



Getting Ready for School



Welcome to Oatlands

Starting school is an exciting time for both children and parents. It will be the start of a whole new way of life for your child. It is a time for children to grow, make new friends, learn new skills, develop self-confidence and experience independence.

Our main aim at Oatlands is for our children to be happy, confident, independent learners who love school life. The unique child is central to all that we do and we value that each child is different. We ensure that each child is fully supported on their learning journey to reach their full potential.

Teaching your child to be independent is hard. It will always take longer if you get them to do things by themselves. Nevertheless, letting them have a go is the only way to gain greater independence, so plan to allow extra time if this is required.

Please be patient and praise your child's efforts at every opportunity so that their confidence and self-esteem grows. This will help them with the transition to 'big school' where they will be required to do many things for themselves. At school we promote a 'growth mind set' attitude to learning and we encourage the children to always have a go, even when things get tricky! Remember it is about the process not the end result.

We do this through the Characteristics of Effective learning. These are a set of learning behaviours that guide the children to reflect on their learning as they progress through school. More information will be given on this in September.



Parent Partnership

At Oatlands we strongly believe that children make the most progress when the school and parents work closely together. These are some of the things you can do to help your child be ready to start school. Please do talk to us if you have any worries or concerns about your child. If you help us then we can help your child!

- Develop your child's communication and language skills by encouraging them to use their words to express their needs and feelings. If appropriate, remind them to speak in full sentences to communicate clearly. Engage in lots of lovely conversations and expose them to new vocabulary where possible.
- Play lots of games to encourage good listening and following instructions. Praise your child when they stop and listen to their name being called or when they wait their turn to speak.
- Encourage **independence** by getting your child to put on their own coat and take it off. Practise doing up zips and buttons too!
- Practise getting dressed and undressed by themselves so they are able to get ready for PE.
- Ensure your child is able to use the toilet independently and can wash their hands.
- Teach your child how to manage their own personal hygiene, including wiping themselves and using a tissue to blow their nose.
- Encourage your child to feed themselves, try new foods and use a knife and fork in preparation for school lunches.
- Share familiar nursery and number rhymes/ songs with your child.
- Share lots of picture books together and retell familiar stories.
- Use letter sounds rather than the alphabet letter names when sounding out words.
- Help your child to learn how to hold a pencil using a tripod grip and write their name correctly.

- When writing with your child try to use lower case letters rather than capitals.
- Practise scissor skills with your child, ensure they know how to hold a pair of scissors correctly.
- Play lots of simple board games to develop sharing and turn taking.
- Complete puzzles to help your child learn about colour, shape, size, space and number.
- Play counting games and look out for numbers in the environment.
- Work on saying the number names 1-20 in order and practise counting aloud forwards and backwards.
- Talk about starting school in a positive way and let them know it is ok to be nervous/ excited. Walk past the school, or try out the school run before so your child can begin to familiarise themselves with the routine.
- Look at books about starting school and listen to any questions your child may have.

Values

Oatlands is a Values Based School. Children are introduced to our 22 values over a period of 2 years. We use activities, lessons and whole school events to help our children consider what the values mean to them, their families and their friends.

We believe that Values Based Education will:

- Help our children become happy individuals who can make a positive contribution to the community.
- Encourage all of us to do our best.
- Help build a sense of belonging within the school environment.
- Help our children understand the impact our behaviour can have on our friends, our school and our community.
- Build strong links between home, school and the local community.



How do we monitor and assess pupil progress in the EYFS?

- We follow the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. This sets the standards that all early years settings must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for future progress through school and life.
- The EYFS Profile is intended to provide an accurate assessment of a child's development at the end of the EYFS. It is made up of an assessment of the child's outcomes in relation to the 17 Early Learning Goals (the knowledge, skills and understanding children should have at the end of the academic year in which they turn five).
- Most of our assessment is based on the teacher's professional judgements, informal observations and contributions from parents, and other relevant adults. You will be able to find out more about your child's progress by attending parents evening in the Autumn and Spring Term as well as receiving an end of year report in July.