

Starting Kenley Primary School

‘A Love of Learning for Life’

New Barn Lane

Whyteleafe, Surrey. CR3 0EX

Telephone – 0208 660 7501

office@kenleyprimary.org.uk

www.kenleyprimary.org.uk

Welcome to Kenley Primary School



Preparing Your Child for School

We have put together suggestions of ways in which you can help your child prepare for school so that they can begin school with confidence and as independent people. We understand that all children are individuals and will have had a range of pre-school experiences. Our aim in the first few weeks is to support them to settle into the Kenley routine.

The relationship we have with you as parents and carers is very much that of a partnership. If we have concerns about your child we will always come and speak to you straight away and we encourage you to do likewise.

Our induction process is aimed to help your child get to know their teachers, the school environment and their peers prior to starting full time.

Personal and Social Skills

- Try to provide opportunities for your child to mix with other children at home, in pre-school settings, at the swimming pool, at the park etc.
- Encourage sharing, taking turns and tidying up!
- Teach your child how to use a tissue or handkerchief.
- Ensure your child can use the toilet correctly (including wiping their bottom, flushing the toilet and washing their hands afterwards) and independently.
- Teach your child to dress and undress themselves, putting shoes on the correct feet and putting on and fastening up a coat. (No lace up shoes please)

- Ensure that their name is written in all items of clothing and that they recognise this, so that they can find their own belongings such as jumpers, water bottles etc.
- Encourage your child to ask for help when they need it.
- Teach your child to open food packets and drink cartons.
- Teach your child to handle books carefully and turn the pages correctly.

Motor Skills and Visual Discrimination

- Provide opportunities for drawing, colouring, painting, modelling with play dough, etc, cutting out (using safety scissors) and sticking. Encourage your child to mark make on a small and large scale e.g. fine and chunky crayons, chinks on the tarmac, paintbrushes and water on the floor to make patterns, lines, attempt their name, writing numbers etc.
- Play aiming games – skittles, hoops etc
- Play games such as Snap, Happy Families and matching games.
- Threading beads, buttons onto string.
- Encourage your child to complete jigsaw puzzles.

