



Golfhill Primary School



Getting Ready for School

Dear Families

Welcome to Golfhill Primary School. We are all looking forward to getting to know you and your child. We hope that the information provided in this booklet will give you some hints and tips to prepare your child for starting school in the areas of Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy.



The Family Role

Education is a lifelong process and it begins at home. You and your family are your child's first teacher! In the first three years of life, a child learns more than at any other time in their life. A family's role is all-important in helping your child before and after they start school.

Families can:

- ☺ Do things with their children and talk about what they are doing/how they are feeling.
- ☺ Be role models by doing activities themselves, so their children can copy.
- ☺ Give opportunities for their children to talk or play with other children and adults.
- ☺ Help build confidence by recognising and encouraging their child's achievements.
- ☺ Give their children as many different experiences as they can.



School learning should initially build on and develop what has been done at home/nursery. Throughout your child's formal education there should be a partnership between home and school. Learning at both school and in the home should complement each other, in order to make it a more meaningful and valuable experience.

Communication between school and home is very important. At Golfhill Primary we encourage parents/carers to contact the school if you have any queries, concerns or suggestions, and teachers may also contact parents/carers when necessary. When able, we will invite you to open evenings/afternoons and to visit your child's class. There are also more formal meetings held twice yearly to discuss pupil progress and a written report is issued annually.



Helping Your Child Prepare for Coming to School

There are many different ways in which you can help your child to prepare for school. Many of the suggestions in this booklet you will be familiar with. However, there may be some new ideas you can try. Encourage your child to do things independently, showing patience if they make mistakes.



Before School

Children who settle in quickly to school are those who can:

- Go to the toilet independently and wash their hands
- Use a knife and fork
- Dress and undress themselves.
- Do up own buttons and zips
- Change shoes
- Take off their coat, gloves and hat and hang them up
- Tidy and clear away their toys
- Use a handkerchief
- Recognise their own clothing and **name labels**
- Share their toys and be able to take turns



Tidy Up

Health and Wellbeing

Health and Well Being is very important and at Golfhill Primary we believe that children should be active every day. You can help your child to develop health and well-being and their motor skills by encouraging physical activity and movement. Try some of these activities as they will support your child's learning in Physical Education (P.E.)

- A walk or run in the park
- Throwing and catching a ball
- Playing/climbing at the swing park
- Riding a bike or scooter
- Skipping
- Playing games/taking turns
- A small indoor/outdoor obstacle course – following simple instructions



Getting Ready for Literacy

There is much that can be done to develop Literacy before a child comes to school

Talking

Talk with your child, giving praise and encouragement whenever possible. Ask your child about their day and about what they have been learning. When travelling, walking, shopping, cooking and playing, talk with your child, making them aware of the world around them.



Listening

Encourage your child to listen when you are talking and ask if they have understood what you have said. It is important that children should be able to listen to and follow instructions when starting school.

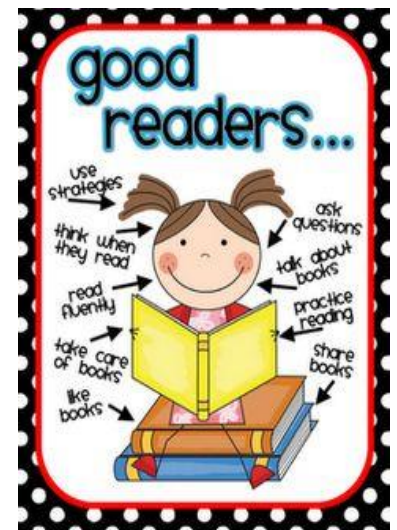
Observation

Observation is an important skill which can be developed in young children. Encourage your child to observe street signs, place names, advertisements etc. This activity can often lead to spontaneous reading by young children

Books and Reading Books will play a vital role in your child's school life. When looking at books with your child, talk about what is happening in the pictures, look at and talk about people, animals, colours, shapes and sizes. As your child shows more interest, encourage them to tell you about the book/story in their own words.

