

Clenchwarton Primary School



Welcome to our School



CONTENTS

Welcome to Reception Class	3
Helping your child	4
Helping your child explore	5
The home environment	6
Playing games	7
Language and literacy	8
Fine motor skills	9
Mathematical skills	10
Starting school - your first day	11
Absence	12
Partnership	13



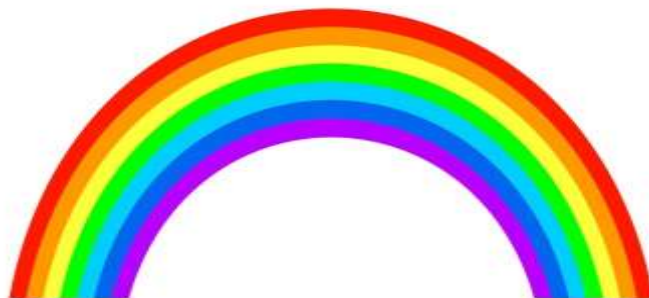
The purpose of this booklet is to give you some ideas of the skills needed by your child and the ways in which you can develop them, so that your child will be settled quickly into school life.

With the unique situation we are in at the moment I appreciate that it is less easy to gain information about your child starting school. I hope you find this booklet useful and it gives you the information you need. However, if you have any further questions you can still email or telephone the school office. We will endeavour to find the answer and get back to you as soon as possible, please understand though that there may be some things we cannot answer due to the uncertainty that surrounds us currently.

We are all here to support you and your child on this new adventure.

Take care, stay safe and keep making memories.

Mrs J Williams



HELPING YOUR CHILD

Children learn by doing and with real experiences they will develop emotionally, physically and intellectually and learn about the social world of people.

Self-help skills are necessary if children are to start feeling confident and happy. Encouraging good hygiene habits, allowing opportunities for children to dress and undress themselves, tackling a variety of fasteners and types of clothing, especially in light of a classroom of similarly dressed children all needing to get changed quickly. Named clothing and shoes helps us to help your child retrieve their own belongings.

Choosing clothes that your child can manage, such as polo shirts or Velcro fastened shoes can help this process. Until your child can tie his/her own laces then they are not practical for school.

Here are some skills which you might want to work towards before your child starts school, and then reinforce even when they have started. It all adds to your child's independence.

Talking with adults and other children
Using a knife and fork
Using 'please' and 'thank you'
Playing contently on their own
Playing with a friend
Playing with a small group
Learning to tidy up
Sharing toys and taking turns
Going to the toilet independently
Flushing the toilet
Turning taps on and off
Washing and drying their hands
Undressing and dressing themselves
Putting on and fastening their coats
Listening to and carrying out simple instructions
Asking questions
Recognising their name.



HELPING YOUR CHILD EXPLORE

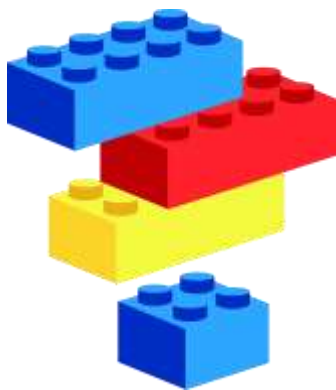
Allowing children to explore and make their own discoveries will help them to develop their own ideas and theories about the world.

Encourage your child to look closely at things, with binoculars or magnifying glasses if available, and let them talk about what they see.



Examples of things that can be investigated are:

- Mini Beasts, ladybirds, worms, caterpillars, spiders
- Reflections in mirrors, puddles, tins
- Patterns in Kaleidoscopes
- Unusual fruits - taste them, cut them in half to see the patterns and seeds
- Make shapes and patterns with building blocks/Lego, for them to copy
- Play 'I Spy' games - something with wheels, something to cuddle etc.
- Play 'matching games' - find another one like this.



THE HOME ENVIRONMENT

Use the home environment as a learning experience. Here are some suggestions:



- Talk about things inside and outside
- Compare your house and garden with others in your road
- Look at the shapes of windows and doors. Count them
- Look at the patterns of bricks, manhole covers, gates etc.
- Talk about what you see from each window
- Watch and talk about the traffic, birds and people. Can they name different animals?
- Look closely at the flowers growing in the garden. Name them. Discuss their similarities and differences. Count how many flowers of a particular colour are growing in the garden.
- On any outing by bus, train, car - tell your child where they are going, using place names and not just 'the seaside'. Draw their attention to signs and notices
- At the supermarket, look at the different signs and aisles - what do you find in them? Sets of items on sale e.g. fruit and vegetables - do they know what they are called? What are they used for? Can they find an item and put it in the trolley?
- Can they remember 5 things on your shopping list?



PLAYING GAMES

Children enjoy games with rules. Here are some suggestions of games to play



'I packed my bag,' - You say "I packed my bag and in it I put..." name one new thing to add to the list each time going around the group

'Kim's game' - a collection of objects on a tray which the child looks at, you then cover and take something away and then the child is to say what is missing

Board games using dice and counters

Simple card games like snap or matching pairs

All of these build many important skills, including counting, order, exploring similarities and differences and encouraging turn taking



LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Sharing books, talking about pictures, reading stories and poetry, especially simple rhyming verses are important. Also making up stories and telling stories to one another is a fantastic skill to develop. In turn giving your child a good vocabulary and a love of books.

