

Getting ready for School

Please find below further advice from the Blue Class team:

Support Reading and Literacy

- Introduce your child to a range of books and things to read including stories, factual books, magazines, shop signs, road names and comics
- Join the library and making a visit the highlight of your child's week
- Read notices, signs or instructions together when you are out and about
- Encourage them to spot letters from their name in other texts or recognise some familiar words
- Put an alphabet chart (lower case letters!) in their room and talk about the sounds letters make as part of your daily routine so your child is familiar with them and can identify the sounds letters make.
- Encourage them to read their favourite stories to you – demonstrate how to be a good listener by paying attention and asking questions
- Read stories together and talking about what is happening

Help your child to develop early writing skills

- Help your child to grip a pencil; mark-make, draw, trace, colour and use scissors every day
- Help your child form letters (lower case always at this stage!)
- Help your child to write their name
- Encourage them to write in greetings cards to family and friends
- Vary the opportunities they have to draw and write – e.g. Blackboards, water, wet paint brushes outside, chalk, notepads and paper, crayons and pencils

Help your child to develop language and communication skills

- Play games where everyone needs to listen and follow rules
- Play guessing games that involve listening to, and trying to name, different sounds, e.g. I-Spy
- Listen to the sounds at the ends of words – e.g. caT, doG
- Sing nursery rhymes and do action songs to encourage speaking and listening. Listen out for rhyming words.
- Encourage them to be curious and to ask questions about what they see, hear and think

Getting ready for School

Support your child with their mathematical awareness

- Encourage them to make puzzles and build with blocks
- Play games such as Snakes and Ladders and Dominoes
- Promote the development of counting and number recognition
- Use a dice, count the spots, recognise the patterns
- Throw two dice and count how many spots altogether
- Do lots of counting – How many buttons on a cardigan? How many grapes on a plate? How many stairs?
- Encourage them to solve number problems – e.g. How many knives and forks will we need for dinner?

Develop motor skills

- Thread pasta tubes, buttons or cotton reels
- Help your child to use simple tools such as pencils and scissors
- Draw outdoors with chalks, wet water paint brushes and sticks dipped in mud
- Make models with play-doh or plasticine
- Practise catching and throwing a ball
- Use construction toys such as Lego
- Use peg boards and Hamma beads

Support your child with their independence

- Encourage them to dress themselves – this will enable them to be independent when in school.