the toilet and washing their hands
- ✓ Getting dressed with little help, e.g. after using the toilet or doing PE
- ✓ Using cutlery (e.g. fork and spoon, chopsticks) and drinking from an open cup
- ✓ Spending time away from you, learning they can be looked after by caring adults

Play, creativity and curiosity

- ✓ Taking part in imaginative play (e.g. role play)
- ✓ Drawing, painting, colouring and sticking
- ✓ Sharing story books, looking at pictures and talking about the characters
- ✓ Exploring the world around them (e.g. looking closely at the natural world, playing safely with objects at home)



At school your child will be meeting lots of new people and make new friendships. Some things to help them get ready include:

Building relationships and communicating



Being with others

- ✓ Practising sharing and taking turns with toys
- ✓ Talking to them about how they are feeling and why
- ✓ Looking at story books together and speaking about what characters are feeling is a good way to do this
- ✓ Beginning to recognise what others are feeling, e.g. understanding if a friend is sad
- ✓ Encouraging them to set boundaries for themselves and others (e.g. knowing how to say 'no')

Communication and language

- ✓ Singing along with songs and nursery rhymes
- ✓ Talking happily to others about activities, experiences and the world around them
- ✓ Showing they need help by speaking clearly (in basic English or sign language)
- ✓ Recognising the pattern of their name (so they can find it on their coat peg or jacket)

Listening and engaging

- ✓ Paying attention for short periods of time
- ✓ Listening to and following simple instructions
- ✓ Carrying on with a task even when it's difficult and bouncing back if things go wrong



Physical development



Getting moving for at least three hours a day

- ✓ Walking up and down steps (one foot at a time, using the wall for support)
- ✓ Climbing, running, jumping and playing
- ✓ Catching a large ball (most of the time)
- ✓ Doing simple puzzles and craft activities, strengthening their grip with cutting and sticking



Healthy routines



- ✓ Going to bed around the same time each night, waking up in time to get ready for school
- ✓ Limiting screen time to the recommended daily amounts (see advice)
- ✓ Eating a healthy diet and trying new foods
- ✓ Brushing their teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day (you'll need to supervise this until they are at least 7)



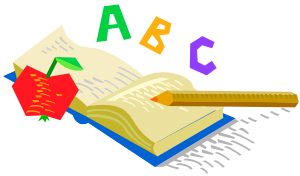
What can you do to be ready to start school at Hampton Hargate?



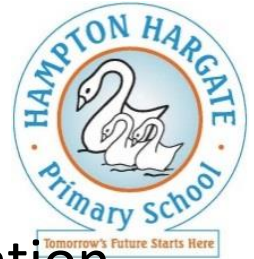
We have looked carefully at all the information in the Ready to Start School Leaflet and, after discussions with members of the Reception Team, we would encourage you to support your child with the following:

- 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.
- Singing nursery rhymes will also really help your child- we will be sharing links to these via Tapestry over the summer.

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 used 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 already experiencing 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.
- Please see the school web page to support with links for this.
- www.hampton-hargate.peterborough.sch.uk
On the main webpage please click on: Learning- Curriculum- Phonics
- We have provided you some handouts from Little Wandle that give information on the importance of sharing books and developing language through talk. This will help with early phonics skills.





Pre-reading skills / early phonic activities

- The first step 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.
- Games such as I spy, tuning into sounds they can hear around the house or out and about, play 'Simon Says' and stress first sound. Any games where children need to listen.
- 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. *On website- half way down the page- 'Click here for correct enunciation of sounds.*

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.
- Think of this as playing tennis- Each interaction should have a focus and a return. Where eye contact and waiting to reply are all part of the exchange.
- 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.



