



Welcome to Nursery

We would like to welcome you to Sandford Hill Primary School. Starting school is an exciting next step for your child. This newsletter aims to share some ideas as to how you can best support them at home.

What is School Readiness?

School readiness is not about formal learning but it is about your child becoming independent, communicative and curious about the world around them. Your child learns and develops mainly through play and interaction with others. You are your child's most important and ongoing educator. All the positive experiences that you have already given your child contribute towards them being ready for school.

Talk is vital in a child's early years. We need to encourage their use of spoken language and their listening skills. Talk to your child about what they are doing, what they are playing with and ask them questions to find out more about their play. We need your child to be confident to interact with us and their peers. Encourage your child to...

- Talk about themselves and their feelings.
- Ask for help when needed.
- Follow simple instructions.
- Share and take turns when speaking and playing.

It is great for your child to be as independent as possible when they first start school. We are on hand but it really helps if your child can give things a go for themselves. Here are some ways to help them to gain that independence:

- To dress and undress themselves, including buttons and zips.
- To be able to feed themselves using a knife, fork and spoon.
- To be able to go to the toilet, wipe properly and flush.
- To be able to wash and dry their hands.
- To be able to put on and take off their shoes.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum develops your child's knowledge and understanding through a love of learning. We plan a range of exciting opportunities to engage every child and we nurture their own interests too. We will be guided by you, as their first educators, to find out more about their individual likes and dislikes.

it's not "just play"

Play is an essential part of early learning. It is the lifeblood of the learning process.

As children play they are developing the cognitive, socio-emotional and physical skills they will need to take them into a successful adulthood.

They are developing their curiosity, problem solving, intentionality, flexibility, and verbal & non verbal skills.

Socio-emotionally they are developing their emotional intelligence - learning confidence, cooperation, negotiation, sharing, empathy and how to communicate appropriately.

Physically their fine motor and gross motor skills are being practised and developed.

It's not "just play" they are skills for life!

Things that can make a real difference...

- *sharing a bedtime story.
- *singing songs and rhymes.
- *establishing routines.
- *counting things everywhere.



