

Welcome to Springhill Catholic Primary School

**How to prepare your child for
starting at primary school**





Let us pray – Deacon Andy





Welcome from Mrs Ashworth



The water that I will give them will
become a spring of water within,
welling up to eternal life.

JOHN 4:14

Preparing for school in 2024

We are delighted that we are able to meet all our families and we very much look forward to welcoming you and your child into the Springhill family. The first of our meetings focuses on how you can start to prepare your child for starting school and the following information will give you some ideas on how to do this.





Prayer life



Springhill is a catholic school with our Christian faith very much at the centre of all that we do. You can support your child's spiritual development by:

- teaching them simple prayers e.g. the sign of the cross, thank you prayers at bed time
- sharing stories from a children's Bible (don't be afraid to let the children use the books they were maybe given at their baptism – take the opportunity to teach them to treat the books with care and reverence)
- share in the children's experience of the Mass – try to sit near to the front so that your child can see what is going on and you can point things out to them.



Early Learning

Children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum from birth to the end of their first year in school. During their time in pre-school settings, your child will have been developing in what are called the '**prime areas**' of learning. These areas focus on the most important building blocks for learning and development at this age.

The following slides will describe how you can support these essential foundations for learning at home.

Personal and Social Skills

Encourage independence in:

- Toilet behaviour – washing hands, flushing etc
- Dressing and undressing – start with putting on and taking off coats
- Behaviour at meal times – sitting and remaining at a table and use of cutlery
- Sharing with others
- Tidying up – packing away items before another activity is started





Language Skills

Learning in all areas of the early years curriculum is based on play and talk. The ability to listen, understand and speak are essential skills and are needed when learning to read and write.

- Model good listening and turn taking in conversations
- Name items you see around the home, on walks, at the shops
- Talk about what you are doing as you carry out the activity
- Share rhymes and songs and talk about words that sound the same
- Listen to the sounds at the beginning of words
- Talk lots about stories and books you have shared
- If your child has English as a second language, it is important for them to develop their own language first



Encouraging Talk



Parents need to use everyday activities to have real conversations with children and develop their speaking and listening skills

Talk and listen to your child when:

Sitting around the dinner table

Involving children in activities such as washing the car

Out and about – what can you see, hear, feel, smell?

Using walkie talkies, mobile phones

Using cardboard tubes, microphones

Playing games such as 'Who am I?', Simon Says, etc



'Every Child A Talker' Talking Tips

- ❖ **Get your child's attention before you talk to them**
- ❖ **Be on the same level as your child (eye to eye, face to face)**
- ❖ **Watch what your child touches or looks at and name it**
- ❖ **Use simple language and short sentences**
- ❖ **Say things correctly for your child**
- ❖ **Be careful with questions, they can confuse. Why not make a comment?**
- ❖ **Wait at least 10 seconds for your child to answer**
- ❖ **Give choices to encourage talking**
- ❖ **Share a book together every day. You can talk about the pictures together**
- ❖ **Make time to play together every day**
- ❖ **Make something together and talk about it using action words**
- ❖ **Play with musical instruments together**
- ❖ **Sing a nursery rhyme or do an action rhyme together every day**

Physical development

A young child needs to develop both small and large body movements before they can master areas of the curriculum such as writing. Their muscles need to gain strength in order to hold a pencil properly, play games with others and for them to be able to control different resources such as scissors, bats and balls. It even affects their ability to be able to sit still! You need to be able to sit still to develop good listening skills. As you can see, all areas of learning are linked and need to be developed. So please don't worry about writing before they come to school – just play and keep active!



Writing is more than holding a pencil and making marks



You need to start **big**

Provide scarves, ribbons etc to make patterns in the air. Provide bubbles and encourage children to catch them

Provide decorating brushes and buckets of water and encourage the children to paint the walls and fences.