Helpful Hints for Looking at and Learning about Books

- ☺ Look at the cover and the title and ask your child what they think the book will be about.
- ☺ Look at and talk about the illustrations (pictures), can they describe the characters?
- ☺ Discuss what is happening in the story and ask your child if they can guess what will happen next.
- ☺ Ask your child if they enjoyed the story and why they liked it.



Nursery Rhymes

Phonological Awareness (awareness of sounds in words) and the ability to rhyme are vitally important to the reading and spelling processes. You could recite these when you are out for a walk, riding on the bus or in the car! Here are some you could sing with your child:

- ☺ Humpty Dumpty
- ☺ Three Blind Mice
- ☺ Jack and Jill



Getting Ready for Writing

Your child's finger muscles are still developing at this stage and they need some help to develop these muscles for writing.

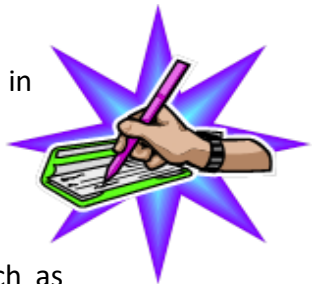
This can be achieved through:

- ☺ Colouring in/drawing/mark making
- ☺ Playing with play doh (rolling sausages etc)
- ☺ Lacing cards
- ☺ Jigsaws
- ☺ Cutting out simple shapes
- ☺ Building with bricks/lego
- ☺ Threading beads
- ☺ Clipping clothes pegs onto socks, paper etc
- ☺ Helping to wash and dry dishes



Pencil Control

Many drawing and painting activities will help your child when they start writing in school. Let your child have a wide variety of pencils, crayons, chalks and felt tips and a large supply of paper.



Let your child draw, scribble and mark make as much as possible. You will be surprised how quickly your child will be able to draw a recognisable picture. Let your child hold the pencil in the hand in which they feel most comfortable. Any attempts at writing should be valued and encouraged.

Writing

Children learn about writing by watching others and especially parents/carers. They learn that:

- ☺ Writing goes from left to right across a page – the direction of writing
- ☺ Writing is a useful activity and has a purpose – making lists, writing letters
- ☺ Writing is a powerful tool – KEEP OUT! Signs/signposted directions
- ☺ Writing is different from drawing



Sounds

Learning the alphabet and sounds are very important parts of learning in school. You can help by playing word games with your child such as

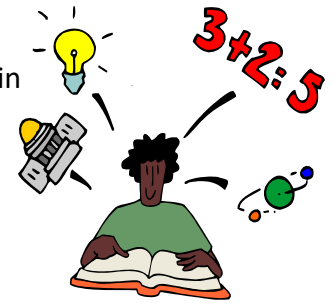
“I spy with my little eye something beginning with.....”

In P1, your child will learn sounds using Jolly Phonics and using a range of active literacy strategies. The children are introduced to sounds in class and in a specific teaching order. However the children also benefit from working at home to learn them as part of homework.



Getting Ready for Numeracy and Mathematics

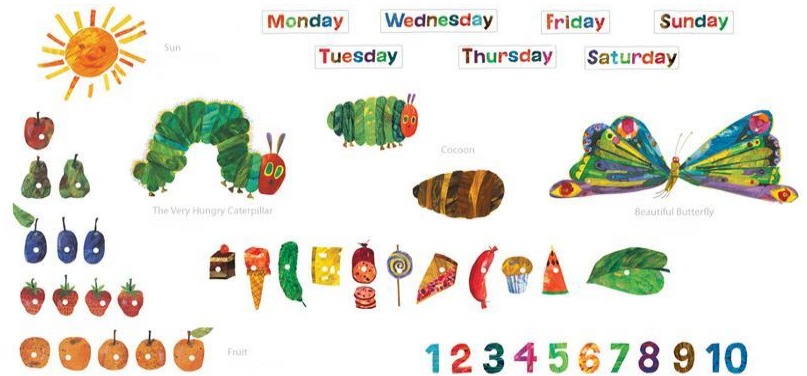
There are many opportunities for learning about Numeracy and Mathematics in everyday life in the home, park and/or at the shops. You can assist your child by helping to develop a simple vocabulary of number, size, shape and position using the following guidelines.



