



Liskeard Hillfort
Primary School



Welcome to Liskeard Hillfort Primary School
Reception 2026

Welcome to our school, we are delighted that you have chosen Liskeard Hillfort Primary School for your child. We hope that both you and your child will have a happy and successful time at our school.

The aim of this booklet is to give additional information for those joining our Reception class.

The pack aims to give you some ideas of ways in which you can help to prepare your child for starting school.

We hope that you will find the information useful.

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Getting ready for school

A child learns from the moment of birth, not just the time he or she starts school. They learn from experiences within a family and here at Liskeard Hillfort Primary, we know that parents are children's first educators, and are valued as such. When parents and staff work together, the results have a positive impact on a child's development and learning. A successful partnership needs a two-way flow of information, knowledge and expertise. What you do at home makes all the difference to your child in the early stages of talking, reading and writing.

We value learning through play and we ask you to support us in learning this way. Play provides opportunities for exploration, experimentation and manipulation that are essential for constructing knowledge.

Learning through play promotes the development of social, emotional and intellectual abilities of a child. It is through play that children develop their imagination, creativity and motivation to learn. The children will experience a lot of practical work and structured play activities which take place outside as well as within the classroom.



All children respond differently to starting school. As the practitioners working with young children, we endeavour to make their experience of school fun, familiar and secure.



The EYFS consists of seven areas of learning and development. The three prime areas form the foundations for learning, while the four specific areas build upon and strengthen these skills.

Prime:

Personal, Social, Emotional Development (PSED)
Physical Development
Communication and Language

Specific:

Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts

Encourage independence

Children who are developing their own independence for their basic needs usually find settling into school much easier. It really helps if they can independently put on their coats, take off their shoes and put them on again.

When children start school, **we expect them to be toilet trained**, unless they have a medical condition. Of course, we understand the children may have the odd accident and we are always prepared for this! Children who are not toilet trained miss valuable learning time.

It really helps when your child can manage the toilet independently and wash their hands. If you think your child may have an accident, please send them with a spare set of clothes as children often prefer to change in to their own clothes if needed.

Eating food with a knife and fork is a real life skill and it would be really helpful if the children have an experience of eating with cutlery before starting at Hillfort. We really value eating together at lunch time and spend time modelling using cutlery.



Reading

Don't fret about whether your child can read at this stage!

Helping them to enjoy books and be curious about reading is key. You can encourage a love of books simply by reading to your child as much as you can. Read favourite books often so that your child knows the story off by heart and can recall the lovely story language.



We have an exciting curriculum which is language and story-rich. Every day the children have learning opportunities and activities with a focus on nursery rhymes, stories and songs.

Story times are always special; this is when we demonstrate how much we love reading! The children listen to a minimum of five stories a day, including a daily poem. We are continuously singing nursery rhymes and songs throughout the day. We choose books carefully to read to the class. We do this to ensure they have an excellent 'reading diet' over the year including a variety of stories, non-fiction books, poems and rhymes.



We will teach your child the skills to become a confident reader through a phonics programme called Read, Write Inc.

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.



