

STARTING SCHOOL
AT
HIGH LITTLETON C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL





Welcome to High Littleton C of E Primary School

This booklet contains information about starting school and some suggestions and ideas that you may find useful.

We hope they will help to establish the beginnings of a happy time at our school for you and your child.



❧ UNITY ❧

*I dreamt I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.*

*One was a teacher – the tools that were used
Were books, music and art
The other was a parent, who worked with a guiding hand
And a gentle loving heart.*

*Day after day the teacher toiled with a touch
That was deft and sure
While the parent laboured side by side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.*

*And both agreed they would have failed
If each had worked alone
For behind the teacher stood the school
And behind the parent, the home.*

Author Unknown

OUR SCHOOL DAY

8.40 a.m. School gate opens

8.50 a.m. The day starts

8.50 – 10.00 a.m. Session 1

10.00 – 10.10 a.m. Milk & Fruit Time

10.10 – 10.30 a.m. Collective Worship

10.30 – 10.45 a.m.
Playtime



10.50 – 12.00 noon
Session 2



12.00 – 1.00 p.m.
Lunchtime



1.00 – 2.30 p.m.
Session 3



2.30 – 2.45 p.m.
Playtime



2.45 – 3.15pm
Stories & Rhymes Time



3.20 pm Home Time

MAKING A GOOD START

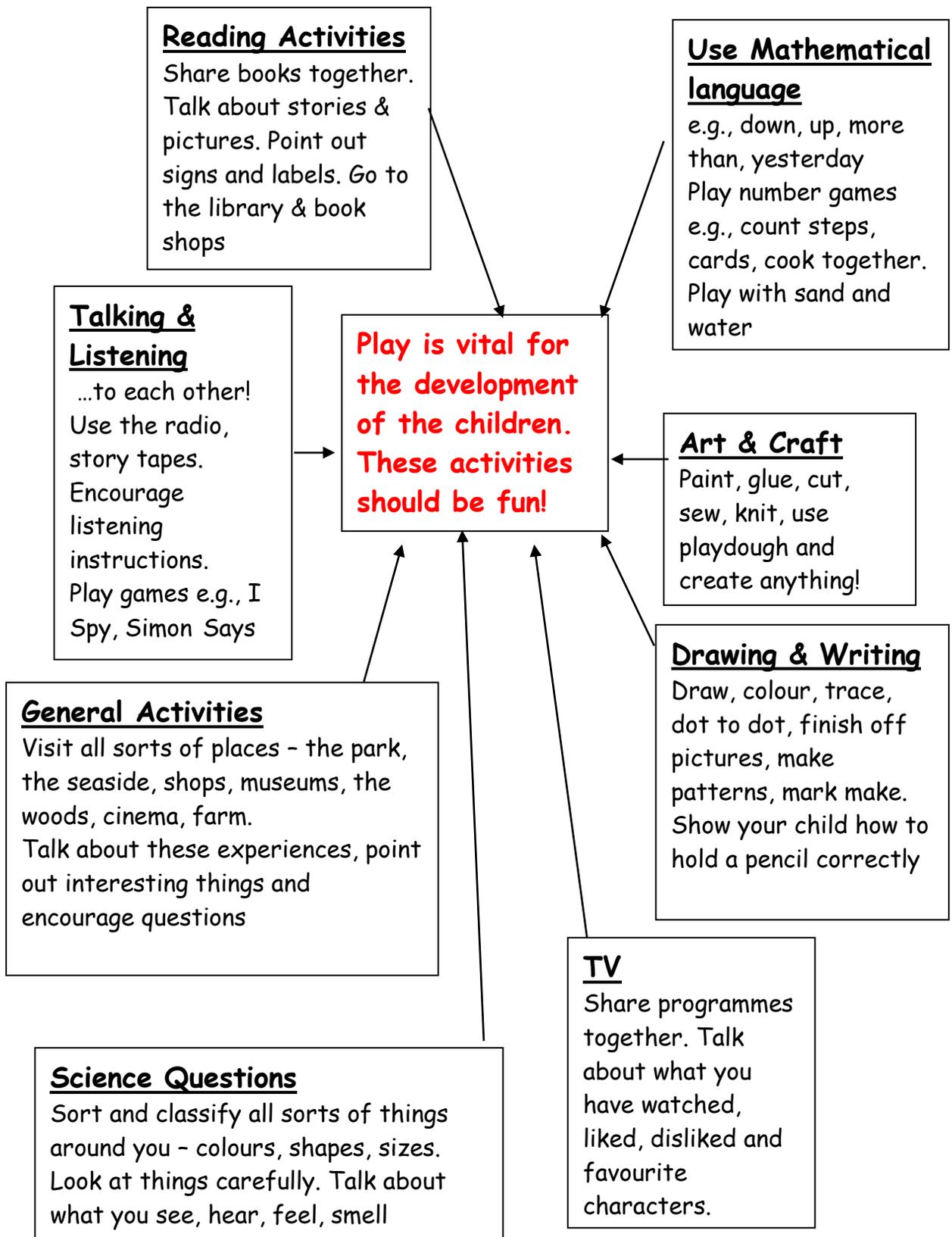
Starting school is the first step in the long journey of education. Your child has been learning much already but now that learning becomes more formal.

