



● ● ● ● ● ●

Preparing your child for Primary School

Excellent Teaching

Inspiring Leadership

Innovative Training



OUR SCHOOLS

BLETCHINGLEY VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY
Info@BletchingleyTLT.co.uk www.BletchingleyTLT.co.uk



FELBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Office@FelbridgeTLT.co.uk www.FelbridgeTLT.co.uk

HAMSEY GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL & ACORNS NURSERY
Office@HamseyTLT.co.uk www.HamseyTLT.co.uk



HURST GREEN INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY
Office@HurstTLT.co.uk www.HurstTLT.co.uk

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
School@TatsfieldTLT.co.uk www.TatsfieldTLT.co.uk



WARLINGHAM SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
Info@WarlinghamTLT.co.uk www.WarlinghamTLT.co.uk

WOODLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
Info@WoodleaTLT.co.uk www.WoodleaTLT.co.uk



Please click the relevant link above to email each school or go to its website.



Rebecca Plaskitt
Chief Executive

WELCOME

Founded in 2017, TLT Schools is a strong partnership of exceptional schools committed to providing a caring and nurturing learning environment that delivers equity and excellence in education for every child. We are passionate about supporting the communities we serve and to inspiring a lifelong love of learning for everyone. Together we work as an innovative learning community, appreciating the significant difference we can achieve by working in partnership.

We currently comprise seven ambitious schools that are delivering the very best educational experience across nursery, primary and secondary phases.

We firmly believe we are stronger together; we cherish the individuality of each of our nurseries and schools whilst embracing opportunities for collaboration and pursuing our shared goals as a united Trust. Together we provide a positive learning environment that enables everyone to thrive and succeed.

A child's experience of school plays a significant role in shaping their life, influencing not only their academic development but also their social growth and their future career path.

The Reception year is especially important; research indicates a strong link between the progress children make in Reception - especially in the first six weeks - and the GCSE results they go on to achieve at age 16. Schools build on the foundations set at home, offering new challenges and introducing different approaches to overcoming difficulties.

Our Primary Schools have worked together to produce this guide to school readiness. The term 'school readiness' refers to children who are about to start primary school and considers how well prepared a child is emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially for reception.

We hope you will find this guide useful to help you prepare your child to join reception in one of our primary schools. We have also included some information about our Trust.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our TLT Schools family.

Rebecca



OUR VALUES



✓ *We strive to eradicate barriers to learning and promote equality in all that we do; we are unbiased, caring, ethical and inclusive.*



✓ *We work as a team to create strong and sustainable schools; we listen, we share, and we learn together.*



✓ *We build relationships and trust founded on honesty, fairness and respect for one another.*



CONTENTS

WELCOME
FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1

2 OUR VALUES
EQUITY, COLLABORATION AND INTEGRITY

THE EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM
AND THE SEVEN AREAS OF LEARNING

4

6 SCHOOL READINESS
WHAT IS IT AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

SCHOOL READINESS
HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR SCHOOL

8

16 ADDITIONAL NEEDS
WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS ADDITIONAL NEEDS

MORE INFORMATION
LINKS TO USEFUL ARTICLES

17



THE EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes

The Early Years Curriculum is based on an ethos of learning through play. Children will have opportunities for exploring, active learning, creating and thinking critically.

The teaching of early reading, phonics, writing and maths weaves through all of the learning opportunities.

There are seven areas of learning covered within the Reception Year. All the areas are important as they are all interconnected.

The Three Prime Areas

These are crucial for igniting curiosity and building foundational skills. They lay the foundations upon which all further learning can develop. The prime areas are also extremely important for 'igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving', (as stated in the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage). The three prime areas are:

1. **Communication and Language:** Developing listening, understanding, and speaking skills.



