



LIGHTHOUSE  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

# Preparing to start school

SEPTEMBER 2024

# Introduction

Lighthouse Schools Partnership are delighted that your child has been offered a place in Reception at one of schools from September 2024.

The Lighthouse Schools Partnership is a group of 30 schools from infant - sixth form (ages 4-18) teaching over 12,000 pupils in the local area. We work together to enhance the opportunities of the children in all our schools and this booklet is a great example of this.

Early Years Leaders from across our schools have produced this guide to help your child be prepared for their start at school in September.

We hope it is useful to support you to understand the key areas of development, skills and preparation that will make your child's start as successful as possible.

We look forward to welcoming your child later this year.





# Physically Ready

## Getting Dressed

- Take time to practise putting on your new school uniform including your shoes and socks
- When going outside, encourage your child to put on their own coat and attempt to fasten it by themselves
- Encourage perseverance with zips, buttons or poppers

## Eating

- Encourage your child to sit at the table to eat - push their chair in and sit up tall
- Let your child cut up their own food using a knife and fork - hold their knife in one hand and fork in the other. Grip with their fork and cut with their knife.
- Your child may be entitled to benefit related free school meals which also gives valuable additional funding to their school. You can check your entitlement [here for schools in North Somerset](#) or [here for schools in Bath and North East Somerset](#).

## Using the toilet

- Help your child to know when they need to go to the toilet
- Remind them to wipe themselves, flush and wash their hands and encourage them to do this independently

# Ready to learn

## Speaking, listening and understanding

- Listen to stories and talk about pictures
- Explore rhyming words with your child through nursery rhymes and stories
- Provide opportunities for your child to talk about themselves, their needs and feelings
- Ask your child to follow simple instructions
- Promote good eye contact when speaking

## Interest in the world and new activities

- Provide opportunities for your child to explore the world around them
- Encourage them to ask questions
- Make trying new things a positive experience

## Pre-writing skills

- Provide opportunities for your child to use simple tools; paintbrushes, mark making tools, scissors, etc
- Have a range of mark making resources available for your child to explore. E.g. paper, crayons, chalks, paints, etc
- If your child is ready to write their name, only capitalise the first letter

## Counting

- Listen to and sing number rhymes
- Play counting number games





# Social and Emotional

## Sharing and 'turn taking'

- Give your child opportunities to play games with others
- Support them to share toys and resources with other children and adults. [This BBC video could help.](#)
- Encourage your child to wait and take turns at activities and games
- Let your child know they can win and lose in games

## Resilience

- Support your child to be confident to have a go and try new things - even when they are tricky
- Let your child know that it's OK to get things wrong and that we learn from our mistakes

## Independence

- Provide positive opportunities for your child to leave you so they are confident to separate from family
- Give your child responsibility for looking after their own belongings by asking them to help tidy up or collect something they need

## Routines

- Have a good bedtime routine. [This BBC video could help.](#)

# Prepare yourself!

- Read through this booklet, and share/discuss it with others who care for your child.
- Keep an eye out for any information from your child's news school and make sure you complete any paperwork by required deadlines.
- Find out more about the school they will be joining by looking through their website.
- You can find out more about the Lighthouse Schools Partnership by [visiting our website](#).

Also look through the links below which offer extra/further support and ask for help if you are unsure about anything.

[Make sure you are ready for your child to start school](#) - information for parents/carers from Parent Kind.

[Developing the important skills needed to start school, including resilience](#) - information from OxfordOwl.

['My first day at school'](#) - an interactive online game from the BBC.

['Time for School'](#) - documentary and videos for children on starting school from the BBC.

[Understanding the importance of sleep](#) - information from the Sleep Charity on how important good quality sleep is to development and wellbeing.



We look forward to getting to know you and your child.

LIGHTHOUSE  
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



High Down Infant School  
Believing | Achieving | Learning for life



Church of England  
Primary School



Primary School



DREAM, BELIEVE,  
ACHIEVE, TOGETHER



**St Andrew's  
Primary School**  
growing together



**Winford**  
Church of England  
Primary School