

Homefields Primary School



Getting Ready for School

2025-2026

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 TIP: 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)