

Getting Ready For Reception at F and B

Some information and tips to make your child's first weeks in Reception as positive as possible.

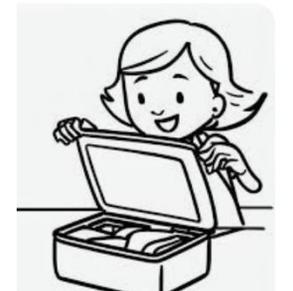
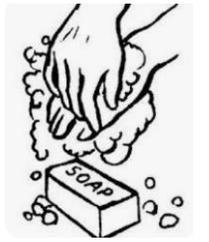


Over the summer.....

Being independent

Please encourage your child to independently:

- Wash their hands .
- Go to the toilet, wipe themselves and pull up their underwear.
- Put on their shoes, jumpers and coats.
- Use a knife and fork.
- Open their lunchboxes.



Build interpersonal skills

- Encourage sharing and taking turns through games and conversations.
- Practise talking and listening. Give your child your full attention when they speak and maintain eye contact - and hopefully they will listen to you too!
- Try to solve problems with words; talk about it instead of getting upset.
- Arrange play-dates and picnics to improve your child's social skills. Practise following simple instructions. Maybe parents can meet over the summer via the WhatsApp group.
- Develop a 'have a go' attitude and an understanding that it is ok to make mistakes, as we can learn from them.

Getting ready for learning.....



- Introduce them to literacy and numeracy skills. There are many easy things you can do at home to support your child's learning:
- Help them to **recognise their name** so that they can find their space in the cloakroom.
- Do lots of drawing and colouring to **practise holding a pencil**.
- Talk with your child throughout the day and explain new words.
- **Share a book together every day**, even if it's just for a few minutes. Talk about the pictures, characters and stories; find rhyming words or repeated words. Ask them what they think will happen next.
- **Introduce number through rhymes and songs** like 5 little ducks. Play number games like dominoes and hopscotch.
- Count — everything — stairs at home, cars going past, birds in the park, and, if you're lucky, toys as you put them away!

On their first day.....



Be positive

When talking to your child, please be positive about then starting Reception, even though you might be feeling anxious. We will support them from the minute they walk through the door, and we also listen to your concerns too.

On the day

Try and make sure everything is ready the night before, so the children are prepared, and you are not rushing.

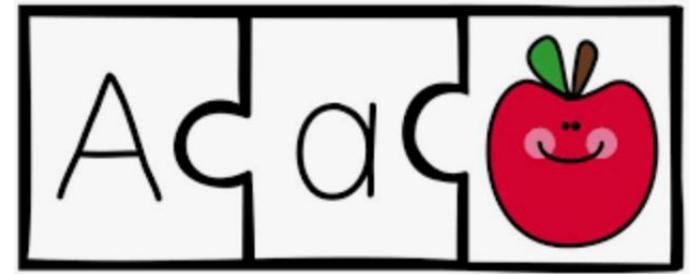
Drop off

Please try and let us take your child up the ramp. Saying goodbye can be hard for you and your child. If they are upset, it is often better to say a quick and cheerful goodbye and then go. It sounds harsh, but it gives your child the message that you are confident that they will be fine.



Just a quick reminder about parking: You can park in East Park, or in the carpark beside the Old Harlow shops. We will give you a pass that allows you to park there for free.

Phonics



Phonics is very important. It underpins all the children's reading and writing. We use a scheme called ELS, which has proved to be very successful.

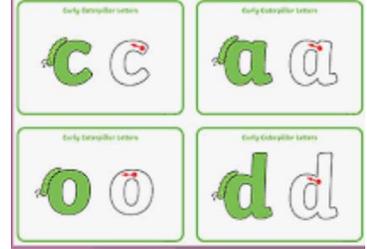
We start with **Phase 2 phonics**, where children learn to recognise letters and say the sound they make. We may cover Phase 1 if your child is not ready to learn letters and their sounds.

It you wish to prepare your child here are some fun and easy to access websites to look for.

Geraldine the Giraffe - <https://youtu.be/KtNWFUVgaRk> this link will take you to a video learning the letter **a** and it's sound. There are fun videos for all the letters and the digraphs (two letters that make one sound eg 'ch'.)

Letters and Sounds - <https://ictgames.com/phonicsPop/index.html>

Letter formation



Forming letters correctly from the start is really important. Here is a link to more information about letter formation.

<https://content.twinkl.co.uk/resource/f2/92/t-p-1692685797-letter-formation-explained-for-parents-ver-1.pdf?token=exp=1719741849~acl=%2Fresource%2Ff2%2F92%2Ft-p-1692685797-letter-formation-explained-for-parents-ver-1.pdf%2A~hmac=976e0372df10022d886ee5fab5eb27203649c1031060609c2d4949c6d1ef08b2>

If your child is not ready to form letters, we may spend some time building up their hand strength and working on making basic shapes.

CORE MUSCLES

Many people are not aware that we need core muscle strength to help us write. Encouraging your child to swim and climb can make a huge difference.

Here is a link to some fun core muscle activities: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/active-preschool-balance-and-core-cards-roi-ar-1632216294>

Maths



- In Reception we work with numbers 1 – 10. To support their learning, you can encourage your child to recognise these numbers. Look at the number 2 for example and ask them to find 2 socks. Count everything and look for numbers in the environment. They are everywhere!

