

# Homefields Primary School



## Getting Ready for School

2024-2025

A guide full of ideas and activities to help get your child get ready for starting school

# Communication and Language

The following games and activities support your child communicating effectively, through listening, understanding vocabulary and speaking.

- Reading stories and looking at books
- Playing Simon-says
- Go on a listening walk – what sounds can your child hear?
- Looking at and talking about photographs together
- Taking part in imaginative play with your child



# Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Practise greetings saying "Hello" and introducing yourself "My name is..."
- Play turn taking games with your child. Be sure to use language like "Whose turn is it next?" and "Thank you for waiting"
- \*Remember it is ok for your child to not always win - talk about the feeling of disappointment with your child and ways they can manage this
- Model using manners and encourage your child to say please and thank you
- Tell the waiter your order at a restaurant
- Encourage your child to help at home – for example tidying their own toys away or setting the table for dinner time (You could set up a reward chart to encourage them)

# Physical Development: Gross

Gross motor activities support your child in many areas of their development, from sitting on the carpet for learning times to playing games and climbing outdoors

- ❑ Go to the park and exploring a range of climbing equipment
- ❑ Encourage your child to move in a variety of ways – running, hopping, skipping
- ❑ Riding a bike or scooter helps your child develop their balance and coordination (balance bikes are great for this!)
- ❑ Cosmic Kids Yoga (lots of videos to follow on YouTube)
- ❑ Ball games – practice throwing, catching and kicking different sized balls
- ❑ Dancing to their favourite music

# Physical Development: Fine

Fine motor activities support your child to be able to hold a pencil ready for writing and drawing, paint brushes for painting and scissors for cutting

- Squashing and moulding playdough
- Helping peg washing on the line
- Making with Hama beads/ bead threading to make jewellery
- Cutting with child scissors (rounded ends)
- Mark making/ writing in sand/ flour/ icing sugar/ glitter
- Building with Lego and other small construction kits
- Collecting shells, small stones and other natural materials – you could then use these to create patterns
- Drawing with chinks on the patio
- Painting with water on the patio



# Health and Self Care

Help your child to learn to do the following independently. Please be reassured that a member of staff will be able to support your child if needed.

- I can get myself dressed for school
- I can put my coat on and zip it up
- I can put my shoes/ wellies on

(TOP TOP: cut a sticker in half and place half inside each shoe to make it complete when shoes are placed together)



- I can go to the toilet, wipe myself and flush independently
- I know when to wash my hands
- I can wipe my nose
- I can use appropriate cutlery to feed myself (knife, fork, spoon)
- I can brush my teeth (twice a day)

# Reading/ Phonics

- Look at books and reading stories together
- Making up stories using pictures from the books
- Answering questions about stories
- Go on a listening walk to hear environmental sounds (eg. cars, leaves rustling, airplane, etc)
- Playing and exploring musical instruments (drum, tambourine, xylophone, etc)
- Singing songs and rhymes (recognising rhyming words)
- Playing I-Spy to help hear and recognise initial sounds in words
- Practise recognising own name
- Begin to hear sounds in words by blending an adults 'robot talk' – 'Can you find something r-e-d?'



# Maths



## Number:

- Counting the stairs as you climb upstairs
- Recognising numbers in the environment – house numbers on the street or car number plates
- Count the plates, cups, and cutlery as you set the table – How many of each do we need?
- Sing number songs – 10 little monkeys, 5 little ducks, 12345 once I caught a fish alive, etc

## Size and Shape:

- Playing with sand/ water and different sized containers – talk about size and capacity (full/ empty)
- Go on a shape hunt! How many squares can you spot?
- Create patterns with toys and objects (for example, red car, blue car, red car, blue car)