



Starting School – What You Need



- School uniform – shirt and tie or polo shirt (white or yellow) trousers/skirt/school dresses (grey or black) green or grey jumper- does not need to have the school logo on it black school shoes school ties are available to buy at the school office.
- School Bag (not too big)
- Draw string gym bag – please put your child's name on it
- Gym shoes – please write your child's name on them
- Gym shorts/jogging trousers/leggings and a t-shirt
- Healthy Snack each day for playtime
- No earrings please
- Water bottle



Please write your child's name on all items of clothing and footwear. Thank you.

Further updates on what your child will need for school will be provided closer to the start date of their first day at Cuthbertson.



School – What you can do to help your child prepare



- Read stories with your child and sing rhymes with them
- Count numbers to 10, play number games and sing number rhymes
- Sing the alphabet with them, talk about the sounds and the names of the letters
- Cutting skills – provide your child with opportunities to practise their cutting out skills
- Matching games – can they match the object to the sound it begins with? Can they match the number to the number of objects
- Talk & Listen – everyday activities. Take time to talk and listen to your child at the dinner table, when going for a walk, playing a game etc
- Read with your child, tell stories, talk about the world around you

- Explore rhymes, games and sounds. *What does tree begin with? What does apple begin with? What is the middle sound in bat? What is the last sound in car?*
- Count and sort buttons, counters, bottle lids into groups. Counting groups of objects by touching with their finger. *If I add one more to the group how many now? If I take away 1 how many are left?* Encouraging mathematical language and using it every day will support your child's learning development in numeracy and maths.
- Talk about shapes such as squares, triangles, rectangles and circles. Go on a shape hunt in the house or outside. Make a picture using shapes.
- Draw, paint, cut, any sort of mark making. Discuss colours - can your child identify their colours? Mark making- children can use chalk, pens, pencils to have a go at mark making. Please remember many of the children will be at a pre-writing stage so if they make squiggles and marks that make no sense to you, they will still be able to communicate what their markings mean to them. It is important we encourage children to mark make as much as possible using different writing tools and praise them for their efforts.
- Create imaginative stories with your child – parents can write down the children's ideas and the child could draw the pictures of the characters, setting etc.
- Table Tennis Story – The parent/carer starts the story, then the child adds a bit to the story then the parent/carer tells another bit of the story and so it continues. This can be recorded orally on an ipad, tablet or mobile phone and the child can then listen to the story on the ipad, tablet etc.
- Encourage your child's confidence and encourage them to be independent where possible. They need to learn to put on their own coats, jackets and shoes. They will be encouraged to be independent in school.
- Don't worry if your child cannot speak English. It is important that they acquire a good grasp of their mother tongue language first. Read stories in their mother tongue. Second language acquisition is easier if a child has a good understanding of their first language.
- Physical play –Encourage your child to climb, jump, skip, hop, roll. Keep your child active where possible.
- Busy Fingers – It is important to develop the muscles in your child's hands and fingers to enable them to write. As part of our emergent writing programme, we would encourage children to develop their fine motor skills. You could give your child a blob of play dough and they can practice squeezing it, stretching it, rolling it etc. If you go online and search for Play Dough Disco on Google, you will find an exciting play dough workout. It is great fun and the children love it!

- **Sharing and taking turns** – At school your child will be involved in lots of different activities that require them to share and take turns. By playing games with them that encourage them to take turns, will help prepare them for this in school.
- **Engaging your child in activities like doing jigsaws, colouring pictures, doing dot to dots, mazes, odd one out, memory games, junk modelling** is all very beneficial.