There is a lot for your child to get used to and for school to be a positive experience this start needs to be handled carefully.

To help your child ease their way into school life and get to know their teachers and other children s/he will attend for mornings or afternoons only for the first couple of weeks.



How can I prepare my child for starting school and help to encourage their learning?



WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO PREPARE MY CHILD FOR SCHOOL?

Children arrive at school with differing levels of social skills. You can greatly help your child by making sure s/he is used to

- ✓ Listening
- ✓ Being polite
- ✓ Sitting still when asked
- ✓ Taking turns
- ✓ Sharing
- ✓ Dressing and undressing, doing up coat, changing for PE etc
- ✓ Tidying up
- ✓ Helping others
- ✓ Looking after their belongings

We aim to help all children become more independent. You can help by allowing your child to come into the classroom by his or herself. They quickly learn where to put their belongings!

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER...

- We are all individuals with different strengths and weaknesses
- Try to avoid comparing your child with others as we all progress at different speeds

Reading helps your child through his/her time at school in all subjects

Reading allows us to find out about anything that interests us throughout our lives

Reading is important...

But WHY?

Read at least 3 times a week with your child at home

We need to read in everyday life for reading signs, instructions, directions, forms, timetables etc

Reading allows us to escape into a fantasy world of books and stories. It can give us a great deal of enjoyment

READING

What can parents/carers do to help their child to read?

Parents and carers are a child's natural teachers. Just think of all the things you have taught your child by the time s/he starts school.....

to talk to walk to dress to play
to keep clean to build relationships
...as well as teaching a lot about the world around them.

So there is a crucial partnership between parents/carers in helping children learn to read. How can you help at home?

- Try to find a little time each day to share and enjoy a book
- Try to make reading relaxing
- Show your child how to turn the pages from the outer edge
- Ensure your child reads from left to right
- Talk about the illustrations
- Ask your child to point to the words and read the sentence to you and ask questions
- Read the sentence to your child and point to each word as you say it
- Ask your child to point to the words and read the sentence to you
- Use illustrations as clues to unknown words
- Look at the initial letter sound of an unknown word
- Ask your child to predict what will happen next
- At the end of a book or story ask your child what the story was about and what s/he enjoyed about it
- Encourage your child to read lots of different things eg comics, labels, signs, magazines, advertisements, TV & Radio Times
- Try to visit the Public Library together
- Let your child **SEE YOU ENJOY** reading
- **ALWAYS GIVE LOTS OF PRAISE AND ENCOURAGEMENT!**

TRY TO MAKE READING FUN!

Here are some games you can play with your child:

- I Spy using a picture book

Start with whole words eg 'I Spy something that is round/square'.

Then try a whole word with a sound clue eg 'I Spy something that is red and begins with 'b'.

Then move on to the initial sound only.

- Find rhyming words eg 'Find a word that rhymes with call'.
- Find all the words that start with 'b', 'a', 'sh'.
- Find the longest/shortest word on the page.
- Word Snap
- Sing Nursery Rhymes together

...and finally

Talk with your child's teacher if you are concerned about reading.