Help them to follow instructions. Make them short and easy to begin with e.g. "put teddy on the chair." Then make them more complex e.g. "go into the kitchen and bring me two teaspoons."

Songs are another good source of language, they are also fun and interactive, getting children involved.

An essential element of reading, spelling and writing is phonics, which are the sounds that the letters make, and during the first part of your child's school life this will be built upon. These are taught through daily phonics lessons and activities, which will be explained more in September.



HELPFUL HINTS FOR READING

When they are ready your child will bring a reading book home. Please could you read with your child at least three times a week. It is useful if you could comment in their reading record each time you hear them read or just date and sign.

Explore the book together, encourage your child to use his phonics to read the words, offer support if needed. Talk about the pictures, characters and events. Some questions you could ask are:

How do the characters feel?

How would you feel?

What do you think the story's about?

Can you think of a different ending?



FINE MOTOR SKILLS



Providing your child with plenty of experience with different tools such as paintbrushes, pencils, felt pens, crayons, scissors, rolling pins, beads, cutters etc. will help to develop their fine motor control. Being able to control the muscles in their hands will help them to gain the correct dexterity to be able to write neatly and correctly.

Fine motor skills are essential and yet can be easily encouraged through everyday activities.

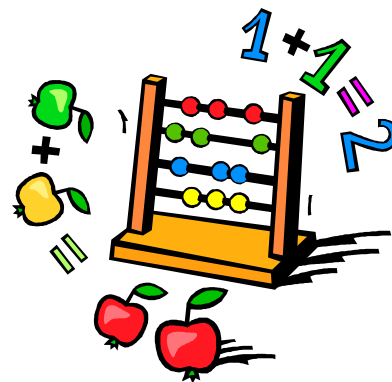
Some examples are:

- Threading beads/pasta
- Lacing cards
- Drawing around templates
- Drawing and painting pictures
- Colouring pictures
- Making patterns
- Cutting with scissors
- Rolling and shaping playdough



MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

There are lots of opportunities for Maths in everyday life. Counting the stairs, setting the table, the possibilities are countless!



Patterns and sequences form a large part of early maths. Toys, Lego bricks, sticky shapes are examples of things that can be used to explore this.

Sorting buttons, boxes, Lego bricks etc. by colour, shape, or size is an invaluable activity for reinforcing concepts.

Finding things that are long, short, tall etc. and comparing them.

Counting objects, counting rhymes, books, playing cards, all can be used to help number recognition and concepts.



STARTING SCHOOL-YOUR FIRST DAY

Monday 7th September 2020



Children arrive at school from 8.40 am and can go straight into class. Teaching staff are on gate duty at 8.40 am, if you need to leave a message for a teacher. A member of staff is also on playground duty at the end of the day from 3.15 p.m. - 3.25 p.m.

Your child will start school on Monday 7th September 2020 however due to the current situation; we will need to send you further clarification about this nearer the time. We appreciate your cooperation.

On your child's first day they will need to bring:

- A bag containing a P.E. Kit - please note that this is to be in school at all times. We will send home half termly for a wash.
- A pair of wellies - which can be taken home at weekends.

Please ensure that all clothing is named and checked regularly and re-written if necessary. Please check occasionally that your child's plimsolls are the correct size throughout the year.

If you are concerned for any reason about how your child is settling in. Please feel free to contact the school office who will be happy to check up on your child.

THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The end of the school day will be 3:10pm. At all times children will be escorted out of the class by Mrs Williams, Mrs Calaby and Miss Yates. We need to be able to see all parents in the playground so please stand well back away from the gate and if we don't see you please give us a wave until we get to know you. Thank you.

Please inform the school if you will not be able to pick up your child and have made alternative arrangements. This is because we will not let them go unless we know who is picking them up.

If for any reason you are going to be late, please let the school know again, so that we can ensure your child's safety.

ABSENCE

If your child is going to be away from school, then can you please ring the school on that morning to let us know the reason and continue to phone daily if it is a case of them being unwell. If we are not informed, your child's absence will be marked as unauthorised and will appear on their school report and the school attendance figures.



Permission may be granted for time off from school in exceptional circumstances. If this is the case, you will need to collect a form from the office which can be submitted to the Headteacher for her consideration.

Snack - The children will be provided with a fruit snack each day. This will be a variety of fruit e.g. tomatoes, apples, bananas, pears, carrots and other seasonal fruit. You can send in a healthy snack with your child if they would prefer. We do not allow children to have crisps or chocolate at breaks.

Your child will be provided with a free water bottle at the start of term, which will be sent home each Friday to be washed and needs to be returned on a Monday.

MONEY MATTERS

SCHOOL DINNERS - All children in Key Stage 1 (Reception to Year 2) are entitled to free school meals. As soon as we are able to, we will supply you with a copy of the menu.



PARTNERSHIP

Your child's education is a partnership and the liaison between home and school is vital.

COME AND SEE US

Once your child has started coming to school, we are always available to talk to. The end of the school day is the best time to talk to me, as I have more time to speak to you. For more important issues please make an appointment to see me via Mrs Higby the school secretary.

