

# Clenchwarton Primary School



# Welcome to our School



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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 quickly feel settled when starting school.

We hope you find this booklet useful but if there is anything that you would like to know before your child starts school in September, we are always available before or after school, to put your mind at ease.

Ms. Borley, Executive Headteacher for West Lynn Primary School, Clenchwarton Primary School and Walpole Cross Keys Primary School, is also available to answer your questions about the school.

Our Assistant Head will be available for any concerns in Ms. Borley's absence.

So if we don't see you before then, here's looking forward to September.

Many thanks

Mrs J Williams & Mrs R Eyre

## 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. Naming 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

Saying 'No' and meaning 'No' - so your child understands

Talking with 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

Taking turns

Going to the toilet independently

Flushing the toilet

Turning taps on and off

Washing and drying their hands

Undressing

Dressing themselves

Putting on and fastening their coats

Listening to and carrying out simple instructions

Asking questions

Recognising their name.

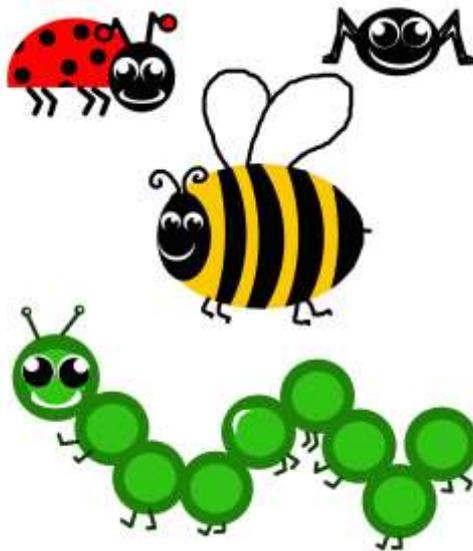
## HELPING YOUR CHILD EXPLORE

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 learn through repetition, so any fun activity will make them want to do it again.

There are many games that can be played with your child, and memory games are a good place to start.

Games with dice, pictures, words and numbers will develop their minds.

'Matching Pairs,' 'I packed my bag,' 'Kim's game' - a collection of objects on a tray which the child looks at, take something away and then the child is to say what is missing are all easy games to play.

Board games, card games and sequencing games encourage your child to learn to take turns.



# LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Stories, nursery and counting rhymes are a wonderful source of language. Opposites such as in/out, up/down, fast/slow, are fun to use in play situations.

Sharing books, talking about pictures, reading stories and poetry, especially simple rhyming verses, will give your child a good vocabulary and a love of books, which will make them want to become a reader themselves.

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. All of these skills are used and built upon throughout the day.



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.

## Reading

Your child will be encouraged to recognise print in a number of different contexts throughout the school day.

Children will be sent home with a reading book once they are ready. When your child brings their books home, talk about the pictures together and try to encourage your child to make stories using the pictures. They will gradually progress onto reading with simple words and sentences once they have built up phonic knowledge.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR READING

Your child will bring their reading book home every night. Please could you read or talk about the pictures with your child a 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.

### Story Books

Encourage your child to read the title of the book - What could the book be about? Your child should point to each word as they read it. If they get stuck on a word, encourage them to sound out the beginning letter to help them read the word. It is natural for your child to use the pictures to help them read the words. At the end of the book ask your child what the story was about to see if they understood the story.

### Some questions to ask your child

How do the characters feel?

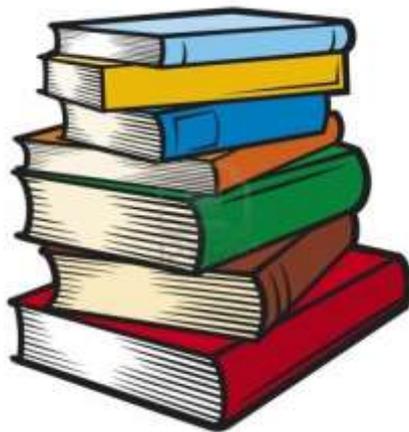
How would you feel?

What do you think the story's about?

Can you think of a different ending?

Don't worry if your child has the same book for a while, they may simply enjoy it or need more practise or a clearer understanding of the story.

**Try not to compare your child to other brothers or sisters, or any other children in the class. They all progress at the different stages and at their own pace. Reading and enjoying books should be fun and not a chore.**



## HAND CONTROL

Providing your child with plenty of experience with paint, pencils, felt pens, crayons etc. will help to develop hand control. This is an essential skill and yet it can be encouraged through everyday activities.

These include:

- Threading beads
- Lacing cards
- Tracing
- Drawing around templates
- Drawing people and pictures
- Colouring pictures
- Making patterns
- Scissors
- Rolling and shaping playdough



## MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

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

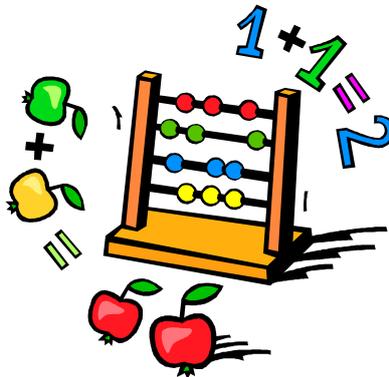
Patterns and sequences form a large part of early maths. Toys, Lego bricks, sticky shapes can be used for these.

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. Comparing them is another useful experience. Counting objects, counting rhymes, books, playing cards, all can be used to help number recognition and concepts.

Through numeracy activities these foundations will be built upon in much the same way, stressing the importance of sharing these experiences with your child. Much of this will be through games which also aid developing social skills.



# STARTING SCHOOL - YOUR FIRST DAY

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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 Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and will attend part time (until 1pm) up to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018. This will give your child the opportunity to experience lunch and playtime and settle into school. Their first full day will be Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

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 Eyre and Mrs Calaby. We need to be able to see all parents in the playground to escort your children to you, so please stand well back away from the gate. If we don't see you please give us a wave until we get to know you. Many thanks. 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 we encourage liaison between home and school. You and your child will be asked to sign a Home School Agreement. Last year we had several parents supporting the class with reading and other activities and we would like this to continue if possible.

If you can offer any time or other skills e.g. cooking, please see us. All volunteers will need to provide proof of ID and consent to a DBS (police) check. An appointment will need to be made with Mrs Higby the secretary for this to be carried out.

If you have any concerns or need to let us know anything we are happy to see any parent before or after school.

## **COME AND SEE US**

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

Until then, take time to read through this booklet and the prospectus and then if you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to ask.

*Mrs J Williams & Mrs R Eyre*  
Reception Class Teachers

