

Going to School in September?

Following the Record of Achievement evening when your child's achievements and progress were discussed and now you have been informed of the school your child will be attending in September we are continually being asked by parents about how you can help your child to get ready for school.

The best advice is not to keep talking about going to school, it is a whole 5 months away!

Whilst a child appears excited they also become anxious about changes such as what might happen, who will my friends be and they easily pick up on any of your anxieties. Any pressure can see children's behaviour change and become unsettled and unhappy at home and at nursery.

As a parent it appears 'going to school' conjures up thoughts of 'reading' 'writing' and 'mathematics'.

Here are a few valuable tips passed on by a teacher of a local primary to take the pressure off.....

If doesn't matter if your child can't hold a pencil yet **but it would help** if they have developed fine motor skills by using a range of resources such as using jugs, bottles to tip and pour.

It doesn't matter if your child can't write their name yet. .. **but it would help** if they could recognise their name

It doesn't matter if your child can't read books yet... **but it would help** if they were read to and have the opportunity to engage with stories regularly

It doesn't matter if your child can't draw a recognisable picture yet ... **but it would help** if they could use materials to draw circles and lines.

Doesn't matter if your child can't recognise letters of the alphabet yet ... **but it would help** if they were encouraged to sound out words and start to hear first sounds in words.

Useful Tips

School is a busy and exciting place with lots of children and your child could easily forget where they leave their jumper or coat which can cause anxiety. Show them clear name labels and teach them how to recognise their name and coat – popular styles are often worn by more than one child!

Label things together such as a bag or lunchbox etc. There could be ten children with the same Superhero bag, Princess or Peppa pig bag, they need to know which one is theirs.

The next few months at nursery are an exciting time with lots of learning opportunities whilst having fun and being with 'friends' and familiar adults.