



A Guide to Starting School

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage at Hemingbrough CP School. Beginning school is a very special time for children, parents and carers. We believe strongly that by working in partnership with each other we can provide the best possible start to your child's school education.

This guide is intended to be a useful introduction to those first steps into the school setting. For further specific information about the school please also see the full prospectus on our website www.hemingbrough.n-yorks.sch.uk

Preparing for School

Helping your child to settle in at school begins at home by building your child's knowledge of what to expect when they get here. You can help them to develop a positive attitude by encouraging play with friends and helping them to learn new things. We realise and appreciate that every child is at a different developmental stage and that some children will be more independent than others. However, children are more confident if they are able to cope with everyday tasks by themselves and we are delighted to see children who are able to do most of the following by the time they begin school:

- * Dress and undress him/herself - buying elasticated trousers / skirts and polo shirts helps eliminate the need to fasten buttons
- * Remove own coat and hang it up
- * Put on and remove shoes / wellington boots by him/herself
- * Use the toilet properly, flush after use, wash and dry hands
- * Use a knife, fork and spoon - particularly if your child is going to have school dinners
- * Be prepared to take turns, share toys and tidy up
- * Use a handkerchief / tissue effectively

Reading

Learning to read is one of the most important skills your child will acquire. As a parent you are your child's first teacher, The encouragement and support you give your child will help to ensure progress in his / her reading development. It is important that books are seen as sources of great pleasure. The physical closeness and security of sharing a book will help your child associate reading with pleasure.

Allow your child the freedom to choose books for him/herself. Look first at the pictures and discuss what is happening, then read the story running your finger directly under the words as you read them. Encourage your child to re-tell the story and have fun by putting on different voices. Singing nursery rhymes together encourages many developmental skills.

Writing

Children starting school should be able to recognise their own name so that they can find their own labelled belongings at school. Some children will be able to write their own first name so that they can label their own work.

Encourage your child to draw, crayon, paint, chalk, model with plasticine. All of these activities will help develop and strengthen muscles in your child's hands and improve fine motor skills.

Mathematics

It is very helpful if children arrive at school with some knowledge of colour. Also sorting experiences are very helpful - encourage your child to match colours together (eg. Match a red car to a red jumper) and sort (find all the blue crayons in the pack). Both matching and sorting are basic to all future understanding of arithmetic.

Daily life gives lots of opportunities for pointing out numbers and figures. First concentrate on number recognition from one to five and then try numbers to ten.

Counting means actually counting objects so that your child can relate the number to the object (not just reciting numbers parrot fashion). The more sorting and counting games your child plays, the more observant they will become. Your child will need plenty of praise - counting is hard work.

What do I need for School?

Often children like to know what they will need for school and enjoy collecting their equipment together. The following is a checklist of items required, please see the main prospectus for further guidance on uniform:

Uniform (polo shirts/sweatshirts/bookbags can be purchased online from myclothing.com)

White Polo Shirt

Black Trousers / Skirt / Pinafore Dress

Purple Sweatshirt / Cardigan (with school logo)

Purple Gingham Summer Dress

Black flat shoes (Velcro fastening are easiest)

Small headbands/clips may be worn to keep hair away from the face but should not be worn as items of fashion

No Jewellery / Make-Up / Hats (indoors)

PE Kit

Plain T-shirt

Dark shorts

Trainers (with velcro fastening) are only required for outside PE in Summer Term (after Easter)

Water Bottle (this will be sent home daily)

PE Kit Bag (needs to be large enough to hold all kit)

Book Bag (Essential to keep books and letters to home safe)

Lunch box (If having packed lunch children need a named box/bag)

Waterproof Coat (For playtimes and working outside on wet days)

Wellington Boots (wet/snowy days for playtimes and outdoor work)

Sun Hat / Sun Cream (in Hot Weather)

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING CLEARLY WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME!

A Typical Day in Early Years

8.55am	The Classroom door is opened and children may begin to arrive. They hang up their coats and put their book bags in the appropriate places. They register by putting their own name card in the correct basket - school dinners or packed lunch (it is important that your child is aware of his/her dinner arrangements every morning)
9.05am	The Classroom door is closed - all children should be in the classroom. Morning 'Welcome'
9.10am	Assembly in the Hall
9.30am	Children are involved in independent and teacher-led activities within the provision areas of the classroom and the outdoor area
10.30am	Playtime on the Key Stage One Playground
10.45am	Snack time - Free fruit / vegetables provided by 'National Fruit for School'
11.00am	Children are involved in independent and teacher-led activities within the provision areas of the classroom and the outdoor area
11.55am	Prepare for dinner time
12.05pm	Children having school dinners queue up in the Hall to collect their meal. Children having packed lunch are seated in the Hall. After eating children play outside on the Key Stage One playground and are cared for by Midday Supervisors
1.00pm	Children are registered
1.05pm	Children are involved in independent and teacher-led activities within the provision areas of the classroom and the outdoor area
2.20pm	Tidy up time
2.30pm	Carpet time to review day and share a story and songs
3.00pm	Early Years children collect their things for the end of the day and are taken to the Key Stage Two playground to be collected by parent / carer. After all children have been safely 'handed over', anybody wishing to see the teacher is welcome in school. If the teacher is unable to see you because of a prior appointment, they will make a mutually convenient time as soon as possible.