Language/social skills



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





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 they will need to be able to dress and undress independently for PE.
- 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 should have received a welcome pack from us by post and via email.
- This pack will have contained the invite for this evening and informed you of the 'Teddy Bears Picnic event'. These places are limited so you will need to book in for the slot for you and your child.
- Tuesday 3rd June 3.30-4.00 or Thursday 5th June 3.30-4.00.
- These are an informal and hopefully fun way to introduce your child to our reception team and learning environment. We will have our teams in the outside area, waiting with teddies to share a story and snack with you all on blankets.
- Unfortunately, in order to make this as comfortable and manageable for all, we are limited to one adult and child to each place.



Preparing for Starting School

- You will receive a letter at the beginning of June informing you of your child's class following the Picnic event and 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 take place on June 24th June and will be an afternoon sessions at either 1.15-2.00 or 2.15-3.00.



Preparing for Starting School

- We will hold another stay and play session for your child in the morning on the 2nd July at either 9.15-10.15 or 10.45-11.45. 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

Dear Parents/Carers

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 **Tuesday 24th June at 1.15-2.00pm**. Please come to the front of the school 5 minutes before the session starts and you will be taken down to your child's classroom by a member of the Reception Team. As we have teaching commitments at the end of the **day** we will need to make sure we start promptly at **1.15pm** so please can I ask that you arrive on time. This session is **not** suitable for younger siblings, so we politely ask on this occasion that alternative childcare arrangements are made for them. Unfortunately, if you do bring any younger children with you, we will not be able to accommodate you or any of your children to stay for this session.

The second session will take place on **Wednesday 2nd 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

Laura Mille

Dear Parents/Carers

Reception Class **One**
Group **TWO** 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 **Tuesday 24th June at 2.15-3.00pm**. Please come to the front of the school 5 minutes before the session starts and you will be taken down to your child's classroom by a member of the Reception Team. As we have teaching commitments at the end of the **day** we will need to make sure we start promptly at **2.15pm** so please can I ask that you arrive on time. This session is **not** suitable for younger siblings, so we politely ask on this occasion that alternative childcare arrangements are made for them. Unfortunately, if you do bring any younger children with you, we will not be able to accommodate you or any of your children to stay for this session.

The second session will take place on **Wednesday 2nd July at 10.45-11.45am**. 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



Preparing for Starting School

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

Below is the information regarding your child's sessions for the staggered intake in September.

Week 1	Tuesday 2 nd September – Friday 5 th September	Children will attend school in the mornings (8.35am-11.00am) 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.
Week 2	Monday 8 th September – Friday 12 th September	Children will attend school in the mornings (8.35am-11am) 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.
Week 3	Monday 15 th September – Friday 19 th September	Children will attend school in the mornings (8.35am – 1.15pm) Please drop off your child at their classroom door and pick up from one of the designated points at the front of the school. Children will stay for lunch this week Welcome Meeting Monday 15th September 8.35-9.20am
Week 4	Monday 22 nd September onwards	Children will attend school full time Monday – Friday 8.35am – 3.15pm Please drop off and collect your child from their classroom door.



Preparing for Starting School

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

Below is the information regarding your child's sessions for the staggered intake in September.

Week 1	Tuesday 2 nd September – Friday 5 th September	Children will attend school in the afternoons (1.00pm – 3:15pm) Please drop off your child at the main school entrance and pick up from their classroom door via the playground.
Week 2	Monday 8 th September – Friday 12 th September	Children will attend school in the afternoons (1.00pm – 3:15pm) Please drop off your child at the main school entrance and pick up from their classroom door via the playground.
Week 3	Monday 15 th September – Friday 19 th September	Children will attend school in the mornings (8.35am – 1.15pm) Please drop off your child at their classroom door and pick up from one of the designated points at the front of the school. Children will stay for lunch this week Welcome Meeting Monday 15th September 8.35-9.20am
Week 4	Monday 22 nd September onwards	Children will attend school full time Monday – Friday 8.35am – 3.15pm Please drop off and collect your child from their classroom door.





Preparing for Starting School

- Please do not worry about any of the information given today, we will send all information to you via email.
- But also keep in mind you can find our information on the school website.
- (This presentation is already on the site)





Thank you!

