

### Willingness to communicate

Being able to talk to the adults and other children in school is vital for every child as they settle into school. Your child will want to talk to their friends as they play, to explain their ideas and create stories. They will also need to be able to ask for help if they need to. At home, encourage your child to talk clearly and confidently. At Fosse Primary a key expectation is that children speak in complete sentences.

### Being independent

At school your child will be encouraged to have a go at doing lots of things for themselves, especially in terms of organising their own things. Help your child to remember what their belongings look like and help them by getting them to have a go at being responsible for carrying them into school.

### Positive attitudes towards learning with others

Your child will interact with lots of other children at school in many different situations. We will do lots of work on sharing, empathy, diversity, cooperation and taking turns. All children and adults will be expected to be respectful of each other and their learning environment and resources.

### Pencils and scissors

Using pencils and scissors can be really tricky for little hands and it requires lots of practise. In school we will do lots of activities to strengthen gross and fine motor skills but there are lots of fun things you can do at home to help. Climbing and playing at the park builds muscle strength. To develop finger strength try playdough, using pegs, threading or loom bands.

### Dressing & undressing

At school we will change into our PE kits, put on our coats, swap into wellies and even try on dressing up clothes! Zips, buttons, Velcro, tights and pulling clothes on can all be tricky for children so praise your child at home when they have a go! Help them to practise getting dressed independently and also show them how to make sure their clothes are the right way round.

### Eating

At school the children will eat their lunch with their friends and will be supervised by lunchtime assistants. If your child is having hot dinners please teach them to use a knife and fork, to cut and eat their food. If they bring a packed lunch, they should be able to open the box and unwrap the food and drink inside. It needs to be a healthy packed lunch.

## *Supporting your child with settling into school*

As your child starts school there are lots of things you can do to support them. We will offer more ideas to support with specific learning areas throughout the year.

### Separating from carers

Settling into the school environment can be tricky for some children and they may feel unhappy when you drop them off. Help your child by reassuring them that you will be back to pick them up at home time. We have visual timetables in each class to support children in knowing the structure of the day, including when home time will be. Knowing the routine can be a great reassurance to some children.

### Toileting

At school, it is important that your child is able to use the toilet independently. This includes being able to:

- ✓ Pull clothes up and down
- ✓ Clean and wipe themselves
  - ✓ Flush the toilet
  - ✓ Wash hands with soap.

We will be there to help any child who needs some support but it is important that they are willing to have a go on their own.

### Reading and counting

Share books with your child every day. Encourage a love of stories and show them how to look after their books. Ask them to answer questions about the story, recognise familiar characters and join in with repeated phrases. Make learning letter sounds fun by keeping sessions quick and easy and by looking for letters everywhere you go, especially those in their name!

Being able to count is a key skill. Help your child to develop a love of numbers by counting everyday objects and actions, such as steps, stairs and cars and by playing games using dice.