

Mini Guide: Practical Tips for Starting School



This leaflet provides some practical advice and information to support you and your child as they start school here at Southill Primary.

Start of the school day

The Reception gate will be open from 8.45am. Mrs Puddick and Mrs Kench will be there to welcome you. The school bell rings at 8.55am when the gate will close.

End of the school day

At the end of the school day (3.15pm) please wait outside the Reception gate to collect your child. If there are any changes to your normal collection arrangements please let Mrs Puddick or Mrs Kench know.



Illness or absence

If your child is ill and will not be at school, please ring the office by 9:00am to let us know. If your child has a medical appointment that cannot be arranged outside of school hours, please inform us in advance with proof of the appointment.

Uniform

Please see the uniform section of our school website for more information:

 www.southill.dorset.sch.uk/parents-carers/uniform

Items to bring every day

- drink of water for snack time (in a named bottle/flask);
- book bag - look in here for any information sent home, as well as reading material;
- coat - we spend a lot of time outside so this has to be suitable for the weather;
- hat - sun hat for hot weather and warm hat for cold (gloves/scarf too);
- lunch (if having own lunches)



Boots

At the start of the school year, please provide a pair of wellington boots to leave at school for our outdoor learning sessions. It is also useful to put in a spare pair of socks for those times when we get wet toes!

Names

Please make sure that you name everything, including uniform, PE kit, bags, coats, hats, boots, water bottles and lunch boxes.



Top tips for independence

- Children will be encouraged to dress and undress independently for PE as well as putting on aprons, waterproof coats, trousers and wellington boots. Spend time on this at home to help.
- All children in Reception receive a piece of fruit each day and the option of milk to drink. We all sit together for our snack time to develop social skills. Bring your own drink of water (named) if you choose this for your drink. Have a go at peeling your own bananas and oranges at home or biting into crunchy apples or pears.
- Spend time over the summer making sure your child can take themselves to the toilet, clean themselves, flush the toilet and wash their hands.
- Lunch times – please see our website for meal options. At home, encourage your child to use a knife and fork independently, also how to open packets/bags/pots and flasks.

Home Learning/Reading

We will send home activities to help your child learn to read and write on a regular basis (in book bags). Please try to find time to support your child with this so that they can develop their skills. Activities could include learning letter sounds, reading words or reading books. Weekly ideas will also be posted on the school website, along with a weekly news update.



Further information

On a day-to-day basis, please feel free to ask Mrs Puddick or Mrs Kench if you have any questions or concerns.

During the Autumn Term we like to hold workshops for parents/carers to find out more about topics such as Phonics, learning to read and how we learn in Reception. More information will follow throughout the year.

Our school website is a great way to find out about all aspects of school life and is updated regularly, along with our social media channels too.

 www.southill.dorset.sch.uk