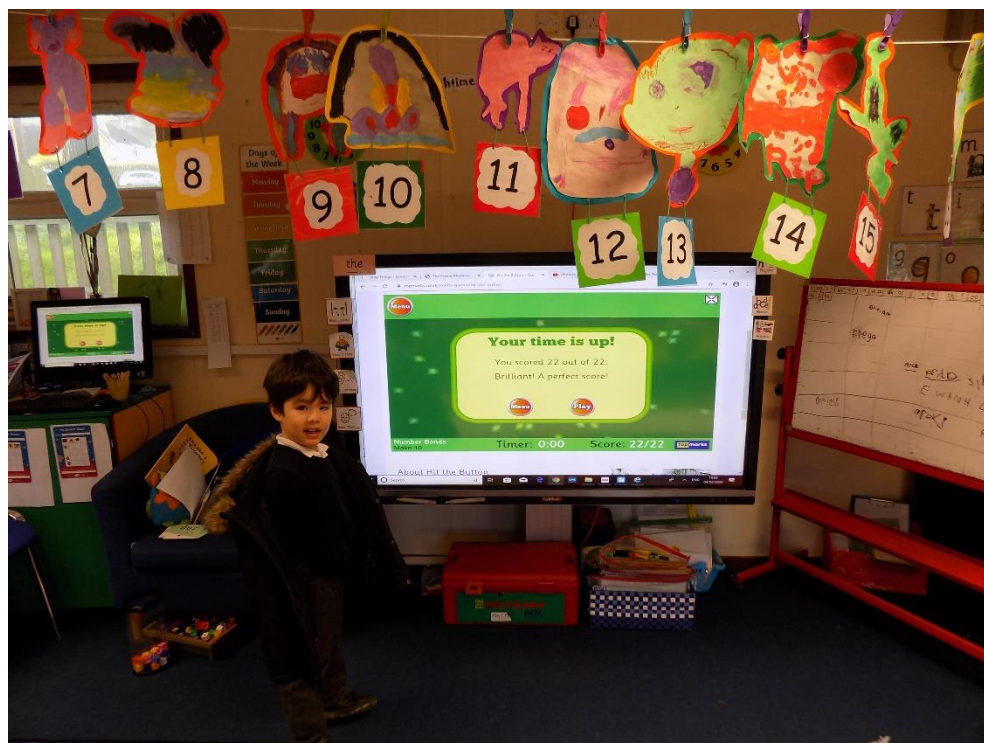
Preparing for Reading and Writing

- Take time to talk to and listen to your child. Encourage turn taking in conversations, play listening games, tell stories such as fairy tales, sing nursery rhymes and songs.
- Make puppets and use them to make up imaginary stories. Encourage your child to role-play and engage in imaginative play.
- Make dens using household items such as sheets, chairs, clothes lines etc. and use the den to be part of your child's play.
- Share books together. Look at pictures, ask what might happen next and retell familiar stories. Sometimes point to the words as you read.
- Establish a special time every day for quietly sharing a book – perhaps at bedtime.
- Point out and read print in the environment e.g. on signs, notices, in shops, on packaging.
- Put magnetic letters and words on the fridge and talk about the letters and the words. Focus on the sound the letter makes as well as the name of it. e.g. 'S' the sound it makes is 'sssss' the name of it is 'es'.
- Encourage your child to attempt to mark, make and do their own writing which at first will be squiggles and marks, engage them in talking about what their 'writing' says.

Children will learn how to form and write letters and numbers correctly once they start school. If your child is keen and interested to learn, then please teach your child to write in lower case letters (d not D), and not capitals unless it is the start of their name. Encourage them to start at the top of letters and numbers and to write letters in one movement.

Numbers, Counting and Other Areas of Maths

- Sing counting songs and rhymes together, such as; 5 current buns.
- Count as much as possible – e.g. count the stairs up to bed, count the steps to get to the house, count out the cutlery for dinner, count the cars you pass on a walk, count apples into a bag at the supermarket.
- Count out items (e.g. apples in a bowl), take one away and talk about how many are left. Count items, add one more, talk about how many there are now.
- Play lots of games where you have to throw a dice and move along a board.
- Point out, read and look out for numbers in the environment e.g. house numbers, car number
- Encourage your child to mark make, draw sets of objects and attempt to write numbers.
- Look at and talk about the shapes of different objects around them.
- Encourage your child to help with activities such as cooking, helping you to weigh out items and talking about how heavy or light they are.
- Talk about your family.... who is the youngest, oldest, tallest or shortest?
- Use time using words such as morning, night, yesterday, tomorrow and next week.
- At bath time look at which things float or sink; is the bath full or empty?
- At meal times you can lay the table and make sure you have enough knives and forks.
- When you go shopping you can look at the numbers and look at coins. You can look at the shape, size and colour of the boxes.



General information about starting school

Children start school in the academic year in which they turn five and are placed into a Reception class. The Reception class is situated in a classroom off of the Infant playground and has a teacher and a full time teaching assistant (Miss Tadayon and Miss Hogan). During the day the children are involved in a wide range of activities either chosen by them or led by the teacher and teaching assistant.



What Your Child Needs to Bring to School

Listed below are the items children need to bring to school with them:

- Suitable coat with a hood as the children will be working outside as well as inside.
- Lunch box (If having packed lunch) with a drink for lunch. We are a healthy school and do not allow sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks. We are also a nut free school so please ensure your child's packed lunch does not include any nut products including peanut butter.
- A named 'sports bottle' for water should be brought in by your child and kept in the classroom lobby. This will be available at any time for a drink of water and will come home daily for you to wash and refill for the following day.
- Break time snack – The school participates in the free fruit for school scheme and a selection of fruit is offered each day. If you prefer your child to have their own break time snack it must be fresh or dried fruit or vegetables.
- Wellington boots – these will be kept outside on the welly rack to use for outdoor learning and play in the outside area.
- Book bag – we will put all letters in here and reading books/homework books once these are given out.

Please ensure that all belongings are clearly marked with your child's name.

Arriving in the morning

At 8.35am, the school bell will ring and you can bring your child to the classroom gate. The register will close at 8.45am and any child arriving after this time will be marked late and parents must go to the main office to sign their child in.

Children are encouraged to be independent and will be asked to leave their book bag on their peg by and to put their coats and bags on their named peg in the classroom cloakroom area.

