



I'm worried because they have missed out on so much nursery, and the impact of lockdown on their learning and well-being.

Although children have missed an amount of nursery education they have benefited from family time. On their return to a more regular timetable they are able to reengage with their peers and enjoy time outdoors. Staff are constantly providing reassurance and a variety of learning experiences to ensure those moving on to school will be well prepared and equipped to begin P1 with confidence.

There are several websites which can assist you with concerns around your child's health and wellbeing:

Parentclub <https://www.parentclub.scot/child>

Healthier Minds <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/PsychologicalService/school-staff/building-resilience/healthier-minds/>

Parentzone <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>



I'm worried that sometimes my child loses interest in writing letters and numbers – I'm not sure what they should be able to do at this stage.

Every child learns at their own pace, so children in Primary 1 will have a wide range of abilities and skills.

#### Writing skills

Learning to write needs lots of different muscle skills, hand to eye co-ordination and control as well as a motivation and purpose, so there are many ways to help your child acquire the skills and practise needed.

Developing fine motor skills through play gives children the hand movements needed to be able to hold and control a pencil, so lots of games with playdough, small construction such as Lego, using scissors, spades, using paintbrushes and so on are great for this. Big motor movements, such as running and jumping, swinging arms etc. help to develop core muscles so children can give their attention to a task such as writing.



Providing writing and drawing materials that children can choose to use as they wish will provide practise for your child. Copying letters and numbers is not the main priority – making marks, scribbles, making squiggly patterns and drawing will help your child improve. Reasons to mark make, such as birthday cards, making lists or writing in play, can help to engage children in writing. We want children to have a really positive view of their skills and feel confident about their writing, so it should be fun and interesting. Doing a little, often can be better than asking your child to copy letters or numbers for longer periods of time.



My child is upset every time we talk about school.

I'm worried about how my child will settle at school – they took a long time to settle at nursery or when meeting new people.

Talking to your child will provide lots of reassurance to them if they are anxious about starting school. Walking past the school and stopping to talk about it can help your child to voice particular worries. Talk about each part of a school day, to try to find out anything that is troubling your child.

When you are talking together you can talk to your child about who can help them at school too.

Click here for more information

<https://sway.office.com/VlwWbSSBHz6CxD1?ref=Link&loc=play>



I'm not sure what will be expected in terms of independence

Adults in school will be available to assist children however being independent is part of developing skills for life and should be encouraged for their own self esteem.

At home and in nursery provide opportunities for your child to:

Change outdoor to indoor shoes

Successfully using the toilet on their own

Taking a jacket on and off making an attempt to use the zip or other fastenings

Children should practise to change their own clothes in preparation for gym days

Opening and closing their schoolbag and lunchbox

Opening water bottles and other packaging which will assist them at snack and lunchtime



Will my child have friends in their class?

Children who transfer to our catchment schools will know children from nursery. Arthurlie teachers discuss friendships with schools during transition conversations to make sure each child will recognise familiar children from nursery. If you have a particular request please send an email to us at:

[schoolmail@arthurlie.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@arthurlie.e-renfrew.sch.uk)



Will there be school visits? What will the transition be?

At this time we cannot confirm transition arrangements, whilst we await new guidance on easing of lockdown. However, we are in contact with our catchment schools so that we can put in place transition visits as and when they are allowed. We will do our utmost to ensure that children are able to visit their schools and meet teachers and staff there.

Our transition programme will be shared with you as soon as we are able to do so.



Will the school know what support my child needs?

Arthurlie teachers will meet with schools to share information about each child, including any additional supports they may need. If appropriate individual meetings will be arranged for children who receive support from outside agencies such as the Educational Psychology Service.