



Frequently asked questions for starting school

What can I do to help my child prepare for school?

- **Toileting**- we would expect all children to be able to use the toilet **independently** and be clean most of the time when at school. We do know that accidents happen sometimes so please pack some spare clothes just in case.
- **Dressing** – Practise dressing and undressing in school uniform (including shoes and socks), this will help when we start PE. Don't forget to practise taking your coat on and off (including zips and buttons).

Top tip – Velcro shoes are much easier for children to use!

- **Sharing stories** – This is a fantastic way to develop listening skills and language. Ask questions as you read, talk about the pictures and encourage your child to join in with repeated refrains.
- **Name recognition** - This will help your child to recognise their peg and drawer label.
- **Counting** – You can do this in so many ways, counting stairs as you go up, counting plates for dinner, counting items in your shopping bag etc. Exposure to number and counting will support future learning.

Where do I drop off my child on their first day?

- There will be staff members at the main school gate entrance to direct you to the doors through the Reception Garden. You will enter via our cloakroom entrance.

What will my child need to bring to school?

- We recommend a change of clothes, a coat, wellies in wet weather, a book bag – all named. We access the outdoor area at every opportunity, so we encourage children to bring a coat to school every day.

What if my child has trouble settling in?

- We are lucky in Reception to take the time your child needs to settle into school life. We have a wealth of experienced staff that will ensure we make the experience as positive for

your child as we can. Please feel free to speak with your class teacher if you are at all concerned.

Do I need to provide a snack?

- No... unless your child has a specific allergy. Children in reception have milk and a piece of fruit provided every morning – apples, bananas, pears, oranges, strawberries (once a year!) raisins. Milk is provided until your child's 5th birthday. You can then pay for milk – chat with the office staff if you would like further information.
- We encourage children to bring a named water bottle to help themselves to water throughout the day.

How do I tell you who is collecting my child from school?

- We are fortunate to have daily contact with parents. However, if someone other than you will be the person to collect your child we do need to know.
- Short notice collections- phone the office to inform us who will collect, and the office will let the class teacher know.
- If you know in advance that you are expecting someone else to collect then please, where possible, introduce the person to your child's class teacher.
- If we are in doubt, please be patient as your child's safety is paramount and we will always call the parent for confirmation before we let your child leave.

When will my child have PE?

- We start PE lessons when the children are in school full time. We have a PE lesson once a week. The uniform for PE is – a white t-shirt, black joggers/shorts/leggings. No earrings please.

What if my child still has accidents?

- Please don't worry! Starting school is a big change for lots of children. All we ask is that you bring a change of clothes in a named bag and we will ensure your child is changed and dry. We have lots of time in the day where we encourage children to use the toilet and they are free to go whenever they need to. If you are concerned at all, please speak with your child's class teacher.

How can I support my child's learning? Will they have homework?

- We are all in this together and working as a team is a vital part of your child's learning. We encourage parents to read with your child daily and log it in the reading jotter. As the year progresses, we begin to send out sounds taught in phonics and number talk. Above all read and share stories to develop a love for reading.

What if my child is sick?

- Please ring the office on the first morning that your child is sick.

When are reading books sent home and changed?

- Reading books are sent home when the children are in full time. A member of staff will read with your child once a week and we will change the book at this time. If you have read your book several times and would like to change it, you are welcome to pop in and change it with your child at the end of the day.

I have a question you haven't answered.

- Please email us on info@mpa.cabot.ac.uk or telephone 0117 377 2990 and we will be happy to help.