Milk and Hot Lunches

Free milk is available for all children under 5 – you will need to register on www.coolmilk.co.uk. Please note that Cool Milk will automatically cease delivery the day your child turns 5, so if you would like them to continue to receive it you will need to contact them and send payment in advance.

Hot school meals are free to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and menus are produced each half term. Meals need to be pre-booked on Parentpay one week in advance. This ensures your child receives their meal choice.

Home time collection

The school gates will be opened at 3.10pm. We ask you to please wait outside the reception gate in the infant playground and we will bring the children out to meet you at 3.15pm.

PLEASE let us know in writing, in advance, or by phone, if someone different is collecting your child from school as we are always concerned for your child's safety. If you are unavoidably delayed please ring the school and your child will be looked after by a member of staff.



Illness and absence

At Kenley Primary School we pride ourselves on high attendance.

We believe a regular routine and good punctuality for your child installs a great work ethic for the future. This also helps to build confidence and positive self-esteem.

We do understand when a child starts school they can become tired and may pick up bugs and illnesses as they come into contact with other children.

You must phone or email on the first day of absence stating the reason your child is unable to come to school.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Information about the Curriculum and Assessment

Whilst in Reception the children are working within the Foundation Stage and follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This curriculum has four key themes and principles.

A Unique Child – every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships – children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling Environments – children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.

Learning and Development – children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early year's provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Within the Foundation Stage curriculum there are seven areas of learning and three key characteristics of effective learning.

Prime Areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development – self-regulation, managing self and building relationships
- Physical Development – gross motor skills and fine motor skills
- Communication and Language – listening, attention and understanding
- Literacy – comprehension, word reading and writing
- Mathematics – number and numerical patterns
- Understanding the World – past and present, people, culture and communities and the natural world
- Expressive Arts and Design – creating with materials, being imaginative and expressive

The Three Characteristics of Effective Learning are:

Playing and Exploring – engagement

Active Learning – motivation

Creating and thinking critically – thinking

The curriculum is planned in a very practical way and is based around topics that are of interest and are relevant and meaningful to the children. Adult and child directed activities take place both in the classroom and outside in the secure outdoor learning environment. The reception children have direct access to the outdoor area which they use throughout the year and are encouraged to decide where they work and learn.

Learning to Read at School

To begin with, your child will bring home picture books to share with you. They will be encouraged to use the pictures to tell the story to develop their story language. Daily structured phonics lessons take place to help children learn skills in order for them to become fluent readers. At Kenley Primary School we use phonics to help your child learn the letter sounds and names. For each sound they will learn the shape of the letter and a rhyme to help them remember it. As they learn the sounds in school, your child will take home a sheet to practise saying and recognising these sounds alongside common high frequency words.

Children read regularly in school in different ways. Each week children read individually with an adult within phonics sessions.

You can greatly support your child with learning to read by regularly hearing them read at home.

More information about how to support your child with phonics and reading will be available in the autumn term. We will hold a phonics talk and invite you to watch a phonics lesson in action.



Assessment in the Foundation Stage

Assessment plays an important part in helping parents, carers and practitioners (teachers and teaching assistants) to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities and support.

Assessment begins when your child starts school and involves practitioners observing children whilst they are working and playing. At the end of Reception, the Foundation Stage Profile is completed for each child and outcomes are reported to parents and carers. The profile provides a picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities and their progress against expected levels. During the autumn term, you will be invited in to talk about all the different things your child can do such as; looking at books, getting dressed, tidying up, counting and playing with other children. All these things make up the "Early Years Foundation Stage Profile".

We will take lots of photographs of your child at work and play and write about all the great things they do in school. These will go in their very special Learning Journey book. We will also send home

WOW slips for you to share all the wonderful learning they do with you and your family. We will put these wow moments in their Learning Journey too!

Throughout the Reception year, there will be opportunities for you to come in and talk about your child's progress and share their Special Learning Journey.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any further questions or queries and we will do our very best to help. Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) are very active within our school if you are interested in becoming a class rep or finding out more about the PTA please contact a member of staff. Thank you for your support.



We look forward to welcoming you to Kenley Primary School

New Barn Lane, Whyteleafe, Surrey CR3 0EX

Website: www.kenleyprimary.org.uk

Email: office@kenleyprimary.org.uk

Tel: 020 8660 7501

Principal: Mrs Dixon NPQH, BSc (Hons)