Provide low level climbing activities, planks to walk across, etc

Provide open cardboard boxes and let the children crawl through

Many of the activities that help children to learn to write, do not actually involve children in writing

Scrunching up newspaper, tissue paper, popping bubble wrap

Moving dried beans, pasta lentils, rice etc using spoons, tweezers, finger and thumb

Provide a selection of plastic jars with lids and hide treasure inside

Provide dough that can be rolled, cut, pounded and pinched

Use fingers to draw patterns and shapes on misty windows or mirrors

Provide squeeze bottles filled with water and make patterns on the ground

If your child does want to write, please encourage them to use the correct pencil grip shown below. When **writing names**, please only use a **capital for the first letter**.



Early reading

Sharing books and talking about the story with your child has a huge impact on their future progress. Please see below for some tips on how to read with your child:

- Make reading to your child feel like a treat.
- Make it a special quiet time – snuggle up close.
- Show excitement about what you're going to read.
- Read the whole story without stopping too much.
- Chat about the story.
- Don't ask questions to test what they remember.



Early reading

- Link stories to your own and your child's experiences and link these experiences to other stories.
- Read your child's favourite stories over and over again.
- Get them to join in with the bits they know.
- Read with enthusiasm – try out different voices.
- Keep reading to your child, even when they can read for themselves.





Mathematics Skills

Maths is everywhere! Look around you at home and when you are out and about and you will find lots of opportunities to develop the following maths skills:

- Sorting and matching
- Counting
- Recognising numbers all around
- Recognising shapes
- Comparing and describing size
- Use simple language for talking about time, money, near and far, heavy and light, full and empty

Maths around the home



Setting the table

- How many people live in our house?
- How many spoons etc, do we need?
- I wonder how many taps, handles, steps, doors there are in our house?
- How many more doors than windows are there?

Toy Vehicles

- Sort them according to type, colour or size
- How many red, blue vehicles?
- Use a sheet of card to make a car park with numbered bays. Can you park the car in the correct bay?

Tidying the cupboards

- Sorting tins...how many altogether?
- How many...? Which is more/less?

Making face biscuits

- Counting – how many spoonfuls of icing sugar, water have we used?
- How many eyes do we need? Nose?
- Can you cut the liquorice into 6 spikes for the hair?

Garages

- Make garages using cardboard boxes. Park different numbers of cars in each garage. Use the language of more and less.
- Ask questions e.g. If I sell 3 cars, how many will I have left?



Games

- Dominoes
- Dice games
- Simple Trump cards

Just remember...

More than anything else, you need to:

- Talk lots
- Play lots
- Encourage independence
- Enjoy this special time





In partnership with Early Years settings

- Meetings with feeder settings – this year we will be contacting settings by phone to gain information about your child's learning and needs
- Pre-school settings will pass on your child's records before the summer holidays – please ensure you have given permission to the setting for this to happen
- 'Stay and play' activity sessions will happen in July – please sign up for your child to attend two of the sessions
- Home visits – depending on the situation in September, we may offer home visits to parents of children who have additional needs



What next?

- Second parent meeting at 7pm on 20th June – opportunity to see your child’s classroom and meet their teacher
- Activity sessions – Monday 1st July, Tuesday 2nd July , Wednesday 3rd July
- Class organisation – ‘My Friends’ information should have been returned
- Meet the Teacher appointments on Tuesday 4th or Wednesday 5th September – an opportunity for you and your child to meet the staff and to share any important information
- Uniform, book bags & ties are available from Koolskools (more information will be sent to you on how to order)



Starting school dates

Starting dates for the new Foundation Stage intake 2024

Meet the teacher appointments: Tuesday 3rd September and Wednesday 4th September

If your child's 5th birthday falls between September and March, they will follow this pattern for starting school:

| | | |
|---------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Thursday 5th-Friday 6th September | Mornings only (8.45am-11.45am) |
| Week 2 | Monday 9th September onwards | Full time (8.45am-3.15pm) |

If your child's 5th birthday falls between April and August, they will follow this pattern for starting school:

| | | |
|---------------|--|---|
| Week 1 | Thursday 5th-Friday 6th September | Afternoons only (12.45pm-3.15pm) |
| Week 2 | Monday 9th September onwards | Full time (8.45am-3.15pm) |

Come and join us for our 'Summer Festival' – Saturday 15th June

