

Recognising and writing their own name



Going to the toilet independently



Getting your child ready to start at Blue Bell Hill Primary School

Parents often ask us how they can help their child get ready for school. We have written this guide to help.



**Blue Bell Hill
Primary School**

Getting dressed and undressed



Using pencils and scissors correctly



We want you and your child to feel happy and confident when you join our school. There are a few key skills to concentrate on which will help your child to settle in. Read through this leaflet with them and practise anything they do not feel confident about.

If you have any concerns about anything in this leaflet or any other worries about your child starting school, please let us know. We are here to help.



Recognising and writing their own name

Please don't worry if your child doesn't recognise letters and numbers when they start school. We will teach them how to do this. However, it will help your child settle in and feel more confident if they are able to recognise their own name, for example when they see it written on a coat peg, or items of clothing and belongings. They will also label pieces of work that they do in class, so it is helpful if they are able to write their own name. Help them practise this before they come to school by showing them what their name looks like, and by helping them write it.

Isaac knows where to hang his coat as he has recognised his name on his coat peg.



Following simple instructions

Your child's teacher will be giving instructions to your child both one to one and to the whole class. It is very important that your child can listen to and follow instructions. This is a skill which children need help with, so practise at home by giving them little jobs to do which involve a couple of simple steps.

Mikael's teacher has asked him to copy a word from the whiteboard into his workbook. He has listened carefully and he knows what to do. He also knows that if he has a problem, he can ask his teacher.

Putting shoes on and taking them off

Your child will need to take off their outdoor shoes from time to time during the school day. Help make this as easy as possible for them by choosing shoes that have simple fastenings, such as Velcro. You can also have practice sessions before they start school.

Mikael is getting changed for P.E. and is taking off his shoes. He knows he can do it easily as his shoes slip on and off quickly.



2

Going to the toilet independently

Children in reception go to the toilets independently generally, although an adult is always available if they need help. Our children need to be able to clean themselves and flush when they have finished. They also need to wash and dry their own hands. If your child does not usually go to the toilet by themselves, help them practise before they start school. Our toilets are very easy for small children to use as they are designed with them in mind.

Rosa has been to the toilet. Everything was just the right height for her. She always washes her hands before she goes back to her activity.



3

Getting dressed and undressed

Your child will need to take their coat and uniform off and put them back on during the school day. Help them do this as easily as possible by choosing clothing with zips or big buttons which they can unfasten and fasten easily. You can also have practice sessions at home before they start school. Most children enjoy trying on their uniforms.

Isaac and Mikael can't wait to go outside for playtime. They are really good at putting on their coats so they know they will be outside in a minute.



Using pencils and scissors correctly

It is important that children are familiar with things such as pencils and scissors. They will be using them frequently and will need to know how to use them correctly and safely. If your child is not confident using them, practise making marks on paper, and cutting with scissors before they come to school.

Rosa's teacher has asked the class to cut out a black rectangle. She has practised using scissors and knows how to use them safely. She is making a big strong cut.

Rebecca Edge (**Head Teacher**)

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