



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Helpful tips and information for when your child starts school in September



We are delighted that your child will be starting school at Pearl Hyde Primary School in September 2021. 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.

To support your child to become school ready it would help your child and the school if they can:

- Be able to dress themselves, put their shoes and coat etc on and put their belongings away.
- Be able to 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.).
- Use the toilet, wipe their own bottom and wash their hands independently.
- Be able to show an interest in something and focus on an activity for short periods.
- Express their own needs and talk about their lives.



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- 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.
- Are able to follow instructions.
- Can eat a variety of food.
- 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.
- Draws and talks about what they have drawn.
- Counts to 10 and beginning to count beyond 10.
- Beginning to recognise some numerals.
- Matches number and quantity e.g. 4 stones to the number four.
- Can talk about shapes.
- Sings simple rhymes.
- Moves to music.
- Tidy their own toys away.
- Says please and thank you.
- Can go up and down stairs independently.
- Use 'child safe' scissors to cut snips into paper and begin to cut out shapes.
- Can throw, catch, kick and roll a ball.

Please remember children develop at different rates so do not be alarmed if your child cannot do some of the items on the list.

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. 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.



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- 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.
- 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.
- Give simple instructions. Praise children when they show an understanding of rules/boundaries.
- Support your child about coming to school. 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, climbing).

We are very excited to be welcoming you and your child to Pearl Hyde Primary School and look forward to working in partnership with you in the future.



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