



Welcome

to

Lancaster Lane Primary School

Your child is about to start their learning journey at Lancaster Lane and we are delighted that they will be joining us.

Starting a new school is a momentous time in your child's life. New friends, a new place and new experiences: it is a whole new world. Every school day will be part of the developmental process of maturing, learning and growing. Starting school is an exciting time for young children and their parents. It can also be a daunting time too, but, with a little preparation and encouragement most children will quickly settle into school.

Enclosed is some information that you may find useful in preparing your child for starting school.



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Preparing for School - Top Tips!

Starting school is a milestone in the life of a child and their parents. Our aim is to make the transition to school as smooth as possible. Here are some tips to help your child be prepared for school:

Practical Skills

Encouraging Independence

During the first few weeks of school, we will focus on developing your child's independence, following routines and developing friendships.

In our experience, children who are independent and have good self-help skills are more able to settle confidently into school routines. It is only when this is achieved that children can then take advantage of the exciting learning opportunities available to them. To prepare your child for this please support us by allowing them to do things independently at home.

Dressing and Undressing

Encourage confidence by allowing themselves and praise their efforts at every opportunity. It is helpful if children can put on and take off coats, including doing up zips and buttons, and to put on their own shoes (top tip: if your child is struggling to put their shoes on the right feet, cut a sticker in half and stick half on the inside of each shoe so they have to match them up before putting them on).

Self-care

It is important that your child is toilet trained, unless there is a specific medical issue. They will need to be able to use the toilet and flush it properly, wash their hands and tidy. Teach them to use a tissue and request help if needed. Here's a catchy song to sing to encourage hand washing: [Wash your Hands](#).

Eating

Your child will be staying for lunch at school and will have the opportunity of having a school dinner or a packed lunch. Encourage them to eat with a knife and fork and praise them for helping to clear away their plates.



Education Skills

You may want your child to be able to read and write a little before they start school. That is fine if it is what you want and your child is keen to get started, but it is definitely not a requirement. However, there are a few things you can do that will help on a practical level, and encourage your child to enjoy learning:

Help them recognise their name

It is helpful if your child can recognise their name written down (you can practise this when you are labelling their uniform!). But really do not worry; teachers will put a picture or photo by each child's name on their lockers and trays to make it easier for them.

Read to them

Research tells us that reading to your child is the most important way you can support your child's early learning. Make time for lots of reading and bedtime stories.

Get them used to letters and numbers

This does not need to be anything more than recognising letters of the alphabet and numbers up to 10 or 20. There are lots of colourful and fun alphabet and counting books available.

Social and Emotional Skills

Just like physical and educational skills, children develop socially and emotionally at their own pace. Mastering these skills early on will help them get used to school life:

Sharing and taking turns

If your child has brothers or sisters, or they have been to nursery or pre-school, they will be used to this already. But it is always good to check they have understood that sharing is a two-way process!

Listening and sitting still

In the Reception Class, at certain times your child will be expected to sit still and listen to basic instructions from their teacher. You can help with this at home by sitting together to do a jigsaw, colouring, or looking at books.

Helpful hints for your child's first weeks at school

It is important that you establish a good routine early. Check that all items – uniform, bag – are ready for the morning. Do this in a calm fashion and don't have your child over-excited or anxious going to bed. Give plenty of time in the morning for dressing, washing and eating a good breakfast. It is important that your child arrives at school before class starts as children can find it very intimidating to a walk into a class already in progress.

On the big day when they start school, if you are feeling upset, don't show it! Children like routines, so give them a hug and a kiss and tell them to have a happy day. Help them to the door and give them confidence by smiling and waving to them - no matter how sad you may feel.

If your child is upset, trust the adults who work with your child. They are very experienced and knows how to comfort an anxious child. Above all talk to us, your child will be happy and successful at school if there is a strong partnership between us.

Experience has shown that a child who settles happily in the first few weeks of school is likely to have a happy school life. No matter what pre-school experience your child has had, he/she will be starting a new stage of their learning journey and will have to get used to a new environment with unfamiliar adults and peers.

At some stage in the first term, you should expect a few tears in the mornings. These can come from your child or yourself! We're quite used to dealing with both. Some parents experience changes in their child's behaviour at home. Previously "model" children can become cheeky, tearful, argumentative or non-communicative. Some may even start bed wetting again. Don't panic. This is quite a normal reaction to change and the situation will soon ease. Very often children are very tired when they get home. If possible, try to give your child a short time of special attention as a welcome home.

Some things to avoid

It is natural to feel nervous about your child starting school but remember that your child can easily pick up on your emotions. Try to be relaxed and positive rather than showing your own nerves. Try not to bombard your child with endless talk about school. Treat it in a matter of fact way rather than focusing on the big step ahead will soothe an anxious child.



Visiting School

Visiting school is a great idea as it allows your child to become familiar with their new surroundings. Whether it is visiting our Summer Fair (on 7th July) or attending the Open House Saturday on September 3rd can help familiarise you both with the new learning environment. Mrs Geldard will be happy to show you around beforehand too. Please phone the office to make an appointment on 01772 433641 if you'd like to book in a visit.

