



Introduction

We look forward to welcoming your child to our school. We believe that education is and must be a partnership between home and school. You have been your child's first teacher and we take great pleasure in joining with you in that activity to further your child's development. We want to make the change from home to school as smooth as possible. Starting at school is a major step for your child and there are many rules and procedures to be absorbed. The transition must be gradual and for that reason all children will begin on a part-time basis and gradually build up to full-time.

Your child will need time to:

1. build up confidence
2. adjust to the needs of a busy classroom
3. adjust to new intellectual demands
4. develop the ability to concentrate
5. learn to be away from home for a whole day
6. establish a good relationship with the teacher in smaller group situations

During the summer term, before your child starts school, times will be arranged for your child to visit the school and spend some time in the classroom with their teacher.

If you have any queries or problems, please come and talk to us. In this way, we can work together to give your child the best start to their school career.

Home Visits

This year we are able to offer the opportunity of a personal home visit by the class teacher. This enables you and your child to meet your teacher in your home environment. This makes a strong link between home and school.

It gives you, the parents, the opportunity to speak privately about your child's medical needs and any other concerns you have and to share your child's early learning experiences.

Please inform the class teacher during this visit if you are in receipt of any benefits such as income support, child tax credit with an annual income of less than £16190 as the school will also receive extra funding to support your child...please ask for more information if you are unsure.

The date and time that has been allocated for your Home Visit is shown on the enclosed slip. Please let us know as soon as possible if this date is not convenient.

Stay and Play

Following the home visits, we will be holding a Stay and Play session on the morning of Wednesday 7th September. This is an opportunity for you to bring your child to school, and remain with them whilst they spend a little time reminding themselves of the layout of the classroom and finding their drawer, peg etc.



Preparing your child for school

It would be useful if you could help your child with the following:-

- Dress and undress him or her self or at least have a good try
- Go to the toilet independently & able to wipe their own bottom
- Hang own belongings on own peg in the correct way
- Change shoes, daps
- Wash and dry hands
- Use a tissue
- Have a try at using a knife, fork and spoon
- Play amicably and share toys with other children
- Be responsible for clearing away own toys and equipment
- Listen to a story told or read and know how to sit quietly for a short time (e.g. 10 minutes)
- Listen and look when spoken to
- Hold a pencil or crayon correctly using thumb and first two fingers
- Recognise common colours
- Be able to recognise own written name
- Sing number songs and enjoy counting games
- Drawing with large fat crayons or pencils
- Painting with large brushes
- Use round ended scissors to cut out magazine pictures, etc.
- Use large jigsaws and constructional toys
- Model in plasticine or playdoh



Do not worry if your child cannot do all these things. The most important thing is to talk with your child and encourage him/her to listen to you.

Helping your child with early learning experiences

The importance of play

Play is children's 'work': it helps them to gain confidence and courage. Through play children discover what they can do, how to feel and think and enables them to practice skills they have learnt. Encourage play in sand, mud and water, laying the table, helping to wash up, paint, crayon, cook, use real scissors, go shopping with you, choose a book at the library, play with jigsaws, construction games, snap, snakes and ladders, ludo, lotto etc.



The most important thing to remember is that each child is an individual and they mature at different rates.

Talking and listening

Spending time with your child is the most valuable learning experience.

Talk about topical events and interests and encourage him/her to:-

recognise shapes such as    
months of the year
name everyday objects found in and around the home
the days of the week
animals, trees, flowers etc.

Encourage him/her to remember events such as holidays, journeys and meeting people. Remembering own name and address, telephone number and birthday are all very useful.

Allow time for you to listen to your child talking – be patient and do not answer on your child's behalf. Answer questions in a straightforward, clear and truthful manner. Encourage your child to listen to you. Share experiences such as watching suitable television programmes and talk together about what has happened.

Helping your child with reading

Books are a great source of enjoyment and you can provide the example by letting your child see you reading for enjoyment or information.



Read stories to your child. Use picture books and let him/her sit comfortably where they can see the pictures and talk about them. Encourage discussion about the stories and ask them to retell stories they know. Nursery rhymes are an important means of increasing a child's vocabulary and may be used to reinforce rhyming.

Children learn much through listening. So by talking to your child now, you are providing a good foundation for reading, which will come later.

Children can start to read by pretending to read. They need to know that the words on a line run from left to right and that the lines are read from the top of the page to bottom. Follow the print with your finger as you read and your child's eyes will learn to follow your finger.

Children love to hear a favourite story again and again. They are learning about words and language patterns. They are also learning to 'predict' what will follow, which is an important reading skill.

Pre-school children gradually become aware of certain words:

Their own name, street name, shop names, bus stops and signs they see every day. Draw their attention to these words and explain their purpose, but do not make it a lesson or hard work.

