

# Starting school

This leaflet offers information and advice to help your child settle in and get the most from school.

For more information, The Family Information Service (FIS) booklet 'Your Child's Learning - Getting Involved', is a useful resource. Call **0845 090 8044** or email **fis@warwickshire.gov.uk** for your copy.

The FIS offers a wide range of information on all aspects of family life at different ages and stages of your child's development, such as childcare, financial help, bullying, secondary school and higher education, parent's employment rights.

Find out more at **[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis5](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis5)** or call **0845 090 8044**.

# Information request

We can provide further information for your family, go online to [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis) or complete this form and return to FREEPOST RRCB-HYCJ-JAZG, Saltisford Office Park, Warwick, CV34 4UL. If the information you need is not listed call 0845 090 8044.

## Leaflet Order Form

### Children and Early Education

- Choosing Childcare
- Childcare Contracts
- Ofsted Reports

### Parenting

- Why Dads Matter
- Separation and Divorce
- Encouraging Good Behaviour
- Life with a Teenager
- Internet safety
- Bullying
- Relationships and sex
- Dealing with discrimination

### Special Educational Needs

- Disability & SEN Contacts/ Financial Help

### Working Parents

- Maternity/Paternity Leave
- Time-off for dependants
- Adoption Leave
- Flexible Working

### Education

- Education 5-11 years
- Education 11-16 years
- Education 16+ years
- Moving on to Secondary School
- Homework and Revision
- Your Child's Learning

### Financial Support

- Tax Credits
- Childcare Vouchers
- Nursery Education Funding
- Young Parents
- Students

### Financial Factsheets

- Parents & Carers
- Lone Parents
- Carers
- Expecting a new baby
- Low Income
- Unemployed
- Affected by illness
- Affected by Bereavement
- Young Parents

## Local childcare search

I would like a list of the following providers within a \_\_\_\_\_ mile radius of my home postcode \_\_\_\_\_ .

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childminders        | <input type="checkbox"/> Day Nurseries            | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery class/school    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool/playgroup | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday schemes          | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth groups/activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler groups      | <input type="checkbox"/> Before/after school care | <input type="checkbox"/> Activities              |

School pick-up (school's name) \_\_\_\_\_

My child(ren) is (are) \_\_\_\_\_ years old

SEN/disabilities of child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Starting school - What to expect

In the first year of primary school the Foundation Stage continues and so your child should encounter the same sort of learning and activities they were used to in their early years setting.

The next two years of primary school are called Key Stage 1 and the next four years are known as Key Stage 2. For each of these stages, the National Curriculum lays down which subjects are taught.

Finding out what happens at school can help you support your child to make the most of their time there. Ask about:

- methods used for teaching and learning
- school rules
- school policies on areas like homework, behaviour, child protection, attendance and bullying
- facilities available, for example a library or sports facilities
- how you will be informed about your child's progress and included in decisions about their learning
- getting involved in your child's education, for example through parent-teacher associations or by becoming a governor
- how best to help your child's learning at home, for example by talking to them about their learning and reading with them
- support available if your child has special educational needs

## Helping your child to adjust to school life

In order to provide support or help your child through what can sometimes be a difficult first phase, it may help to:

- set aside time with your child to talk about school and take an interest in what they have been doing and listen carefully to any worries your child might have
- try to keep a regular routine at home to keep stress to a minimum
- make sure your child knows what is happening on a day-to-day basis and is informed in advance about any changes to their routine
- encourage your child to build friendships with children in their class
- keep positive as some problems may be resolved as your child adapts to a new way of life

If you cannot sort out problems your child has by talking to them, you may find it useful to talk to your child's teacher about your concerns.

# Supporting your child's learning

You don't have to be a teacher to improve how your child learns. Even if you didn't enjoy school, there are some easy ways to help your child stay motivated.

## 1. Show them you are interested

Get to know their timetable and talk about what they have learned that day. If you are not familiar with a subject, get them to teach you to put their knowledge into practice.

## 2. Give them a quiet place to do homework

If you think there is not enough room in your home, what about clearing the kitchen table for an hour or two in the evening.

## 3. Help with homework, but don't do it for them

Be there to help your child find answers to problems. If your child needs to research a particular subject, go with them to a library or use the internet together.

## 4. Make the most of TV

Choose programmes that are related to what your child is studying. Ask your child's opinion about what they have watched.

## 5. Take days out that are relevant to schoolwork

Plan family visits to places of historical interest, museums, galleries or even the beach. These can bring lessons to life.

## 6. Have a handy 'toolbox'

Keep a box of pens, pencils, rubbers, and so on. Buy a dictionary so that your child has all the 'tools' they need to do their homework.

## 7. Get a good attendance record

Any time off from school affects your child's progress. Make sure they arrive on time, and give them a healthy breakfast before they leave home.

## 8. Stay in touch with the school

Your child's teacher is a great source of help and advice and may suggest other ways in which you can help your child with their schoolwork.

## 9. Get to know the National Curriculum

Go to [www.nc.uk.net](http://www.nc.uk.net) to find out which subjects your child will study every year.

## 10. Don't forget to say 'well done'

We all need praise now and then, but it's particularly important for a child. Congratulating your child will encourage them to do well.