

July 2024






Starting School Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome to Arbury Primary School! We hope you are feeling as excited as we are to come together in our new classes and get to know one another. We want to help your 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 questions about starting school, please do not hesitate to speak to us at tomorrow's Stay and Play, or email smorris@arbury.cambs.sch.uk

"What do I need to bring to school?"

Please provide:

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| <p>A full set of <u>named, spare clothes</u> (including underwear and socks!) to be left in a <u>named bag</u> 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 if clothing needs to be washed.</u></p> |  |
| <p>A pair of <u>named shorts and a named t-shirt in a named bag</u> for your child to change into <u>for PE lessons</u> (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 <u>named waterproof with hood, named welly boots</u> and either <u>named waterproof trousers or a puddle suit</u>. 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. Children should come to school wearing sun cream if they are not able to apply it independently.</p> <p>Named hat/gloves in winter months.</p> |  |
| <p>All children 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.**
- 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 additional snack each day if you wish but this needs to be either fruit or vegetables 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 no shoe laces unless they are confident tying 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.

The colour (navy blue) of the school jumper has been selected to make it easy to buy in supermarkets, with parents and carers having the option of buying a school jumper with a school logo from the online shop if they wish. 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 2024).
2. Look at the school website together and find the section called 'Starting Reception in September 2024'. Look at pictures and videos of the school building, classroom, forest area and teachers, and 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.

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 welcome the children on their first day soon!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Sapsford (Class 2 Teacher) and Miss Ozakpinar (Class 1 Teacher)