



# **Ideas for Home Learning for Nursery**

**Week beginning: 13.07.20**

# Ideas for Activities

## This week's theme is: Transition

As we are coming up to the end of the school year (which in current circumstances feels very strange!) I thought it would be useful for you to have some resources to help your child with the transition to school and Reception. This week's focus is on supporting transition so I have included lots of stories, videos and resources to this. I have also suggested activities to practise some of the key skills that will help your child be ready to start.

## Reading



- \* Read or watch **'Starting School' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zQivaCXu-Q>
- \* Watch my video of a starting school story. (Monday)
- \* **Create your own 'social story'** together about starting school. Social stories

are a simple and effective tool for teaching children how to do certain things, handle tricky behaviors, master social skills, and navigate new or unfamiliar social situations. You can write them about practically anything that your child may be struggling with e.g. unfamiliar events like taking a train, washing their hair or hitting. They break complex situations into simple, easy-to-follow steps.

For story about starting school you could draw and label pictures or even use photos of your child and the front of school. You may want to make a social story for arriving at school to support your child's start. It could start off at home with your morning routine e.g. Have breakfast, brush teeth, get things ready, walk/cycle to school, wait at the gate with friends etc. You just need to draw a very basic picture for each step and talk through them.

You could also do a very simple one for the school day. Start with saying hello to their teacher, hanging up their things on their peg, finding their name for self-registration, playing, outdoor play, activities in the classroom and then lunch. If your child is worried about any aspects of school focus on these.

- \* You may wish to **buy or borrow a book about starting school**. The Book Trust has a great list of book suggestions here: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/s/starting-school/>

## Phonics

- \* **Focus on embedding the skills we have looked at over the past few weeks:** recognising and saying the **initial sounds** in words, recognising words that rhyme and thinking of other **rhyming words**, and beginning to have a go at **segmenting and blending words** – breaking them up into the individual sounds and putting them back together e.g. d-o-g dog. Sing lots of Nursery Rhymes, read rhyming books together and identify the rhyming words, and play lots of games like 'I Spy' with the first sound of word, Buzzy Bees or make sound boxes for different letters.

## Mathematics



- \* **Practise lots of counting.** Count objects, count stairs, count jumps – just embed lots of counting into daily life.
- \* **Spot numerals in the environment.** You could look at numbers on doors, identify the numbers on your oven or on some measuring scales, look for numbers on traffic signs and adverts outside. Practise recognising numerals as much as possible and where possible encourage your child to match amounts to the correct numerals.

- \* **Do puzzles together, spot and make patterns, spot shapes in the environment.** Like with counting, it is really useful to make shapes and patterns part of everyday life. Use shape names as much as possible to help your child remember them and be able to identify them ready for Reception.

## Other Activities

### Things to do:

- \* If your child is going to be at St Matthew's for Reception then **have a look on the school website** with your child: [http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/website/welcome\\_to\\_reception/491099](http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/website/welcome_to_reception/491099)  
**Watch the Welcome to Reception video:**  
[http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/website/information\\_about\\_starting\\_school\\_/491117](http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/website/information_about_starting_school_/491117)  
You can also see introduction videos from the other Reception teachers here. Talk to your child about who their teacher/s will be next year. You can explain that some of their friends from Nursery will also be in their class so there will be lots of familiar faces. Remind your child that they will use the Reception playground that they have already played in lots this year!
- \* **Talk about lunch time and have a look at the School Meals page on the website:** [http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/website/school\\_meals/89296](http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/website/school_meals/89296) The picture shows some children having their Christmas lunch. You can show your child the tables and explain that this is how they will sit to have their lunch in school. I have attached an example of the school menu to this pack so you can have a look at the kind of options your child will have for their lunch.
- \* When your child is in Reception they will have their own peg, tray and home card for self-registration (like our pebbles in Nursery). Now is a good time to **practise recognising their name** if they cannot yet do this. If your child is confidently recognising their name it would be really helpful for them to be able to **write their name**, either by copying it or writing it independently. If you teach your child their name it is helpful that the first letter is a capital letter and the rest are lower-case letters as this is how they will be taught to write it in Reception.
- \* **Practise going to the toilet independently.** Now is a great time to support your child in using the toilet and washing their hands completely independently without any adult help.
- \* **Practise getting changed, putting their socks and shoes on and doing their own coat.** In Reception the children are encouraged to be as independent as possible. Throughout the summer it is a good idea to practise all of these self-care skills as much as possible so that your child feels confident when they start school.

