

Preparing Your Child for School

The Early Years Foundation Stage was developed from the Foundation Stage which was introduced in September 2000 for children aged three, and continues until the end of Foundation Stage 2(FS2) (previously known as Reception) the following year. Foundation Stage 1 (FS1) (previously known as Pre-Reception) is for children aged three and who turn four before the end of August that school year. This is an important stage, giving children opportunities to develop early learning skills, understanding and attitudes that will assist them before entering FS2.

The Foundation Stage curriculum is based on a number of principles, some of which are:

- providing learning opportunities that reflect the development of young children
- ensuring that all children feel included, secure and valued
- providing learning opportunities that build on what children already know and can do
- developing good communication between parents and the early years setting



The six areas of learning that are covered during these years are -

1. Personal, Social and Emotional
2. Communication, Language and Literacy
3. Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
4. Knowledge and Understanding of the World
5. Physical Development
6. Creative Development

It is an integral part of learning that children's efforts are recognised, valued and praised. This positive learning is not only for academic achievement, but also to encourage and develop positive attitudes and good behaviour amongst the children, learning to become a member of a class/group and following set class rules and codes of behaviour.

In particular, for FS1, class routine is important, allowing the children to become familiar with everyday structures of the class and what is to be expected of them, helping them to gain independence. Children will learn to play alongside others, take turns, sharing fairly with others and to build relationships.

During the FS1 year the children begin to learn letters by sound, action and name. The programme used is called Jolly Phonics, and at this stage the children will learn a new single letter, sound and action every week. Stories and songs are an integral part of the FS1 programme and as such are included in our daily routine.

In term three the children will begin basics lessons in the ICT lab. Fun software to encourage the use of mouse skills and an overall introduction to computers will be covered and consolidated using the computer in the classroom. We also have a class camera which will be introduced at this stage.



First Day in Foundation Stage 1

This will be a very important day for your child, and a lot will be expected of *him/her*. He/she will be looking to you for reassurance and it is important that you seem confident and calm about what lies ahead.



You and your child may have attended the Open Morning, but please try to arrange a subsequent visit to the school with your child at the beginning of the year. This will help your child to know where they are going and to recognise the adults in the setting.

A **Back to School** meeting will be held during the first few weeks of term and there will be an opportunity for you to look at the resources and materials used in FS1 and discuss any queries you have.



The teachers will be eager to talk to and settle all the children in the class. When it is time to leave your child, please do so with a smile and don't linger. The staff are trained to help and support children during this time, and it is easier to divert their attention to happier things if parents are not in sight

We also acknowledge that this can be an emotional time for parents too! We will let you know, when we drop your child back at the compound, how their first day has been. Rest assured that should the need arise staff would contact you directly.

To begin the school year in FS1 your child will be expected to:

- be toilet-trained and able to go to the toilet independently
- attempt to manage their own clothing with adult support (including "child friendly" shoes)
- carry their own school bag
- eat independently - managing a school lunch box with a little assistance
- to be able to communicate basic needs

Items your child will need for the first day

Please, please, make sure that all items are clearly named, without exception (this covers lunch boxes, bags, P.E. kit and hats)

A SUN HAT

This is important and children are expected to wear one **at all times** when outside.

A BACKPACK

That the child can open and close him/herself and big enough to hold your child's lunch box and folder. Please do not buy bags with wheels as they are difficult for your child to manoeuvre on and off the buses and they also very easily trip up other children.

SPARE CLOTHES

A set of spare clothes to be kept in school in a named plastic bag.

A LUNCH BOX

A lunch box that children can open and close themselves. We would recommend the insulated variety as food will keep fresher in the hot weather.

The children's snack is at 10.00am

The lunch box should contain:-

- One drink
- A sandwich or other savoury snack (pizza, cold chicken, pasta etc.)
- Fruit or vegetables that are chopped and ready to eat.
- Please do not send any food containing nuts as some children suffer from severe nut allergies. This includes items such as peanut butter and chocolate nut spread.



NO sweets or fizzy drinks - No glass containers please.

Your child will need a packed lunch every day.



PE kit

White T-shirt, navy shorts and training shoes

All items of uniform must be clearly named with your child's name.

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

The start time for Pre-reception will be 9.00am with a finish time of 12.45pm. You will need to make arrangements to drop your child at bus-stop 1 on campus between 8.40am and 8.55am, and to collect them from bus-stop 1 at 12.45. Any students not collected by 1.00pm will be returned to the office to await collection.



SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

The school will provide all the equipment your child will need, such as pencils, crayons, erasers, so your child will not need to bring these.

CONTACTING US



We hope the above information answers some of your questions. We look forward to welcoming your child into school.

If you have any other questions you can email the school on brparents@isgdh.org or call the FS1 mobiles:

0557086963

0535274977

Please call these numbers if your child is going to be absent

Here are some helpful suggestions to prepare your child for school.

- Make a game out of dressing in the morning to encourage independence.
- Look at picture books and ask them what is happening, what might happen next. Read stories to your child to encourage their love of books and learning - talk about the story and the characters in it.
- Try to put events in order during the day. Talk about morning/breakfast, afternoon/dinner, bedtime/evening/night time etc.
- Listen to stories on CD or tape to develop their listening skills.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs together.
- When out, point out signs and what they mean.
- Sorting or putting things together in groups which are similar, as in sorting toys or clothes, or let your child collect things that are the same colour.
- Point out different shapes and how they are different.
- Compare sizes, such as how big Mum and Dad are compared to your child etc.
- Try to use language such as big/small, tall/short, high/low, long/short etc.
- Try and use positional words during everyday conversation such as on, off, up, down, under, inside, outside, at the top, next to, over etc.
- Talk about the sequence of events in everyday life, such as getting a meal ready, getting ready for bed, baking a cake and the steps you need to take to undertake each task.
- Encourage your child to question the world around him and his environment. Go on walks and talk about the animals you see, discuss the weather and the difference in seasons. Children love to cook and their interest should be encouraged, so bake a cake together.
- Encourage your child to colour, holding the pencil correctly.
- Purchase some child friendly scissors and practice cutting from old magazines or draw some dark lines on scrap paper for them to cut along.
- Pencils, crayons, brushes and felt tipped pens all assist your child to develop the interest and skills for writing. Cover an area of your table in paper and let them explore different ways of drawing and writing.
- Begin tracing along dotted lines to help with their fine motor skills.
- Children love to dress up and role play, so any old clothes you don't need any more are ideal for this purpose.
- Sing nursery rhymes and encourage your child to make up stories and act them out.
- Look at children's sites on the computer and encourage your child to use a mouse.