Language of Maths

Language is very important in Maths and this is developed throughout the school.

The language of Maths is also featured in many well-known stories e.g. The 3 Bears, The Enormous Turnip, The Very Hungry Caterpillar



Matching Games

Let your child help you lay the table, giving each person a knife, fork, spoon, etc.

Playing with dolls or teddies, let your child share their sweets or biscuits so they get the same.

Counting

Count with your child as they are playing with their toys, having a bath, going upstairs, getting dressed.

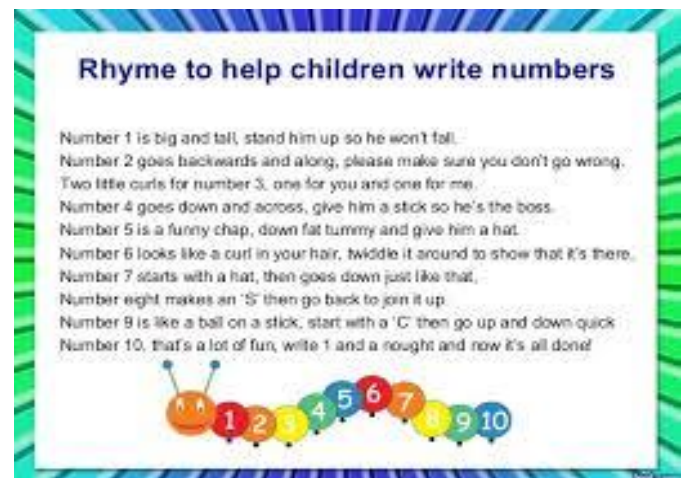
1 2 3 4 5 6

How Many?

Ask how many towels, sweets, cars, fingers.

Sing number rhymes with your child

- ☺ 10 green bottles
- ☺ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I caught a fish alive.
- ☺ One potato, two potato
- ☺ There were 10 in the bed and the little one said "Roll over"
- ☺ Five Little Ducks went swimming one day



Size

Ask your child to put things in order of size. Discuss the size with your child using the words big/small, thin/thick, tall/short, narrow/wide.

What might your day look like in P1

In Primary 1 we use a play-based learning approach which is very different to what school used to look like. It is similar to the approach used in Nursery from which we take the learning further in Primary 1.

In the first term, we concentrate our learning on Numeracy, Literacy and Health and Wellbeing.

We also use Term 1 to allow your child to become settled, happy and ready for learning at school. Using this approach allows your child sufficient time to become familiar with our school routines and to explore their new environment whilst learning in a fun, enjoyable way. The daily routine will be shown in a timetable like this.



Helpful tips:

- Please make sure that you label on all items of clothing and footwear, their packed lunch box and their water bottle. This will make sure they can be returned if misplaced.
- Discuss what *lining up* means (waiting outside to come into school)
- All P1 children are entitled to a free school lunch but can bring a packed lunch if they prefer.
- **You should order lunch via PARENTPORTAL** Lunch menus are available online at: www.fuelzoneprimary.co.uk. Spend some time looking at the options, and help your child make choices each day if they are having school lunch.
- Ensure your child can open whatever snacks you provide for playtime i.e. unwrapping / inserting straws, opening crisp packets, unwrapping biscuits etc.
- Help your child to learn to put on their own shoes and fasten them. **Shoes without laces are preferable for school.**

Useful websites:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> numeracy, literacy, games, nursery rhymes

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/> : literacy, listening to stories

<https://ictgames.com/> : numeracy and literacy games.

For our families for whom English is an Additional Language there are some really helpful websites here (but please remember to speak your first language at home and leave English for school):

<https://soundsofspeech.uiowa.edu/> you can download an app for this but can hear how phonic in English should sound

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/> : lots of fun games and activities

The information in this booklet is intended to help you and your child during the transition from Nursery to Primary School. Should you require any further information or if you have any queries or concerns, please contact me via my email address: gw10kirklandjulie@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

With kind regards, Miss Kirkland