

Support your child with their transition into Westgate Primary School.

Key Skills:

There are some key skills that will help your child to feel comfortable and support the independent skills that they need for school.

1. Be able to change their clothes and shoes with minimal support.
2. Use a knife and fork to eat their food. (We support them to cut their food)
3. Use the toilet independently, including wiping themselves and washing their hands.
4. Be able to do their own zips on their coats.

All of these skills are quite tricky and we will of course support your child with them, however we will increasingly encourage them to do these tasks independently, so your support at home with these will really help them.

Tapestry:



This is our online learning journey, where we can share pictures, videos and information about your child's learning and progress with you on a daily basis. Once you have filled in the paperwork and downloaded the app you will receive notifications when an observation is added of your child.

As it is an online tool, you can also add to your child's observations, enabling us to see what they do at home. This home-school link is really valuable to us to support your child's transition. They love knowing that you will see their learning.

Reading Books:



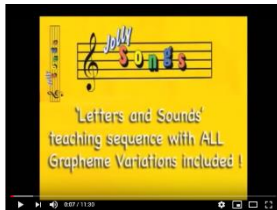
Every child in Reception will get their own reading book and reading record. Please ensure that these come into school **every day** in your child's bag so that we can read with them on any day that we may need to. Once your child has read their book twice we will change it with them. Please write in their reading record and let us know how they got on with you, we will do the same. We recommend that children should be reading every day, however we understand that life is busy and this may not always be possible, but please do try to read as often as possible with your children to support their progress.

Phonics:

This is the part of the curriculum that teaches your child to read and write. At Westgate we follow the government phonics scheme Letters and Sounds and use Jolly Phonics to support that. When your child first joins us we will do some fun and active phase 1 phonic activities which will involve games with different sounds, rhyme and alliteration.

Your children will start Phase 2 phonics a few weeks in to the first term, meaning they are learning letter sounds. To support this at home you may want to watch some of the following with them;

This video will help you and them with the correct pronunciation of the sounds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc&t=74s>

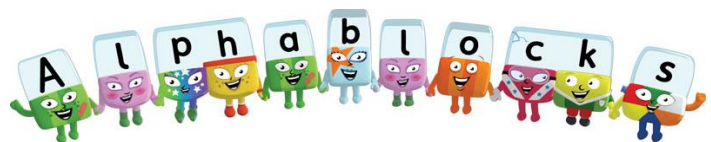


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COJdn6sbbsk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffeZXPtTGC4>



Alphablocks is also a great series on YouTube or Cbeebies to support your child's phonics and reading skills.



Number Recognition

Whilst out with your children, you can do fun games like number hunts, trying to find numbers in the environment.



The story bot number songs on YouTube are also great for this:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkd-Vs_gTyc



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85M1yxIcHpw>

Fine Motor Skills:

These are the skills that support your child to write. Before being able to write, children need to build the strength in their hands. Activities such as baking and cooking, using scissors, threading, sewing, playing with beads and Lego can also support this. Playdough is also a fantastic resource to build hand strength. Attached to this handout is a playdough recipe and a sheet to help your child's formation of letters.

Playdough Recipe:

- 2 cups plain flour (all purpose)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil (baby oil and coconut oil work too)
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 to 1.5 cups boiling water (adding in increments until it feels just right)
- gel food colouring (optional)
- few drops glycerine (my secret ingredient for stretch and shine!)

Method:

- Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil in a large mixing bowl
- Add food colouring TO the boiling water then into the dry ingredients
- Stir continuously until it becomes a sticky, combined dough
- Add the glycerine (optional)
- Allow it to cool down then take it out of the bowl and knead it vigorously for a couple of minutes until all of the stickiness has gone. * This is the most important part of the process, so keep at it until it's the perfect consistency!*
- If it remains a little sticky then add a touch more flour until just right