

21 tips for a successful start at Westfield Infant School!!



1. Be organised

- It really helps us if your child comes to school with the things he'll need for the day ahead, like his **coat** (even if it doesn't look like it's going to rain).



2. Label EVERYTHING



- We simply don't have time to reunite 15 stray, nameless shirts with their owners after PE.
- Labelling all of your child's school uniform and PE kit will spare you from having to delve deep in the fusty lost property basket in search of that expensive jumper you only bought a few weeks ago.
- If it can be taken off, put down or left behind, label it.

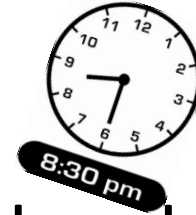


3. Let us know if there's a problem



- If your child had a bad night's sleep, is sad about a lost teddy, or is being bothered by another child at playtime, please tell us: if we don't know about problems, we can't help.
- Send a brief message on Tapestry or leave a message at the office to be passed on to your child's teacher.

4. Don't expect a long talk at morning drop off



- With 30 children to get into school and a busy schedule to get through, we don't have time for in-depth chats at the start of the day.
- If you need to speak about something, catch us at the **end of the day or** send a message on tapestry and we will get back to you ASAP.



5. Be positive!



- Many parents fall into the trap of saying things like, 'Oh, Mummy's going to miss you sooo much!'
- It'll just encourage your child to be clingy, so be bright and positive and save your tears for outside the classroom if you can.



6. Don't string out the goodbyes

- We know it's hard when your child is sobbing and clinging to your legs, but believe us, they will settle much quicker once you have gone.
- We promise to get the office to phone you or send you a message on Tapestry to let you know when your child has settled/calmed down.



7. Make sure we know about medical needs

- If your child has a health condition, allergies and any dietary needs let us know during the consultation meetings at the start of the term. It is important for us to have all the relevant information.

8. Lunchtimes

- Your child is having school dinners, it's helpful if they know how to use a knife and fork and drink out of a cup.



- Adults are on hand to help, but the more independent they are, the better!



9. PE days

- Please ensure your child is wearing clothing on PE days that they can dress/undress independently and manage the fastenings eg socks, pull up skirts/zip dresses
- Save tights and clothes with fiddly fastenings for days when your child won't need to undress.

10. Reading Journal



- The reading journal is the way we will know that your child is reading regularly at home, so that we can reward them in school. You can also use it to let us know about any issues that crop up or books your child has enjoyed.
- Also remember to fill in a smiley face on their book mark each time your child reads any book with you – as once completed this earns your child a 'Story Sack Voucher!'

- And then read some more! Whether it's their school book, a library book, a comic or their favourite bedtime story, reading is probably the single most important thing you can do to support your child's learning.

11. Admin

- Label ANYTHING that comes into school with your child's name and class clearly written on it -paperwork, payments or permission forms for after school clubs.

12. Keep contact details up to date

- It sounds obvious, but it's essential to tell the office if your mobile number or email address changes so we can always get hold of you if we need to.
- Keep us informed of any changes to hometime arrangements. That way we know who can collect your child.

13. Check your child's bag daily

- Check your child's book bag DAILY and remove and letters or independent work your child has produced whilst at school.
- Cluttered bookbags hinder children finding their soundbags and books when needed and adults miss important reply slips you return



14. Don't let your child bring in treasured possessions

- We discourage children bringing their own toys to school as this avoids any upset when they get lost or broken.
- Children could always share any special news or objects through Tapestry!

15. Check for nits regularly

- Arm yourself with a Nit comb, and keep long hair tied back for school: headlice spread like wildfire through Reception classes.
- Please remember to wear basic plain hair bands/elastics as it is part of the uniform



16. Don't compare your child with others

- It's easy to get hung up on what your child's classmates are doing or what reading level they're on, but children have different strengths and weaknesses, and don't all progress at the same rate.
- Your teacher will look at every child as an individual and make sure they're working at the right standard.
- If you have any concerns, talk to us, but don't measure your child against anyone else in the class at this early stage.

17. Keep them at home if they are poorly

- Yes, it's inconvenient to have your child off sick, but it's not fair on him to send him to school feeling ill, and we don't want germs to spread to other kids (or teachers).
- Most schools say children should be kept home for 24 hours after sickness or diarrhoea, so please, please stick to the rules!

18. Prepare for after-school meltdowns

- It's pretty exhausting for a four- or five-year-old to behave well for hours on end, so don't be surprised if all that pent-up tension comes out after school.
- Tears and tantrums are to be expected in the first term, so give your child space to chill and keep clubs and activities to a minimum at first.

19. Stock up on after-school snacks

- Early learning is hungry work. Giving your child a healthy after-school snack can be the difference between a contented kid and a whinging, stroppy one!



20. Don't take your child too literally

- It is heart breaking if your child tells you that nobody played with them or someone was mean, keep an open mind: children aren't always the most reliable witnesses and playground dramas often blow over within days.
- That said, if you have any worries, let us know. We can keep a special eye out for your child and get to the bottom of what's going on.

21. Don't panic about teething problems

- It can take time for even the most confident child to settle into school: it's a big change and a whole new adventure.
- Whatever happens, remember that we're just as keen for your child to feel happy and secure at school as you are. Keep talking to us: by the end of the year, you'll both have forgotten any early upsets.