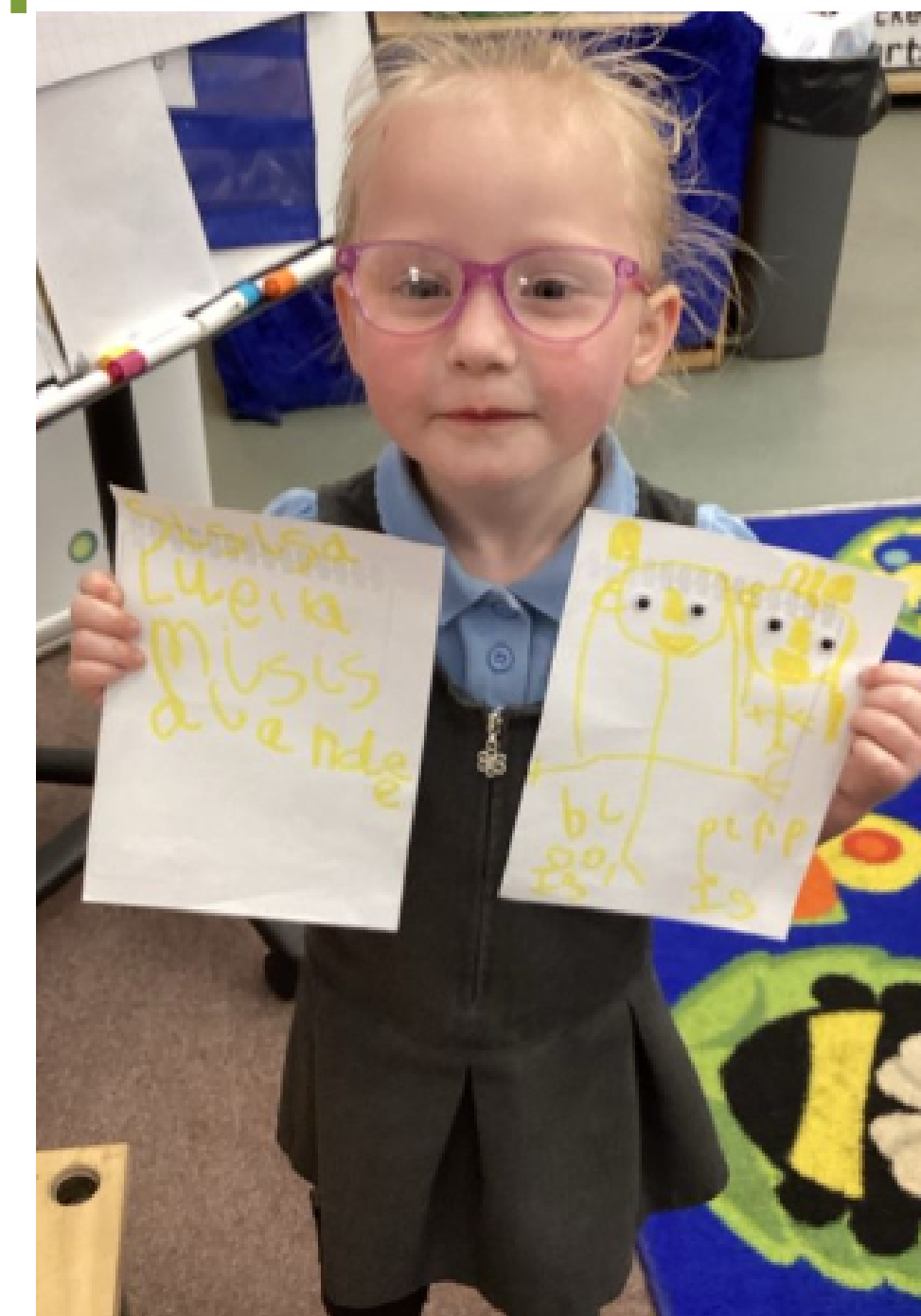
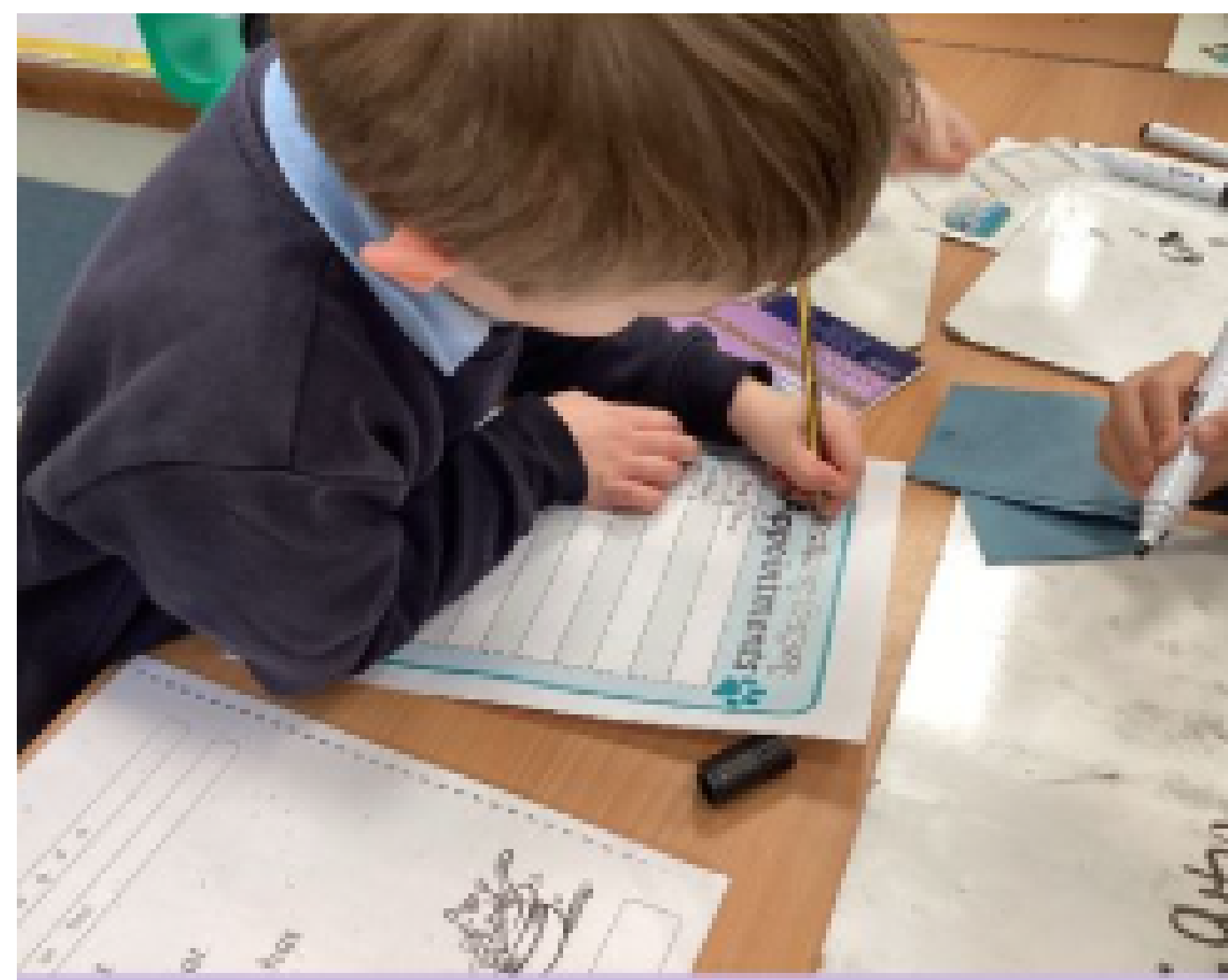
You will be invited to a meeting in Autumn term so that we can explain how we teach reading. Please come and support your child. We would very much like you to know how to help.



