Thursby
Primary School

School Road
Thursby
Carlisle
CA5 6PN

Tel: 01228 711180
Email: admin@thursby.cumbria.sch.uk
Website: www.thursby.cumbria.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Carl Barnes
Assistant Headteacher: Mr Dave Colombi

Preparing Your Child for School

Starting school is an exciting milestone. Every child develops at their own pace, and we do not expect children to be able to do everything independently before they start. However, helping your child develop some key skills can make the transition to school smoother and build their confidence.

Building Independence

Encourage your child to:

- Put on and take off their coat independently.
- Fasten simple zips and buttons.
- Use the toilet independently and wash their hands afterwards.
- Blow their nose and dispose of tissues appropriately.
- Open their lunchbox and food packaging where possible.
- Recognise and look after their own belongings.

Developing Communication Skills

You can support your child's language development by:

- Talking regularly about everyday experiences.
- Reading stories together every day.
- Singing songs and nursery rhymes.
- Encouraging your child to ask questions and share their ideas.
- Taking turns in conversations and listening to others.

Supporting Early Literacy

Help your child become familiar with books by:

- Sharing stories and picture books daily.
- Discussing characters, events and favourite parts.
- Recognising their own name.
- Enjoying rhymes, stories and language-based games.
- Visiting your local library together.

Supporting Early Maths Skills

Everyday activities provide opportunities to develop mathematical understanding:

- Counting objects during play.
- Talking about shapes, sizes and patterns.
- Spotting numbers in the environment.
- Playing simple board games.
- Helping with cooking and measuring activities.

Encouraging Confidence and Resilience

Children benefit from opportunities to:

- Try new activities.
- Make simple choices.
- Persevere when things are challenging.
- Share and take turns with others.
- Follow simple routines and expectations.

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Developing Physical Skills

Support your child's physical development through:

- Outdoor play and physical activity.
- Drawing, colouring and painting.
- Building with blocks and construction toys.
- Using scissors safely with supervision.
- Playing games that develop hand strength and coordination.

Establishing Good Routines

Before starting school, it can help to:

- Practise a consistent bedtime routine.
- Encourage regular mealtimes.
- Promote good attendance habits.
- Practise putting on school shoes and clothing.
- Help your child become familiar with school-related routines.

Most Importantly...

The most valuable thing you can do is spend time talking, playing, reading and exploring with your child. These positive experiences help develop the confidence, curiosity and love of learning that will support them as they begin their school journey.