Important things to remember

Uniform

School uniform can be purchased at: www.stitchdesign.co.uk

(Please ensure all items are clearly labelled)

- White shirt / polo shirt
- Navy sweatshirt, cardigan, jumper (no other colours please)
- Black Skirt / Pinafore dress / trousers
- Shoes – black, flat and below the ankle (velcro shoes advised). No boots or trainers
- Grey or white socks
- Tights – black or grey.
- Summer dresses - blue check (can be worn with navy cardigan, no other colour)

Clothes for P.E:

P.E. day is on a Monday when the children will be required to attend school in their PE Kit.

- Tracksuit bottoms or black shorts in the summer.
- White T shirt
- White or Black plain trainers

Hair

Please tie back long hair

Jewellery

Children should only wear stud earrings for school - no other jewellery. Children must not wear earrings for PE.

Book Bags

Children are required to bring a book bag to school daily. (These can be purchased from the school office).

Please let your child know if there is something in the bag that needs to be handed in.

School Dinners

All Reception and Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a free school meal. Water or milk is provided to drink. Children have a choice of 3 dinners and the menus are sent home each half term to be completed and returned to school.

Packed Lunch

If your child would like to bring a packed lunch to school, please ensure it is stored in a box/bag which is clearly labelled. We are a healthy school so promote healthy lunches. No sweets, peanuts, peanut butter, Nutella, fizzy drinks or cans of any kind are permitted.

Snacks and Drinks

In the morning the children in reception have snack time in their Keyworker groups. This is a £1 a week which is collected at the beginning of each half term.

Fruit is provided each afternoon to children in the Reception Class.

Please send your child to school with a water bottle every day. This should be tap water only – no juice or flavoured water.

Milk

Milk is provided for all children under five.

When your child is over five:

1. Go to www.coolmilk.com
2. Register online and arrange payments

Attendance

If your child is unable to come to school, please notify the school office. Please state your child's name, class and reason for absence. The school office will phone home if no message has been received.

Holidays during term time will not be authorised.

After School Collection

It is important for you to meet your child on time. 5 minutes late may seem nothing to you, but is a long time to a young child. If there are unexpected circumstances which mean you are going to be late, please phone school so we can reassure your child. Please inform the school if your child is going to be collected by someone who is not named on the contact list.

Sickness

We operate a 48 hours policy for sickness and diarrhoea (Health Authority recommendation). Children should not return to school for 48 hours after the last episode.

Medical Conditions

If your child has a medical condition, please ensure you have registered this at the office.

Asthma

If your child suffers from asthma a form will need to be completed and discussed with a member of staff.

Children should never bring medicine, cough sweets or lip salves into school.

SEND

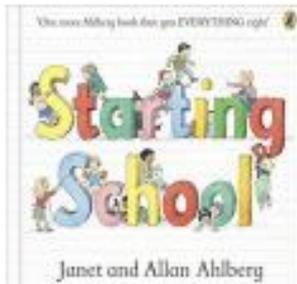
If your child has a Special Educational Need and /or is known to the Speech and Language Therapy Service, please ensure you inform us on the admission forms.

A Day in Reception

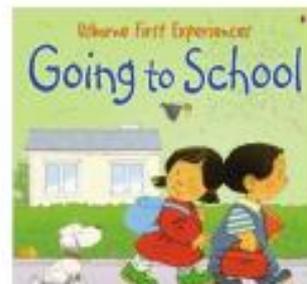
The Reception school day starts at 8:45am. The children will enter their classrooms via the Reception playground at the back of the school. Every morning a member of staff will greet them at the door and be on-hand to answer any brief questions and deal with any concerns.

8:45am	Doors open
9:00am	Registration
9:10am	Session 1
9:20am	Continuous Provision
10:30am	Snack and Milk
10:45am	Continuous Provision
11:30pm	Session 2
12:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Registration
1:10pm	Session 3
1:30pm	Continuous Provision
2:45pm	Session 4
3:00pm	Storytime
3:20pm	Home time

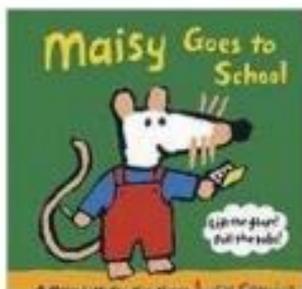
Some starting school books to read with your child.



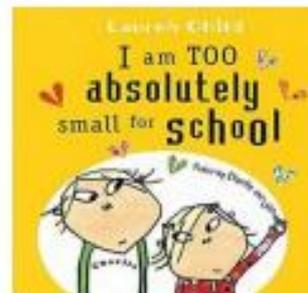
Starting School
Janet and Allan Ahlberg



Going to School
Anne Civardi & Stephen Cartwright



Maisy Goes to School
Lucy Cousins



I am Too Absolutely Small for School
Lauren Child

We look forward to meeting and getting to know you.

