

# Clenchwarton Primary School



**Welcome to our School**



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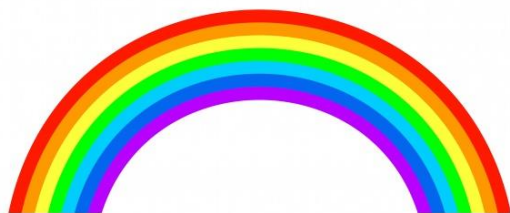


This booklet is to give you vital information before your child starts school. The ideas and tips are for skills that will be helpful for your child to have at least an awareness of before starting school. For example, things such as putting their own coat on or washing their hands are skills needed multiple times daily. We do understand that children develop at different rates and some children may take longer to develop a new skill, such as sharing and turn taking with a small group of children. However, giving lots of practise and support to your child in these coming months will help ready them for the experience of school life.

If you have any further questions, please do contact the school office via email or telephone.

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, we would prefer them not to be worn 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

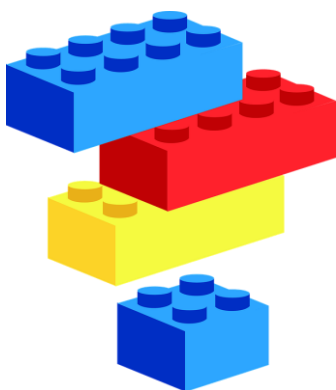
Allowing children to explore and make their own discoveries will help them to develop their own ideas and theories about the world.



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



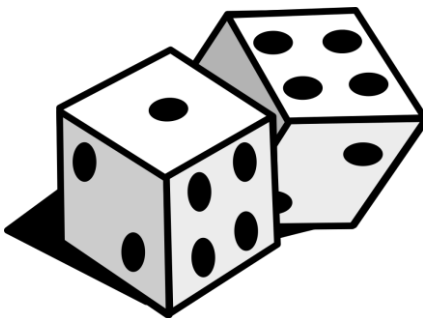
'I packed my bag,' - You say "I packed my bag and in it I put..." name one new thing to add to the list each time going around the group

'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.

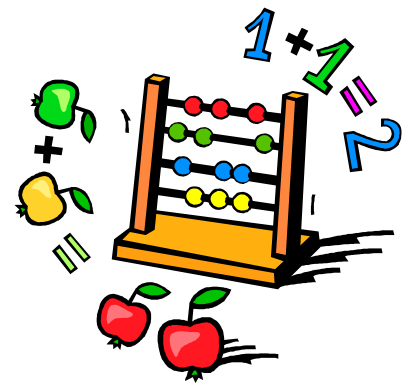
Some examples are:

- 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 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Children can arrive at school at 8.40 am and can go straight into the classroom.

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 and/or Mrs Calaby.

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 also let the school know, so that we can ensure your child's safety. Thank you.



## ABSENCE

If your child is going to be away from school, then please ring the school on that morning to let us know the reason and continue to phone daily if are still 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.

## **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. You can make an appointment through the school office or by contacting me on Class Dojo.