Don't rush your child through his/her reading books. We will change reading books once a week. When s/he brings a new book home give your child time to become confident. Try this approach:

- You read aloud from the book first. **This is NOT cheating!** As you read put a lot of expression into your reading and run your finger underneath the line of print
- Read the story together and then you stop and let your child read to predict the ending of the book

✓ The amount of reading time should never be longer than the child's interest span

✓ Reading books is only part of reading - value any print

✓ Remember reading isn't just about reading words - it is about understanding those words

✓ When listening to reading never criticise - **ALWAYS** praise and Encourage

✓ Try to share some television time together so that you can talk about it afterwards. This will help develop understanding, discussion and viewpoint.



Speaking and Listening

This is an important part of your child's development and an integral part of English in the National Curriculum. Your child will be assessed on these things as s/he progresses through the school. If you can spend time just talking to your child, encouraging him/her to become a speaker and listener, it will be time very well spent.

*I know how to ask a question

*I can talk about a story

*I can talk about myself

*I can talk with my friends

*I can talk about things I see and do

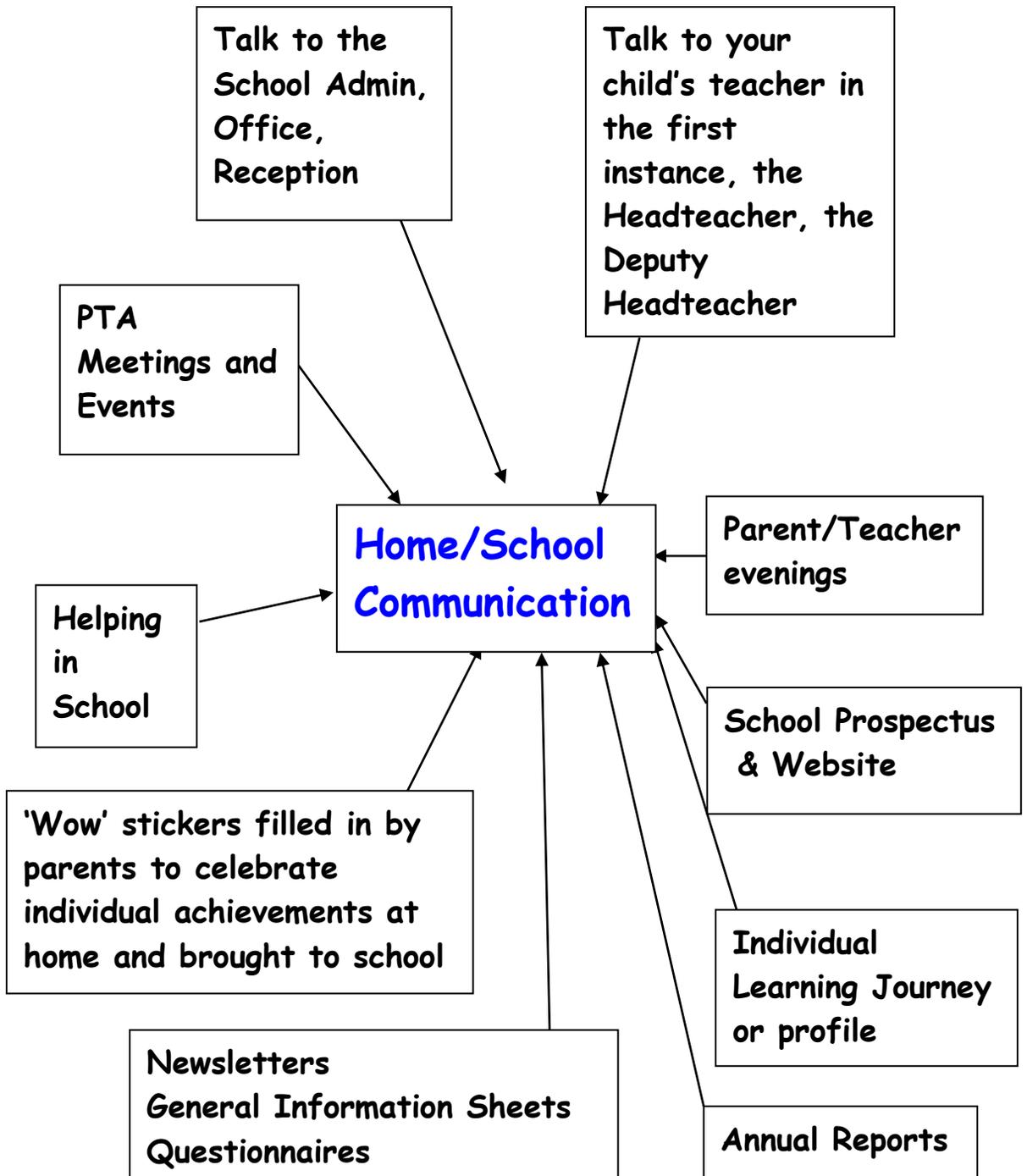
*I can listen to my friends

*I can remember to say please and thank you

*I can listen to a story

*I can listen and do as I am asked

HOW DO I FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS IN SCHOOL?



General Information and Daily Routines

Bringing children into school

School starts at 8.50am. The school will be open from 8.40am, when parents will leave their child at the school gate, for the children to go directly into their classroom. All teachers will be in their classrooms at this time to welcome the children. We expect children to walk into their classroom independently.

Reading Books

After a few weeks, your child will be given a reading book and a reading diary. Please initial and comment in the diary so we know your child has read at home. Your child will also be given a word bag which will contain words for your child to learn both at home and at school. Please make sure your child brings their book bag to school EVERY DAY. Once children have started school, reading bags are available from the school office for £5.00, this will be payable on Parentpay and you will be set up with a Parentpay account in the first week in September. The school office does not accept cash.

Fruit Time

The school holds the Healthy Schools Award and all children are encouraged to bring an item of prepared fruit to eat (eg peeled oranges in a suitable container, named banana, etc) before they go out for the mid morning break. To accompany their fruit a drink of water or milk is available. Children are entitled to free milk up to their fifth birthday. Children must also bring a named (and filled) water bottle to school each day.



