

Stramongate Primary School – Time to ‘GET READY!’

Our Top Tips for Transitioning from Nursery to Reception



It's an exciting time – preparing your child for their very first day of school and we can't wait to welcome your child into Reception.

This guide is to help you understand how you can help your child prepare as they begin their transition from Nursery to Reception. It will give you an idea as to how your child's Nursery are helping your child with the transition and also ways you can help prepare your child at home.

It's important to note that this is not a definitive checklist that your child must be able to complete in order to be ready for school. This is a GUIDE and it's okay if they can't complete every single item on the list. After all, children develop at different speeds during early childhood education.



Common Misconceptions

First of all, we'd like to clear up some common misconceptions that you may have heard leading up to the beginning of school.

Children should know how to write their name

MYTH! Rest assured, at Stramongate we would never expect children to be able to write their name. If they can do it then great but it is so important to remember that not all children are physically or developmentally ready to hold a pencil at this age. A more beneficial skill would be to help your child to **RECOGNISE THEIR NAME**. Also give them lots of experience of handling mark making materials – pens, pencils, chalks. Allow them to experiment both indoors and outdoors. More details to follow!

Children should know their sounds and have started to learn to read

MYTH! As a parent, it's easy to worry about your child's reading skills but it's important to note that your child may not be ready for this before starting school. At Stramongate, we will be using the Little Wandle phonics scheme to get your child started on the exciting journey of learning to read. We will share lots more information on the scheme with you soon and we will be having a parents workshop in the first few weeks. *At home, the key thing you can do to prepare your child for their reading journey is to read, read and READ to them!* We want them to develop a real LOVE of books and reading and this comes from snuggling up and enjoying a book! Developing this real love of reading is something we really prioritise at Stramongate and we are extremely proud of our fantastic links with Kendal library. Every child in Reception and Key Stage 1 is a member of our local library.

FACT – Did you know that children who are regularly read to in the first 5 years of life are exposed to 1.4 million more words than children who aren't read to during those years? We can't stress enough how important it is to read with your child.





School Readiness Checklist

At Stramongate, we have devised this checklist alongside our Nursery to show the ways your child's Nursery are supporting your child and what you can do to help at home. The checklist may be helpful as your child prepares for school. As we have mentioned, it is not crucial for your child to be able to do all of the things listed below. We all have different strengths and all develop at different rates. These are simply areas which will help your child with their transition. Speak to your child's Nursery Teacher if you are concerned about any area.

Eating and Drinking

- Your child is able to use cutlery
- Your child is able to carry a tray
- Your child is able to open packed lunch, including wrappers and packaging
- Your child is used to drinking water (not juice) regularly from a bottle
- Your child is used to snacking on fruit and vegetables



Getting Dressed

- Your child is able to put on their coat. They may even have started trying to use the zip / fasten buttons!
- Your child is able to put on socks and shoes (We always stress the importance of VELCRO shoes to help your child become more independent)
- Your child can change in and out of PE kit / uniform



Self Care

- Your child is able to wipe their own nose
- Your child can use the toilet independently (rest assured we will ALWAYS be on hand to help)
- Your child is able to flush the toilet
- Your child can wash and dry their hands



Independence Skills

- Your child feels excited about starting school
- Your child is happy to try new activities
- Your child feels confident to spend time away from main carers
- Your child is able to recognise and look after their own belongings. Consider name labels with a picture or something that is easy for them to identify. You



will receive a free book bag from school. As they are all identical, a small keyring or an iron on patch on the book bag can make it easier to identify.

- Your child can ask an adult for help



Sharing and taking turns

- Your child is able to play cooperatively with others
- Your child can play turn-taking games
- Your child enjoys interacting with other children



Speaking and Literacy

- Your child enjoys stories, rhymes and talking about pictures in a book
- Your child is able to speak about their interests and answer questions
- Your child recognises their own name in print

Listening and Understanding

- Your child is able to sit still for short periods
- Your child is able to follow instructions
- Your child understands simple rules



Writing Skills

- Your child enjoys making marks (colouring, drawing, chalks outside)
- Your child engages in fine motor activities – play dough, plasticine, lego
- Your child can hold a pencil (we can support with developing a tripod grip as they move in to Reception)

Counting skills

- Your child can learn different number rhymes
- Your child can practise counting objects
- Your child is able to recognise some numbers



Routines

- Your child has good bedtime routines
- Your child can practise waking up on time ready for school
- Talk about where they will go to school as your drop off at Nursery

The Importance of School Readiness

Getting ready for school is a big change in a little person's life! We're on hand to help and answer any questions. Our hope is that this guide highlights why it's important to build children's confidence and self-esteem by giving them the tools they'll need to be ready for school. **We can't wait to welcome you!**