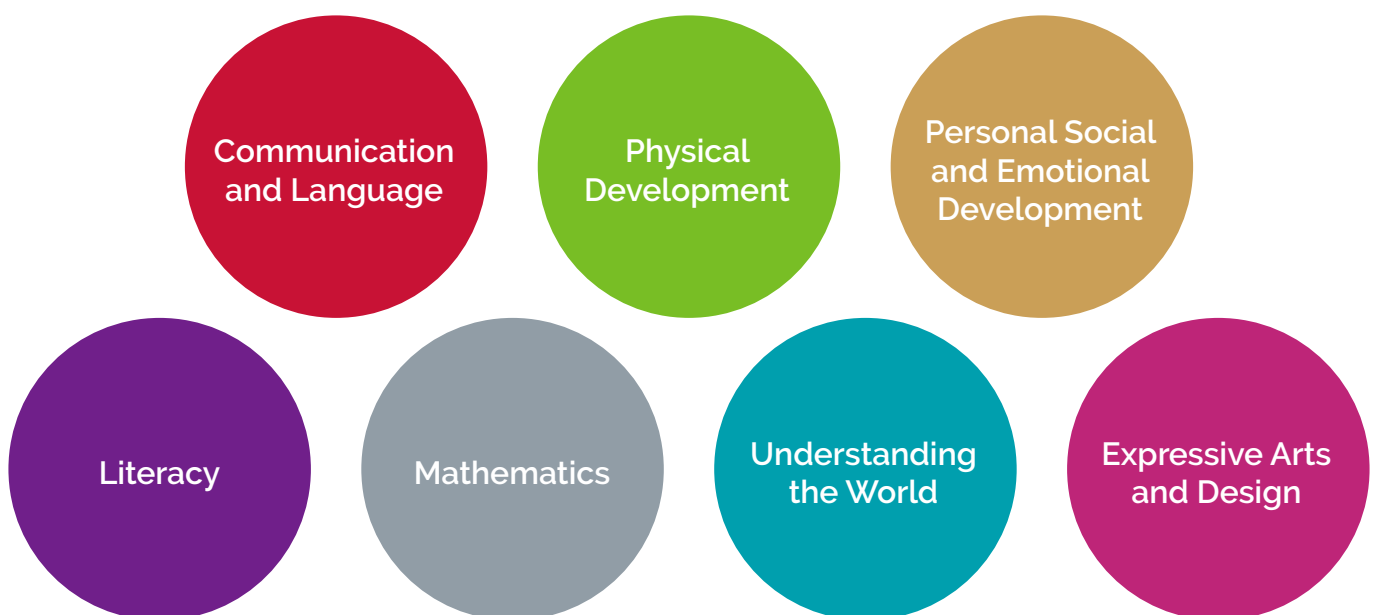
THE SEVEN AREAS OF LEARNING

2. **Physical Development:** Building gross motor skills (movement, coordination) and fine motor skills (handling tools, pencil grip).
3. **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED):** Developing self-confidence, self-awareness, managing feelings, and building relationships.

The Four Specific Areas

These strengthen the prime areas and build on them. Early years settings also support children's learning and development in the specific areas. The four specific areas are intended to also strengthen learning and development within the prime areas, hence why the 7 areas are seen as being interconnected. The four specific areas are:

4. **Literacy:** Encouraging a love of reading, comprehension, and writing.
5. **Mathematics:** Developing an understanding of numbers, shapes, and patterns.
6. **Understanding the World:** Exploring communities, cultures, technology, and the environment.
7. **Expressive Arts and Design:** Fostering imagination, creativity, and self-expression through art, music, and role-play.



SCHOOL READINESS

What is School Readiness?

School readiness is a measure of how prepared a child is to succeed in school cognitively, socially and emotionally.

School readiness starts at birth with the support of parents and caregivers, when young children acquire the social and emotional skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and life.





Why Does School Readiness Matter?

UNICEF's description of school readiness states that three elements together increase children's likelihood of success. These three aspects will maximise each child's likelihood of success as they progress through their time in school:

Children's readiness for school affects their learning and development. This is related to things such as communication skills, personal, social, emotional and physical development.

Early years settings and schools' readiness for children helps ensure learning environments are child-friendly and meet the diverse needs of young learners and their families.

Families' readiness for school promotes a positive and supportive approach to education, their children's learning and the transition from home to school.



SCHOOL READINESS

How to help your child to prepare for school



Emotional & Confidence

Key Capabilities

Confidence, Self-regulation, Separation

Focus & Attention

Key Capabilities

Sitting, Focusing, Following instructions



Speaking & Listening

Key Capabilities

Talking About Self and Ideas, Listening to Others





We know children develop at different rates, and some will need more support as they get ready for school.

Schools expect children to be learning key skills before their first day, and practising these helps make the move to Reception positive. Try small routines such as putting on their coat, tidying up, walking short journeys or carrying their own bag. Encourage independence with toileting, dressing and eating, and talk about sharing, turn taking and friendships. Talking about feelings helps children start school confidently. Be aware that it's normal for children to feel tired at first.

