

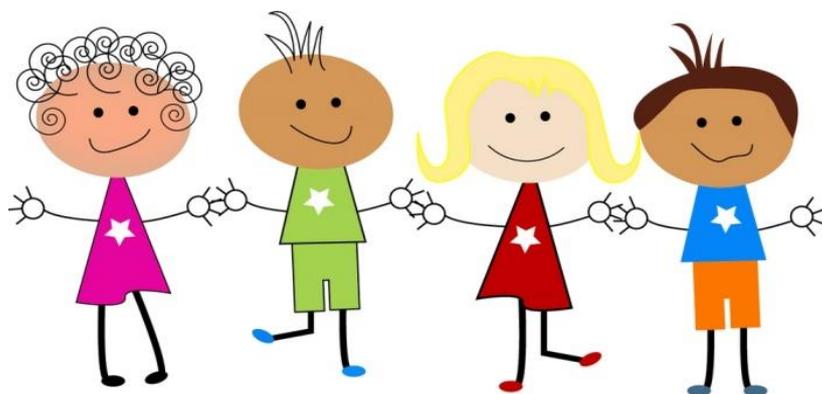


**LOXWOOD**  
SCHOOL

# Loxwood Primary School

**Starting School Booklet**

**September 2021**



## **Starting School**

September is approaching and like most parents you will be keen to know what you can do to help your child's start in school be as smooth and as happy as possible.

Within this booklet are some ideas and activities that you can do to help your child however, one of the most important things to remember is that the more nervous you are the more nervous they will be.

You will have received a letter detailing the Stay and Plays and Story Times planned for this year. These are opportunities for you and your child to spend some time in the school prior to September. If you are unable to attend one of these please let us know. You are also welcome to the Summer Fair and any other events that we have planned.

### The Staggered Start in September

Why a Staggered Start?

We do understand that these part days can be quite difficult to arrange particularly if you are a working parent however, with many years combined experience in the school we know that by building up the days slowly we are more likely to have settled, happy children.

Even if your child has attended a pre-school or nursery full time, school can be very different and overwhelming. It is important that they build up their stamina slowly and that they have a chance to get to know the routines and other children at a pace that is suitable for their age.

It is also very important that the teacher and teaching assistant are able to get to know the children as quickly as they can to ensure that the planning and provision needed for each and every child is appropriate. This can only be done when the children come in in small groups to start – a child in need in a smaller group will be identified quickly and given whatever support they need.

## What can I do before September?

Every child is different and at a different place developmentally however, there are a few skills that they will all need and that you can practise over the summer together

### 1. Going to the toilet on their own.

We are always on hand to help with those little mishaps however, children do need to be able to independently cope with number 1's and 2's.

If your child has a medical issue please speak to us and be assured we will work with you to support your child.



### 2. Getting themselves dressed and undressed

It's so tempting to help (it's certainly quicker) but they do need to be able to do this themselves.

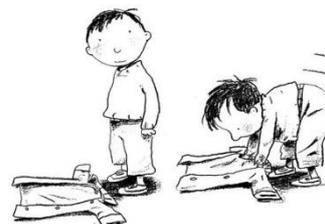
We understand it takes a bit of practice however, to make things easier pick uniform without buttons or zips at the back. Tights are very difficult! Reception children are welcome to wear green jogging bottoms if it helps.

### 3. Putting on their coat and zipping it up

There are different techniques – but this is something we carry on doing for our children without thinking about it.

A teacher will always help but won't manage 30! So a little practise is wonderful.

Please name everything – including socks and shoes!



## Activities you can do with your child

You may already be doing these and if you are that's great.

All these activities support a child developmentally in areas such as speaking and listening (essential for reading and writing), social interaction (making friends) and pattern (the route of number and maths).

These are optional but should be fun for you and all the family.

- Sing lots of nursery rhymes and rhyming songs
- Have a go at pointing out and recognising numbers
- Talk about the world around you – notice seasons, weather, plants and animals
- Read lots of lovely stories – this will inspire a love of books at young age
- Show them their name written down and let them have a go (please model their name with a capital letter at the beginning, early habits are hard to break!). Mark making is the very first skill in writing and just picking up a pencil and making marks on the paper is great.
- Maybe your child can already write their name; can they write their second name?

When children start school they are all unique and at a different stage developmentally. Try not to worry what they can or can't do in comparison to other children. We will ensure that our planning is adapted to support the children at every level of development.



## And finally....

Some hints and tips to help you as parents;

- We have all had different experience ourselves with school life, some good and perhaps some that weren't so good; so is important to be as positive as possible with your child.
- If you are sharing your concerns with friends and family try to ensure that they are not in ear shot – little ears hear all sorts of things!
- Try to attend as many of the Starting School activities as you can, the more time you spend in the school prior to starting the more confident you will be.
- Take some time for yourself after you have dropped them off – arrange to meet up with a friend or another mum or dad.
- Try to hold those emotions in until you have gone around the corner, very difficult I know but they are as worried about you as you are about them.

And finally always come in and talk to us. We do understand how emotional this can be and the more we can help and reassure you the better the starting school process will be for your child.