Let your child help with the shopping, look for names on the packets, encourage your child to share in everyday activities, such as looking up television times, exploring holiday brochures or catalogues.

Games like 'I spy' are useful when children know their letter sounds.

Children are very sensitive towards parental expectations: always praise and encourage your child.

Helping your child to write

If you want to help with writing, encourage your child to enjoy making patterns, ensuring left to right movement.



If your child is keen to write please ensure that they hold the pencil correctly and allow them plenty of time to scribble.

We use lower case letters with capitals only for the beginning of a sentence or proper name.

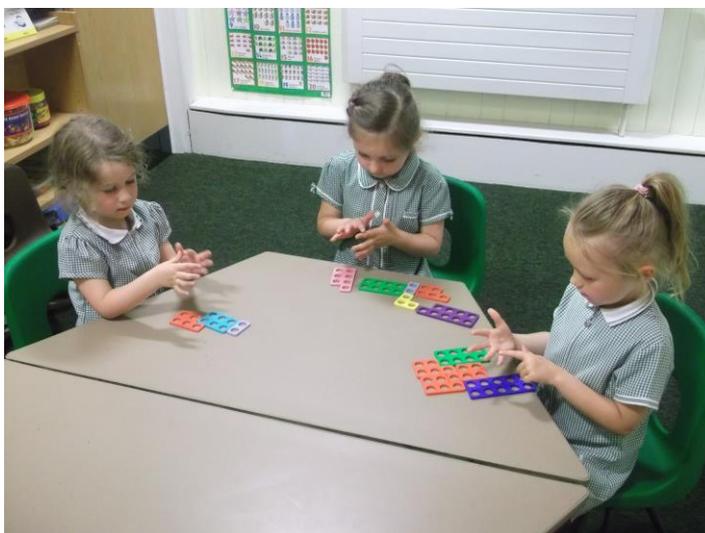


Helping your child with early mathematics

The early work in mathematics will cover sorting, matching, comparison and counting activities leading on to simple addition and subtraction.

Encourage children to count and match everyday items, e.g. cups and saucers or objects in the surrounding environment when shopping and reinforce correct mathematical language – e.g. more than, less than, full, empty, taller than, shorter than.

Sharing number rhymes with your child e.g. 10 green bottles, will give them an understanding of number.



The Night Before



It's almost here, the first day of school. He/she will be experiencing a mixture of emotions – bursting with excitement and importance – yet, despite all your reassurances, feeling very apprehensive, and maybe wishing they could stay at home with you.

It's important to make this special night as calm and relaxed as you can for your child, so stick to your usual routine.

The First Day

Where do I take my child?



Please bring your child into their classroom at 8.45 a.m. (morning groups) or 1.30 p.m. (afternoon groups). All the pegs and drawers will be labelled with your child's name and a picture.

Please encourage independence from the first day by helping them to find their own peg and drawer **but** giving them responsibility for their belongings and allowing them to hang up their coat and dap bag and put book bags in their own drawer. Routines established at the beginning

make school life easier for the children and are essential to an efficient start to the day!!

What happens next?

Activities and toys will be set out for the children to choose from and they will begin to make them feel settled. Please bid your child "goodbye" before leaving the classroom.

Please return on time to collect your child at the end of a session (mornings 11.45 am or 12.15 pm if staying for lunch. and afternoons 3.30 pm.)

Please wait in the playground in the area outside the Reception classroom. Your child's teacher will bring your child out to you. It is important to wait in the same place everyday, where your child can find you easily.

If for any reason you are delayed, please try to contact school so we can make arrangements for your child.

Please let us know if you have made arrangements for someone else to collect your child.

What does my child need to bring to school?



Children will be offered fruit daily as part of the government's healthy eating scheme – apples, pears, oranges, bananas, tomatoes, but we do not know which fruit will arrive until each day's delivery.

At mid morning break children are also able to purchase toast from the school kitchen at a cost of 10p per slice. This is payable weekly in advance on Monday mornings. Please ensure that payments for toast are in a separate envelope to any other payments and marked with the child's name class and dates for which toast has been ordered.

We encourage children to bring a water bottle to school – these can be purchased from the school office. Please ensure that the **water bottle is filled only with water** and no other drinks such as juice etc.

Milk is provided each morning for all children who are four years old. After their fifth birthday it is still available but at a charge (currently 24p per day). This is payable termly in advance. (You will need to fill in and return the relevant form.)

Water is freely available.

You have now received a school book bag, which you can bring to school each day. These bags are large enough to hold other items such as – letters, toast money etc. **Please do not bring a rucksack.**



You will need a named daps bag at school. This should contain your P.E. kit – shorts, T-shirt. Daps are not needed until Term 5. Please ensure all PE Kit is named.