Lunchtime and Dinner Arrangements

As you may be aware, all Key Stage One children (age 4-7 years) are entitled to free school meals. Unless we are notified otherwise, we will assume your child will be having free school meals. These will be bookable on Parentpay, once your child starts school, and instructions on how to book them will be sent out in September. Children often need time to get used to eating their lunch in school so if there are any problems please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher.

Home Time

School finishes at 3.20pm and the class teacher will bring your child out to the school gate to meet you. Please make sure that the class teacher knows in advance if someone other than you will be collecting your child. Please also make sure that your child knows that they must stay with the class teacher until the person collecting them arrives. The adult collecting must collect their child directly from the class teacher at the gate.

CHECKLIST

A final checklist of items your child will need for school:

- School Uniform
- A PE bag
- A blue 'High Littleton Primary School' T-shirt and black shorts
- A pair of trainers (preferably no laces and not daps)
- A spare pair of pants and socks (to be kept in the dap bag)
- A prepared piece of fruit (named)
- A named water bottle
- Wellington boots and waterproofs (named) to be kept in school
- A reading bag

You can further help your child by:

- ensuring all items of clothing are clearly named and that your child can recognise their possessions
- making sure that your child can go to the toilet, flush it on their own and wash their hands
- letting them practise getting dressed at home, in readiness for changing for P.E. at school
- showing them how to use a knife and fork correctly

We have found that some children become very tired when they first start school. If your child is becoming over tired please talk to the class teacher. It is better to plan extra rest times during the week rather than force a child into school when s/he cannot cope with it.

If your child uses an inhaler or has any other medical needs then please speak to the class teacher.

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea please keep him/her home for 48 hours. These illnesses are very easily passed from child to child and your child also needs to have time to recover properly.

Please do not send your child to school with **personal toys or possessions** unless requested to do so by the class teacher.

There is other helpful information in the School Prospectus.

Phew!! That's it!

But finally...

Please remember that the class teachers and teaching assistant are here to help both your child and you settle and adjust happily to school. If there are any particular problems of anything else you would like to know, please do not hesitate to talk to either of us.



We look forward to you starting school in September!