**Starting School**

Going to school for the first time is an exciting time for your child. In order to help your child get ready for school, there are a few things that can be done to help make the transition to school life smooth and enjoyable. By performing a few simple tasks, your child will be better prepared to start their new adventure!

You can help your child be ready for school by (in no particular order) helping them to:

* Retell simple and well known stories
* Share books and talk about them
* Sing simple songs and nursery rhymes from memory
* Name common colours and shapes
* Colour in pictures
* Draw simple pictures and talk about their drawing
* Recognise own belongings
* Play alongside and share with other children
* Manage personal hygiene including toileting, nose blowing and hand washing
* Get dressed independently
* Touch count carefully
* Ask for help
* Share with other children
* Eat lunch using the correct utensils
* Tidy up!

It will be useful to talk to your child about starting school and to make the whole process as exciting as possible.

**Parental Engagement**

Children make the very best progress when they are supported by all the adults who are important to them. To enable you to offer the best support we try to provide you with as much information as possible, through newsletters, parent workshops and through informal meetings.

We know that you are your child’s first educator and wish to work in partnership with you in this important stage in your child’s life and education. Communication is vital to this relationship. If there are important changes in your child’s life please let us know. We will also speak with you if we have any concerns regarding your child. If you are at all worried about anything to do with school or your child, no matter how small, please see a member of staff - sometimes small problems can become bigger if they are not dealt with straight away. Please feel free to share your child’s achievements with us and we welcome your contributions e.g. ‘Fred can zip up his coat independently’. Staff are usually available at the beginning and at the end of the day for a quick chat – if there is anything that requires a bit more time then please make an appointment.