



Starting School

We are delighted that your child will be joining us at Pearl Hyde Primary School in September 2020 and are looking forward to meeting them and you, as soon as it is safe and possible to do so. Starting school is such an exciting and important milestone in your family's life which we cannot wait to share with you and your child. On our school website you will find an Early Years portal, created especially for you where you will find lots of relevant information and advice, all about starting school.

We want you to remember that all children are special and unique, and develop at different rates. To support your child to become school ready it would help them and us, if they can:

- Dress themselves, put their shoes and coat etc. on and put their belongings away.
- Put their own socks and tights on.
- Undress and keep their things together in a pile in front of them (this would really help us when we are getting ready for P.E.).
- Be able to use the toilet, wipe their own bottom and wash their hands independently.
- Show an interest in something and focus on an activity for short periods.
- Express their own needs and talk about their lives.
- Have good social skills: be able to make friends, play in a group, share and take turns.
- Hold conversations - be able to listen to others.
- Notice things and ask questions.
- Have an understanding of their own and others' feelings.
- Have an interest in books and listening to stories.
- Appreciate boundaries/rules/routines.
- Follow instructions.
- Eat a variety of food.



- Be able to use a knife and fork and attempt to cut up their own food.
- Recognise their name.
- Give meaning to marks they have made e.g. If they have written lots of letters on the page ask them what they have written. They will begin to give meaning to their marks "It says park".
- Begin to form some recognisable letters (lower case letters).
- Talk about colours they have used or seen in the environment.
- Draw and talk about what they have drawn.
- Count to 10 and beginning to count beyond 10.
- Begin to recognise some numerals.
- Match number and quantity e.g. 4 stones to the number four.
- Talk about shapes.
- Sing and be able to recall simple rhymes.
- Move to music.
- Tidy their own toys away.
- Say please and thank you.
- Go up and down stairs independently.
- Use 'child safe' scissors to cut snips into paper and begin to cut out shapes.
- Throw, catch, kick and roll a ball.

We will be supporting your child in gaining/building on these skills so do not be worried if your child cannot do all the things on this list. Some examples of how you can support your child at home to build on these skills are:

- Giving children time to put their own clothes on/take them off/put their belongings away and encouraging them to do so independently.
- Encouraging them to be independent when using the toilet or washing hands for snack/dinner.
- Giving them extra responsibility e.g. setting the table for dinner, making their own bed and keeping their room tidy.
- Playing games/initiating activities that involve turn taking, listening and sharing.
- Providing opportunities for them to play with siblings and friends (if lockdown lifts) and develop their social/communication skills, with support when needed.
- Encouraging them to tell you how they feel and what they want/need (e.g. to get a drink of water/go to the toilet).
- Taking them to interesting places to stimulate the asking of questions.
- For parents with children under 5 years old, who have not yet started school, the Department for Education (DfE) <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/> campaign features tips and practical activities that you can do at home with children to support their early learning.



- There are many simple ways to help your children learn and it does not have to feel like 'learning'. Having everyday conversations, make-believe play, and reading together, all make a big difference to your child's development.
- You can find more ideas and content from the BBC's <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people> campaign and the <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/> .
- The Department for Education has guidance for parents of children aged 2- 4 years <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19> and primary school age <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19> to support learning at home.
- Reading stories, including ones about starting school. Verbally make up your own stories together and act out your favourite stories e.g. 'The Three Little Pigs'. You cannot read enough with your child so read, read and read some more.
- Learn simple nursery rhymes.
- Give simple instructions.
- Praise children when they show an understanding of rules/boundaries.
- Support children visiting our school, virtually at the moment, but hopefully onsite in the near future. Talk issues through with them and be positive about this "adventure".
- Talk about how we feel and how others feel. Look at books about feelings.
- Model appropriate social skills and support negotiation/conflict resolution.
- Use number vocabulary at every opportunity- counting how many steps, counting people at the dinner table and asking problem solving questions e.g. How many people are at the table? If one more person was at the table how many would there be? Looking at numbers in the environment e.g. on houses etc.
- Giving children time to mark make with different materials e.g. pencils, chalk, outside with big paintbrushes and water.
- Allowing children time to explore the outdoors to develop their gross motor skills, encouraging different ways of moving (e.g. rolling, backwards, skipping, hopscotch, and climbing).

We are very excited to be welcoming you and your child to our Pearl Hyde Family and look forward to working in partnership with you. We cannot wait to meet you all and will be in touch very soon with details of our transition process.

We look forward to meeting you.

Kind regards,
The Early Years Team,

Theresa O'Hara



Mrs Theresa O'Hara Headteacher, all the Staff and Governors at Pearl Hyde