Writing

Many children like to pretend to write and their first attempt may look like scribbles. This is a very valuable and important stage in learning to write.

You can encourage your child's writing by providing them with note pads, old forms and diaries and by showing them the correct way to hold their pencil between their thumb and first finger.



Your child may want to write their name and you can show them how to do this with a capital letter followed by the lower case letters. Letters from their name are often the first recognisable letters they produce in their play writing. Please do not write in capitals.

Do not worry if your child is not interested in writing yet. Drawing, using playdough, painting, building with construction toys and using scissors all help children develop their finger control and hand eye co-ordination. Enjoying these activities will help to strengthen their muscles to help develop their pencil control ready for when they do begin to write.

Motivating maths

Encourage your child to count things they find interesting; toys, shells, sticks, pebbles etc. Enjoy singing number rhymes and songs such as; 'Five little monkeys jumping on the bed', 'One, two, three, four, five once I caught a fish alive' and 'Five little aliens'. Build models with construction sets, count the blocks used and look at the different shapes together. Look for numbers in the environment, on signs and in books.



Starting Reception

Your child's journey to school starts at home

We understand that all children develop at their own pace, and that we're all learning from birth. When it's time to start school, some children will need more help than others.

There are key skills* that schools expect children to be learning before their first day. Practising these will make your child's journey to Reception positive as possible.

There's lots you can do at home to build your child's confidence and independence, helping them feel emotionally and practically prepared to start school.

*We are calling this document the 'Starting Reception' definition. Some people/organisations refer to this as 'school readiness'.



Please visit the
'Starting Reception'
website for more
information on how
to support your child
before they begin
their journey with us
at Liskeard Hillfort
Primary School.

How can I help my child get ready?

- Your child will have lots of new activities and routines to get used to when they start school. There are some things they'll need to do more independently than they might have before.
- Research shows that a child's relationship with their parents is the most important factor in their development, and there's a lot you can do at home.
- When your child is at home with you or another caregiver, you can practise as a family with fun activities (we've included links at the end of this resource).
- Some of these skills take time to master, so it's good to introduce them gradually as part of your daily routine.



Find out more

For more information on how to help your child get ready for reception, and for information on supporting children with additional needs, scan the QR code or visit <https://startingreception.co.uk>.

Uniform

Uniform at Liskeard Hillfort can be branded with the school logo or unbranded.
Branded uniform can be bought at Gilbert's Outfitters in Liskeard.

Children wear a sky blue polo-shirt and a navy blue crew-neck sweatshirt or cardigan. Children can wear black school trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores with black shoes. Socks should be white, black or grey. In the summer, children can wear a blue and white check summer dress.

