



## **Preparing Children for School**

Each year World Book Day, at the beginning of March, signals the start of our school readiness programme for our children that will be leaving us to start school in September. Throughout their time with us, we are carefully preparing children for the next step in their learning, however from March to July, we have more of a focus on preparing children for school.

### **So how do we prepare the children?**

We aim to develop the children's love of books by encouraging parents to visit the local library and enjoy sharing books together. In term 6 we will introduce our own 'library service' with children taking a book home to enjoy and discuss with family and friends. This will then be returned the following week and a new book chosen to share and enjoy.

We will encourage mark making, through to forming some recognisable letters, as appropriate and through a range of activities such as: using flour, chalks, the white board, writing books, paint brushes etc.

In terms 5/6 we arrange visits to the local primary school, where the children can experience a school environment and spend some time in the reception class and seeing places such as the lunch hall, playground and other relevant areas.

In term 6 we start to encourage your child to say goodbye to you outside the pre-school so that they become familiar with walking in by themselves, hanging up their coats and finding friends and activities independently.

Our literacy focus groups have a phonetic approach to learning, following Phase 1 of the Letters and Sounds National Strategy which includes rhyming, alliteration and initial sounds. Also in small group sessions we will incorporate mathematical games and activities to help children with numbers and mathematical concepts.

We encourage children to be independent in their self-care such as with using the toilet, dressing and putting their coats on and off. We also aim to nurture and develop children's confidence when asking someone for help e.g. at lunchtime.

In term 6 all reception teachers are invited into pre-school so they can meet the relevant children and chat to their pre-school key person. A summary of children's current levels of development are sent to teachers as the children leave pre-school.