### Things to watch:

- \* **Watch Topsy & Tim's First Day at School:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/topsy-and-tim-first-day-at-school> Discuss the video - what happens? What is it like? If your child is going to St Matthew's in September you may want to point out that they will not wear uniform like Topsy and Tim and will still go to school in their own clothes. If your child is going to a new school that has uniform you can talk about it. (CBeebies also have an article for parents to read about starting school that you may find useful <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/how-to-prepare-your-child-for-primary-school?collection=starting-school-curation>)
- \* **Watch some of Mr Davies's Monday Assemblies on the school website:** [http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/website/assemblies\\_1/477057](http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/website/assemblies_1/477057) You can explain to your child that when they are in Reception (and throughout school) they will go to the big hall to have assembly. We have been to the hall before, if they want to know which hall you can explain that it is not the soft play equipment hall but the other one near the front of the school. Watching these videos will

introduce your child to Mr Davies and you can explain that he is the head teacher and is in charge of the school.

- \* The BBC have a series of videos about Primary School Life that you can watch. This video is about **lunchtime**: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z4rdjrj6> After watching the video, talk to your child about how lunch works in Reception. Explain that all the children eat in the lunch hall together (the hall we do our soft play climbing in). You could talk about whether your child will eat school dinner or have a packed lunch.
- \* Login to Espresso using and **watch the Starting School video**: [https://central.espresso.co.uk/espresso/primary\\_uk/subject/module/video/item1167529/grade/module1162916/index.html?source=search-all-all-all-all&source-keywords=starting%20school](https://central.espresso.co.uk/espresso/primary_uk/subject/module/video/item1167529/grade/module1162916/index.html?source=search-all-all-all-all&source-keywords=starting%20school)

### Things to make:

- \* **Paint or draw a picture to give your new teacher.** This can be a lovely activity to do at some point in the summer to take in your child's first day. Encourage them to do the picture independently and they could have a go at writing or copying their name onto it too.
- \* **Make a card to give to a friend you have missed in September.** Ask your child if there is anyone they have missed
- \* **Make a scrapbook of your summer holidays.** You could have a look at your child's Learning Journey book together and suggest that you create your own version for the next few weeks. All you need is some kind of notebook and some pencils or pens. You could stick photos in it, draw pictures of what you get up to, and if you are able to go visit things you could keep tickets etc and stick those in too.
- \* **Bake a cake to celebrate the end of your child's time in Nursery.** You could try one of these children's recipes: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/super-easy-birthday-cake> or <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/cupcakes>

### Things to listen to:

- \* **Listen to the CBeebies Radio 'Time for School – Carpet Time' episode about starting school:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio/time-for-school-carpet-time-starting-school>

### Song of the Week: Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

Listen to the song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSJtY9UATA> You could alter the words to fit your morning routine before school or even add verses like "This is the way we walk to school".

Alternative video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQB-L2I0ke0>

## Five a Day Fitness Activities

5-a-day Fitness is a collection of online 5-minute follow-along fun fitness routines with an array of different themes, from Pirates to Superheroes, and Pop to Jive. Resources can easily be used at any time, in most spaces, and without any physical equipment.

Cross-curricular language learning resources are available in French, Spanish and Welsh, and can also be easily used at home. These language videos have MFL voice-overs and optional on-screen Key Word translations, thereby improving language reading and listening skills.



The Time-2-Chill resources are 2-minute follow-along routines concentrating on relaxation, imagination, co-ordination and mindfulness, a great way to assist well-being.

There's no preparation required, simply log in, select a video routine, join in, have fun, get fit and learn at home!

**IMPORTANT: \*THESE LOGIN DETAILS ARE TO BE USED BY PARENT/CARERS AND PUPILS FROM YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL ONLY. \*DO NOT SHARE THESE LOGIN DETAILS WITHIN ANYONE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME/IMMEDIATE FAMILY.**

The home access username and password for parents/carers and pupils of St Matthew's is:

**USERNAME: 5-a-dayAtHome**

**PASSWORD: AtHome123**

## Notice to Parents/Carers

Please remember these are only suggested activities and resources; feel free to do other activities that your child is interested in and adapt the ideas in order to suit the needs of your child and your family. The ideas are here to start you off and give you some structure if you would like it, I do not expect you to complete everything suggested. The most important thing during this difficult time is to make sure that your families are safe and happy! If your child is continuing to play, explore and learn then that is what counts.

As always, please email me if you have any questions, if I can support you in any way or you would like to share any of your children's learning: [smartin-hawkins@stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:smartin-hawkins@stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk)

I love seeing photos and videos and getting updates on how your children are getting on.

Take care,  
Sophie Martin-Hawkins