PE Kit

On PE days, pupils will wear their sky blue polo shirt and sweatshirt as above but on their lower half wear black sport kit:

Black sports shorts, plain black jogging bottoms or plain black leggings and black trainers



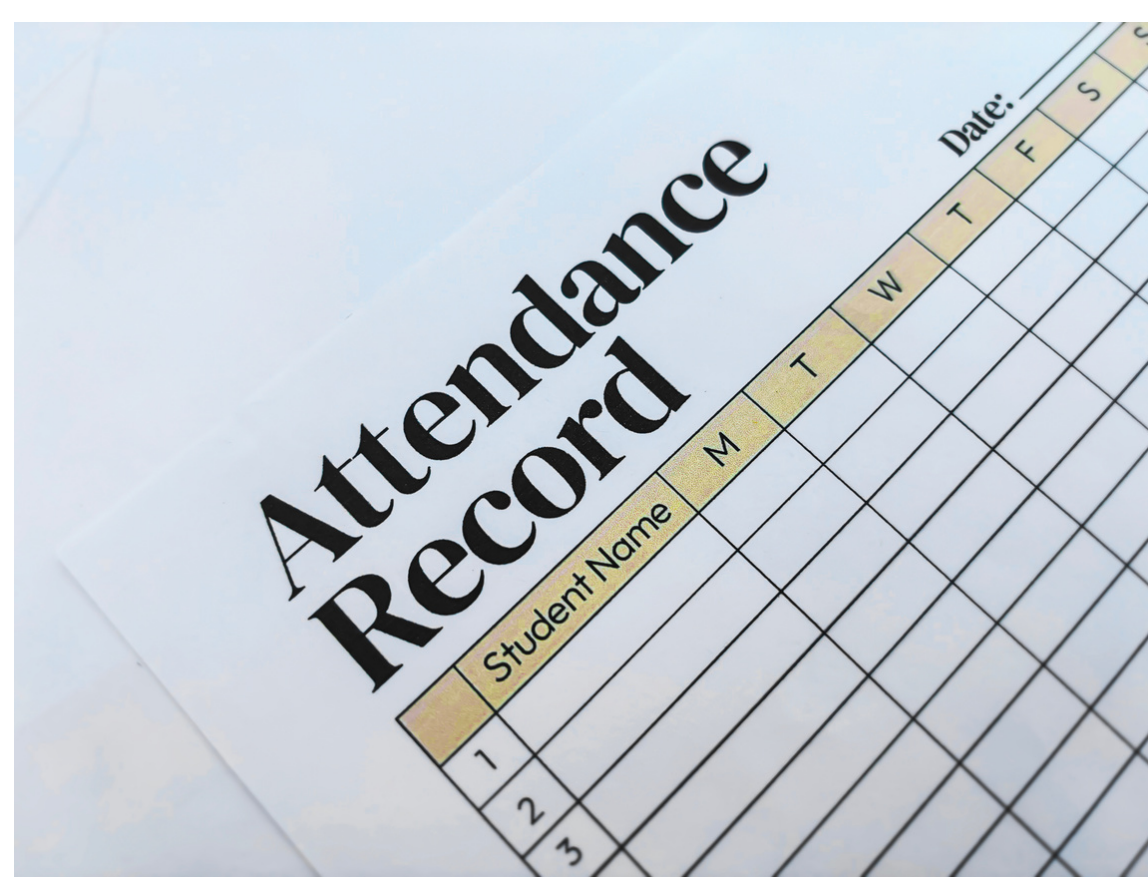
School Lunches

All children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to have free school meals. School meals are ordered online by parents via ParentPay. A letter will be sent out for parents to set up their ParentPay account closer to the time. It is really important that lunches are ordered so that the children can choose from the varied menu we have available.



Snack Time

Your child will be offered fruit and milk each day. We also ask you to provide a named bottle of water for your child to enable them to have regular access to drinking water throughout the day. As part of our Healthy Schools participation, we prefer to encourage water only.



Attendance and Absence

Regular and punctual attendance at school is essential in promoting a full education for all children. Please support the school and your child's education by ensuring they attend school every day and that they arrive by 8.45am, ready for learning.

If your child is late to school, please bring them to the main reception where they will be signed in and taken down to their class by a member of staff.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please let us know on each day of absence before 9am, by telephoning the school office answerphone line on 01579 343443. You may be asked to provide supporting medical evidence for prolonged absence.

Routine medical and dental appointments should be booked outside of school hours when possible. Evidence of the medical appointment should be provided where it is available.

Please note that holidays must not be taken during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. We publish the dates for school terms well in advance, and they are available to you on-line on the Cornwall Council website; www.cornwall.gov.uk and type term dates into the search bar. Our term dates and training days are also available on our School website www.liskeardhillfortprimary.org.uk This is to help you plan your holidays. When you book your holiday, please check that it does not clash with the school term. If a child is taken out of school without permission, a fine may be issued by the Education Welfare Service.

Medical information

If your child suffers from any medical condition, please inform us on the admissions form which you will receive on the first induction day. If your child suffers with asthma, they will need to have a named inhaler to keep in school. If your child suffers from any allergies e.g. nut allergy, please let the school know.

You will need to complete a Health Care Plan.

If your child needs to have medication during the school day, staff can administer this provided you have completed a form available from the school office.