Do **not** bring toys to school unless asked to by your teacher for a special reason.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

When your child starts school they will be taking part in PE lessons. It will be a great help if he/she is able to dress and undress themselves.

Please label everything

It is the policy of Redfield Edge Primary School that the wearing of school uniform is actively encouraged throughout the school day. This promotes the school, avoids peer pressures and helps the monitoring and identification of children when away from the premises.

The Redfield Edge Primary School Uniform policy is set out below. (Appropriate clothing is permitted if required by religious doctrine).



Boys – Winter

- Dark grey or black school trousers or joggers
- White school shirt
- White short sleeved polo shirt
- Plain bottle green jumper or sweatshirt
- Bottle green school sweatshirt
- White, black or grey socks
- Appropriate footwear (wholly or mainly black and not studded)
- Early Years Foundation Stage – waterproofs and wellington boots

Boys – Summer

In addition to the above, boys may wear the following during the summer months:

- Dark grey/black shorts (not sports shorts)
- Bottle green school cap

Girls – Winter

- Dark grey/black knee length skirt or pinafore dress
- Dark grey/black ankle length trousers
- Plain white cotton school blouse
- White short sleeved polo shirt
- Plain bottle green jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan
- Bottle green school sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black, grey or bottle green tights
- White socks
- Appropriate footwear (wholly or mainly black and not studded)
- Early Years Foundation Stage – waterproofs and wellington boots

Girls – Summer

In addition to the above, girls may wear the following during the summer months:

- Green and white gingham or striped school dress
- Bottle green school cap

Foundation Stage and Key Stage One PE Kit

- Plain black shorts
- School PE T-shirt in colour appropriate to the school house that your child has already been allocated
- Black daps (bare feet preferred)

All named and in a named PE bag please.



Uniform Rules

Children may wear:

1. Sensible inexpensive wristwatches, but should be marked with the owner's name. The pupil must be responsible for their watch as the school is not responsible for damage or loss of personal property.
2. Hair bands and scrunchies in school colours, but children should be discouraged from wearing fancy hair bands as some designs could cause injury.

Children should NOT wear:

1. Jewellery except stud earrings (these must be removed for sports activities or must be covered with a plaster or micropore which should be brought from home).
2. Make-up including nail varnish.
3. Sports branded clothing during the normal school day.
4. High heeled shoes on Health and Safety grounds.
5. Hats and scarves during lessons except for religious or medical reasons.

Purchasing School Uniform

Sweatshirts, cardigans, school caps, PE T-shirts and bags can be purchased from the school office. Other optional school uniform items e.g. fleece jackets, are also available.

Lunch in school

We offer your child the opportunity to stay for a school dinner during week 2 or 3.

School meals are now provided **free of charge** for all children in Key Stage 1. If your child would prefer to bring a packed lunch then that is also perfectly acceptable. Each morning at registration your child will be required to say whether they are having a school meal or a packed lunch.



School payments

All payments should be sent to your child's class in separate sealed envelopes (a good use of recycled envelopes) marked with the following information:-

- Child's name
- Class
- Details of payment (e.g. trip payment, after school club)
- Amount
- Date

What do I do if my child is not well enough to come to school?

If your child is not well enough to come to school please telephone the school on the first day of absence. Please remember that if your child has been sick they should not return to school for 48 hours.

What do I need to do if my family is going on holiday?

Holidays during term time are not encouraged. However, if it is necessary for you to go away on holiday during term time, you will need to get a "Yellow Form" from the school office which needs to be completed **before** your holiday. Holidays will not be authorised in Terms 1 and 5.

Preparing **YOURSELF** for when your child starts school!

1. After a busy session in school many children are tired and the last thing they want is to talk about what they have done. Many cannot even remember what they have done. Please do not press them – as they relax after something to eat and a rest they will often open up and the events of the day will unfold.
2. If your child comments that he/she 'played', this means that the teacher has succeeded in making the work fun and the learning process is taking place.
3. If your child complains that another child has hurt him/her do not suggest that he/she hits the child back. We encourage the children to ask a supervising adult for help. Any situations which cause further problems should be discussed with the child's teacher.



Anything else that I need to know?

During the school year you will have several opportunities to look at your child's work and talk with teachers. Each child will have a learning diary which you will have the opportunity to share and contribute to. These are available to view throughout their school year. There will also be information evenings and workshop sessions about particular areas of the curriculum. Please feel free to take up these options –they are for you.

Cooking, sewing and other specialist activities do take place with the help of volunteers. If you would like to offer your support, please see the class teacher.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING THAT COMES TO SCHOOL IS NAMED!

We know that your child will be very happy at Redfield Edge Primary School but if you have any worries or problems your teacher or Mr. Foss will always be ready to listen to you and your child. Please come and talk to us!

We look forward to seeing you later this term for our settling in sessions, In the meantime if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will be happy to help 😊



