






Starting School Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome to Arbury Primary School! We hope you are feeling as excited as we are about coming together and getting to know one another. We want to help your child's starting school experience to be as smooth as possible and we hope the following information will answer any questions you may have about what you need to bring or how to prepare. If you have any further questions about starting school, please do not hesitate to speak to us at the upcoming Stay and Play sessions, or email smorris@arbury.cambs.sch.uk

“What do I need to bring to school?”

Please provide:

<p>A full set of named, spare clothes (including underwear and socks!) to be left in a named bag on your child's peg. <u>This bag should stay in school. Bags will only be sent home at the end of each half term to be refreshed, or whenever clothing needs to be washed.</u></p>	
<p>A pair of named shorts and a named t-shirt in a named bag for your child to change into for PE lessons (please include a pair of trainers during the summer term when we do outdoors PE). You do not need to provide a second pair of trainers if your child already wears trainers to school.</p>	
<p>Clothes for use in the forest area/outdoor play: a named waterproof with hood, named welly boots and either named waterproof trousers or a puddle suit. These need to remain in school on your child's peg/class welly boot rack.</p>	
<p>A bottle of sun cream and a sun hat during hotter months. Both of these items should be named. <u>Children should come to school wearing sun cream if they are not able to apply it independently.</u></p> <p>Named hat/gloves in winter months.</p>	
<p>All children in EYFS/KS1 are entitled to a free school meal, but if you would prefer to provide a packed lunch, please ensure that their lunch box is named. All children are offered milk or water at lunch time.</p>	

We will provide:

- A named label for your child's peg, which will be waiting for them on their first day.
- A named school water bottle. This will be sent home daily for you to wash and refill with clean water (**water only please**, not squash or juices). **Please do not put water bottles in book bags as they tend to leak and ruin books.** You can send your own water bottle from home if you prefer.
- A named book bag and a reading record booklet – more on this to follow!
- All exercise books, paper and stationery items (e.g. pencils, pencil crayons, felt-tips, scissors, glue etc.). **Please do not send in equipment from home.**
- A fruit/vegetable snack each day (a different types of fruit or veg each day). You are welcome to send your child with an alternative/additional snack each day if you wish but this needs to be either **fresh fruit or vegetables only please.**

School Uniform

We have an optional uniform at Arbury Primary School, leaving the decision of clothing for school to parents and carers. We do, however, have guidelines about suitable school clothing.

Children are expected to come to school in sensible clothing and footwear. **We ask that children in EYFS come in shoes that they can take on and off independently** (so Velcro, **no laces**). **Clothing should cover shoulders, tummies and the tops of legs. Please ensure that clothing and footwear** provides enough protection for the range of activities that will be part of classroom learning and outside playtimes. Wellies are not suitable footwear for school, except for use in the forest area. Jewellery is not permitted to be worn in school other than stud earrings, which cannot be worn for sporting activities. **We advise parents/carers to remove earrings on PE days as staff will not be allowed to remove children's earrings or take responsibility for their safe keeping once removed. Children are not able to participate in PE lessons if they are wearing stud earrings so please consider this if you are planning to pierce your child's ears close to the start of the school term.**

The colour (navy blue) of the school jumper has been selected to make it easy and more affordable to buy in supermarkets, with parents and carers having the option of buying a jumper with a school logo from the online shop if they prefer. We also offer a range of free second-hand uniform at events such as the half-termly teas held after school.

“How can I get ready for school?”

1. Read your child the story all about starting school at Arbury (available on the school's website: Starting Reception in September 2026).
2. Look at the school website together and find the section called 'Starting Reception in September 2026'. Look at pictures and videos of the school building, classrooms, forest area and EYFS outdoor areas; talk together about what you are looking forward to.
3. Practise becoming more independent: going to the toilet on your own, zipping/unzipping coats, putting on shoes/socks, using cutlery etc. See the 'Preparing for School' document we have sent out.

We hope that the information in this letter, alongside the information on the website, will help you and your child feel reassured and ready for September. We can't wait to meet the children soon!

Yours sincerely,
Sophie Morris
Deputy Head Teacher

