

Preparing for school

Share stories about starting school. Here are a few examples:

- Share our social story about starting at Arbury Primary School (this is available on the school website).
- All are Welcome – Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman
- Come to School too, blue kangaroo – Emma Chichester Clarke.
- Lulu's First Day – Anna McQuinn and Rosalind Beardshaw
- Ready, Steady, School! Marianne Dubuc
- Hello Friend – Rebecca Cobb
- Starting school – Janet & Alan Ahlberg.
- Boris starts school – Carrie Weston & Tim Warnes.
- Alfie and the big boys – Shirley Hughes.
- Jellybean goes to school – Margaret Roc & Laura Hughes.
- Harry and the dinosaurs go to school – Ian Whybrow.
- Charlie and Lola: I am too absolutely small for school – Lauren Child
- Topsy and Tim: Start school – Jean & Gareth Adamson.



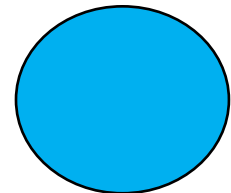
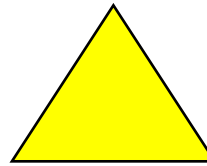
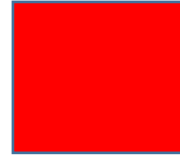
Early Literacy skills:

- Sit and listen to a story with increasing focus.
- Talk about the story - sharing favourite parts etc.
- Be able to recognise your name when it is written down.
- Hold a pencil with increasing control (working towards a tripod grip if possible).
- Work on writing your name.
- Be able to identify sounds in the environment, e.g. tree starts with 't', (t-r-ee)



Early Mathematic skills:

- Counting in order to 10.
- Recognising numbers up to 10.
- Counting objects to 10 (1:1 correspondence – touching each object, counting slowly and accurately).
- Identify and name colours.
- Go on shape hunts and look for shapes in the environment.
- Focus on naming the common 2D shapes – square, rectangle, circle, triangle.



Health and self-care skills:

- Be able to use the toilet and wash your hands independently.
- Be able to get yourself dressed – maybe try getting changed into your PE kit by yourself and then put your other clothes back on.
- Be able to put your shoes and socks on. Remember to use shoes with fastenings children can do independently (Velcro, **not laces!**)
- Be able to use a knife and fork independently with increasing accuracy.
- Put your coat on independently and zip it up by yourself.



Look at the school website together and find the section called 'Starting Reception in September 2026'. Look at pictures of the school building, classrooms, outdoors, forest area and the teachers. Also find 'News and Events' and look for pictures of the current EYFS classes to get a flavour of school life.