

## Expectations for School New Entrants.

Compiled from discussions with:

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### Skills it would be great for children to have:

- Express their needs and wants.
- To be able to follow instructions.
- To be able to take turns.
- To be able to settle to work quickly.
- To be able to listen to others.
- To be able to take care of their own property. This means knowing where they put their shoes, putting jumpers away in their bag, their books etc. Parents it helps if all your child's items are named!
- Show a keenness to learn.
- Work well with others.
- Be independent: hang their own bag up each day; put their own lunch box away and be able to open their containers and/or sandwiches and be able to differentiate morning tea from lunch food (maybe putting a sticker on morning tea would help); wipe their own bottom and flush the toilet;
- Recognise their name and if possible write it. When writing their name children need to know that the first letter is upper case and the rest is lower case e.g. Luke not LUKE. Also let your children use different writing implements including pens, felts and pencils.
- Teach children letter sounds (phonics) rather than letter names. This will help them with reading later on.
- Encourage your child with counting 1 to 10 and 10 to 1 as addition and subtraction are taught together at school. Also an awareness of the number before and after a given number.
- Be confident and strong using their home language.

Please be aware that this IS NOT a checklist of skills you must teach your child. But all these skills will help your child's transition into school.

### School Visits:

There is no set number of visits a child needs to have before starting school. One visit at least is great! But be aware that if your child is quiet, shy or struggles in new situations they may need more visits. Each child is different so take your cue from your child.

### Preschool Portfolios:

Once your child is settled at school it may be worth taking in your child's portfolio so they can share it with their new teacher. This helps the teacher begin to know what skills your child is bringing with them to school.