There is more detail on pages 10–15 about what you can do at home to help get your child ready for school.

Counting & Numbers

Key Capabilities

Counting, Recognising Numbers, Subitising* to 5



Self-care & Independence

Key Capabilities

Toileting, Dressing, Recognising Belongings



Physical & Dexterity

Key Capabilities

Core Strength, Hand Control, Using Cutlery



**Subitising is the ability to instantly recognise the number of objects in a small group without counting them individually.*



EMOTIONAL & CONFIDENCE

What You Can Do At Home

Encourage children to name their feelings, practise walking to and from the school, roleplay schools

1

2

3

4

Separation

Can spend time away from you

Self-Regulation

Can calm themselves down when they get frustrated

Confidence

Can bounce back if things go wrong

Confidence

Keeps trying, even when they don't know how to do something



FOCUS & ATTENTION

What You Can Do At Home

Story time, turn-taking games, and simple two-step tasks

1

Sitting

Can sit still for a period of time

2

Focusing

Can start and finish a task

3

Focusing

Can pay attention for short periods of time

4

Following Instructions

Can listen to and follow simple instructions





SPEAKING & LISTENING

What You Can Do At Home

Roleplay, retell familiar stories in their own words, talk about the day, model rich language, and read daily

1

2

3

4

Books

Knows how a book works

Talking about Ideas

Can talk about activities, experiences and the world around them

Communication

Can speak clearly enough so that other people understand them

Communication

Can use words to talk about thoughts, wants, needs and feelings

COUNTING & NUMBERS



What You Can Do At Home

Count steps when you walk and toys as you tidy up, point out numbers e.g. on clocks or buses, sing counting songs and use language such as more/less and bigger/smaller

1

Counting

Can count ten objects

2

Recognising Numbers

Can recognise numbers up to 10

3

Recognising Patterns

Can recognise a simple pattern

4

Sorting by Size

Can sort things from smallest to largest





PHYSICAL & DEXTERITY

What You Can Do At Home

Playdough, climbing, using pegs, and drawing

1

2

3

4

Core Strength

Keeps trying, even when they don't know how to do something

Climbing

Can walk up and down stairs using alternative feet

Hand Control

Can squeeze and release clothes pegs to build hand strength

Hand Control

Can hold and draw with a pencil

SELF-CARE & INDEPENDENCE



What You Can Do At Home

Encourage self-dressing, toileting, and meal routines

1

Dressing

Can get dressed by themselves

2

Toileting

Can go to the toilet when they need to

3

Toileting

Can clean themselves after using the toilet and wash their hands

4

Eating

Can carefully eat with a knife and fork



ADDITIONAL NEEDS

What if my child has additional needs?

If your child needs additional support to settle into Reception, make sure you share as much information as possible with the school Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo). They can work with you alongside the class teacher to find strategies to support your child.

If you know or suspect your child has special educational needs (SEND) some school ready skills may not be achievable for them at this point. Early intervention makes a big difference – ask your child's nursery, school, health visitor, local children's centre or Family Hub for help.

Key Steps if Your Child has Additional Needs

Communication: Share detailed information about your child's needs with the school's SENCO as soon as possible, to develop tailored support strategies.

Support Systems: Enquire about SEN support (e.g. speech therapy) or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans for complex needs.

School Familiarisation: Visit the school in advance to view the classroom, playground, and quiet areas, ensuring the environment is manageable.

Practise Routines: Work on small, manageable skills at home, such as managing belongings, using the toilet, and simple dressing, acknowledging that these may take longer for some children.

Transition Strategies: Request a visual timetable, or a "social story" to help your child understand what to expect. Participate in all the transition arrangements that the school offers.

USEFUL LINKS

Click to go to the websites



Association of Child Psychotherapists
The Child's Experience of Primary School



Compass
Preparing Children to start Primary School



High Speed Training
School Readiness



Learning Journals
What Is School Readiness and What Does it Mean for EYFS?



Learning Resources
Getting Ready to Start Primary School



Starting Reception
Your Child's Journey to School Starts at Home



Surrey Family Information Service
Get Ready for School Online Guide

TLT



Schools

Excellent Teaching
Inspiring Leadership
Innovative Training



Phone

01883 776677



Website

www.TLTSchools.co.uk



Email

Info@TLTSchools.co.uk



Address

Tithepit Shaw Lane, Warlingham, CR6 9YB