Autumn Term Events for Early Years

- **Open Classroom - meet & greet (Early literacy skills)**
- **Parent Consultation Evenings**
- **The Christmas Production**

The Early Years Classroom

The classroom and the outside play area are designed for young children. Rather than sitting formally at desks, the classroom has areas which allow the children to make choices about their learning. It encourages children to develop independence and to actively seek out new experiences. The outside play area is an extension of the classroom and is used all year round to enhance children's learning. We have full waterproof suits to enable use of the outdoor classroom, whatever the weather.

The teacher plans experiences which give the best opportunities for the children to develop their learning following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This gives guidance for all settings providing for children from birth to 5 years old.

- **Personal, social and emotional development**
Children learn how to work, play and co-operate with others beyond their family.
- **Communication and language**
Children develop competence in speaking and listening, and in becoming readers and writers.
- **Physical development**
Through play and sporting activities, children develop co-ordination, awareness of space and fine motor skills.
The specific areas of learning are:
- **Literacy**
Children learn strategies to support reading and writing
- **Mathematics**
Providing the foundation for mathematics through a broad range of practical activities.
- **The World**
Children develop understanding of their environment, other people and features of the natural world.
- **Expressive Arts and Design**
The ability to communicate thoughts, ideas and feelings is an essential part of children's development

Settling In

Visits to School

In order to aid the settling in process children visit school regularly in small groups with a pre-school member of staff. Then parents and carers are invited to a meeting in the Summer term prior to children starting school. This provides an opportunity to meet staff, buy uniform and ask any questions. Children are also invited to visit the Early Years class for two morning sessions in the Summer Term. The classroom visits are a valuable opportunity to become more familiar with the school building, and to meet the other class members. One of the visits also includes a lunch time to give children a chance to try a school lunch, or just to experience a lunch time in school.

After the initial settling in period parents / carers are also invited to open classroom sessions. **Details of all these events will be sent directly to parents / carers.**

However your child reacts to school, keep calm and always reassure them that everything is going to be alright. Your attitude to school will help to shape your child's throughout their school life. The teacher and teaching assistant are your guides and support - please use them; they want to help your child to learn and grow in a happy, supportive environment.

Other Useful information

Lunch times

School Dinners - All food is prepared freshly every day by our catering staff using British fresh meat and poultry, local and regional fruit and vegetables when available, and free range local eggs in the home baking. Recipes and menus are formulated to provide optimum levels of nutrients to help keep your children healthy. Alongside the standard hot meal we offer a Jacket Potato or Baguette as an alternative.

All children in Reception (EYFS), Year 1 and Year 2 are able to receive school meals free of charge. We send dinner menus out on alternate Thursdays via Parentmail and ask that you complete and return by the following Thursday so that the kitchen have an idea of the numbers they are cooking for. You may book your child in for as many meals as you wish.

Packed lunches - need to include a drink, please do not send cans, glass bottles or fizzy drinks. Sweets and chocolate bars are not allowed. **We are a NUT FREE zone as we have several children with severe nut allergies.**

Communication

You will be set up with a Parentmail account before your child starts school. This is our system for sending you letters, forms and dinner bookings. The system can be accessed from smart phones, tablets or PCs.

Letters are also displayed on our school website (www.hemingbrough.n-yorks.sch.uk). On some occasions we do need to send paper letters so please check book bags daily.

We issue a weekly newsletter - School Snippets, and a 'What's Happening at Hemingbrough' guide to events for each term.

Please see our website for information on our Policies, past newsletters and term dates as well as urgent notices. We also send text messages for reminders or urgent messages. There is no cost to parents for receiving texts, but please let us know if you would prefer not to be contacted in this way.

Payments to School

For the payment of trips, music lessons etc. we prefer payment to be made via our online system - Parentpay. Once your child has started at school we will provide you with a login for the service.

For small payments for charity days, non uniform days etc. we can accept cash which should be placed in an envelope clearly displaying your child's name, class, amount enclosed and what the payment is for.

Contact Details



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