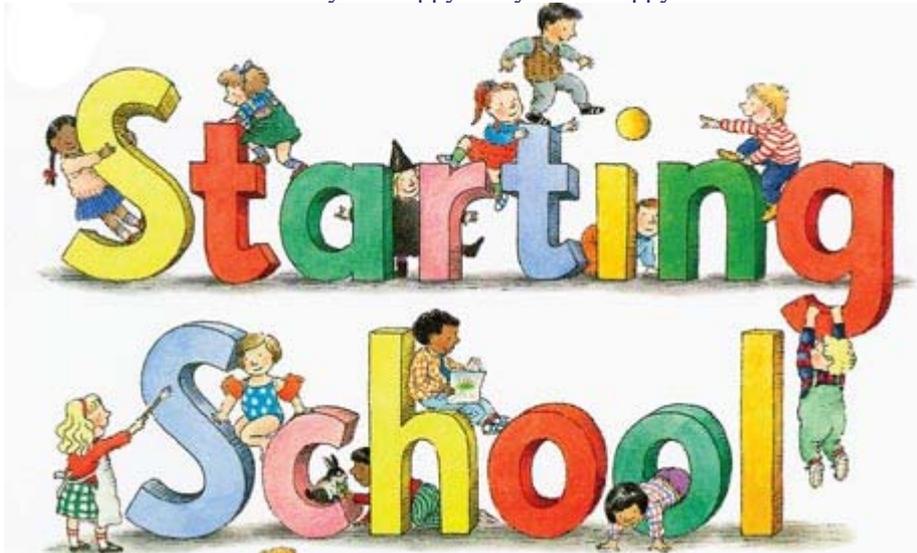


At Blackawton Nursery we believe that the time your child spends in our nursery enables them to be ready for school. There are some additional things that you can do to support them with their learning journey.

Top Tips for Parents - preparing for school

Children learn best when they are happy and you are happy too.



So here are a few ideas as well as some useful information to help your child settle into school.

Talk to your child about their day - you may find when you ask them they say "nothing"!! Tapestry is a great way to see what has been going on. Rather than asking them "what did you do?" think of other questions to find a way in. Sometimes it can be easier to wait until meal times when they have had a chance to unwind a bit; ask them questions like "what was the best thing that happened today?"

Toys in school - some children need a transition toy to help them settle into school. It needs to be small enough to fit in their tray. The children are then allowed to play with their toy at lunchtime but we do let them know that it may get lost or broken.

Provide your child with a change of clothes - all children can have accidents sometimes so a change of clothes in a bag that can be left in school means that they can change into something familiar. Don't worry if your child still needs help going to the toilet, one of the adults will help them. All children must have a pair of wellies, waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat in school for Forest School; but we go outside every day, whatever the weather. In cold weather the children need hats and gloves too and in the warm weather they will need sun hats and sun screen.

Help your child to dress by themselves - children will want to dress up, put their own coats on, take their shoes on and off, put on their waterproofs...it's a wonder we have time for anything else! Things they find the hardest are shoes - so Velcro fastenings make it easier. They also feel a huge sense of satisfaction when they can do it by themselves. Please can **all clothes be named** especially coats and jumpers.

Snacks - all children in the Foundation Stage are provided with a healthy snack and either milk or water to drink. The "special helpers" are responsible for preparing the snack ready for all the children. Water is available at all times.

Lunch-times - please [check the menu](#) - we will always encourage your child to eat either the school lunch or the packed lunch you provide; however if you know your child will completely refuse to eat a particular

meal it may be best if they have a packed lunch on that day. The school menu is on a three-week cycle; copies are available from the office. The children are accompanied in the hall and then in the field or playground by the early year's staff.



Book bags - all children are provided with a school book bag that they need to bring into school every day. We encourage parents to read with their children everyday but realise this may not always be possible. Listening to and sharing picture books is just as important, so alternate between your child reading and you reading to them. For more **top tips on reading** at school follow this link.

Let us know if there are **changes at home** that you think may affect your child's day. Sometimes it may just be a small thing but if we know then we can help. We know that when children start school they can be very tired and so we make sure we pace our day carefully. Some of the time we are very active but we also have quiet times and we make sure there are spaces where children can chill out and rest.

Homework in Class 1 - reading books and phonics are sent home in the books bags. Occasionally there may be other activities and we will let you know how you can help.

Things you can do at home to support your child's learning in school - read, chat, count, investigate, play. If you would like great ideas, follow these links to PACEY factsheets on getting your child ready for school. [Ready for School -The Numbers Game](#) [Listen and Learn](#) [Make a Mark](#) [Happy Talk](#)

Let us know what your child has been up to as well, either by telling us or adding pictures and comments to your child's [Tapestry Learning Journey](#). You can download the app onto your phone or mobile device so when you are out and about you can add photos yourself.

Helping in school - please let us know if you have some free time to volunteer in school. If this a regular thing, then you will be asked to complete a DBS form. We sometimes need help going out on trips, with reading and other activities in the classroom. We love parents coming in and sharing their skills with us.

Transport to school - many of our children come to school on the bus. One of the members of staff will see your child onto the bus at the end of the day. Please make sure your child has a rucksack so they can easily carry all of their belongings.



Other questions - please ask...any time...if you need a longer chat it is probably best to meet after school. Parent evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring Term for longer meetings. Children in the Foundation Stage receive a written summary report in the summer term to support their on-going Tapestry Learning journey.