



# MOOR PARK

AD DEUM QUI LAETIFICAT JUVENTUTEM MEAM

## Are you Reception Ready? A guide to preparing your child for starting school.

Starting school for the first time is an exciting time. Once you have chosen their first pair of shiny black school shoes and have their new uniform ready and waiting in the wardrobe, what else can you do to prepare your child (and yourself!) for the wonderful new adventures that lie ahead?



Your child's first day at school is a huge rite of passage for you both. As this is such an important time, we'd like to share our experience and tips to help the process for you and your child. Amidst all the excitement, there are bound to be a few nerves for both child and parent, and so we have drawn on our extensive experience in Early Years education to gather together some useful advice to prepare you both for the Big Day and beyond.



Here at Moor Park, our Pre-Prep staff are highly skilled in supporting children as they make the transition to school, enabling them to develop into motivated, successful and resilient learners. With our guidance, you and your child will be able to approach their first day at school with confidence and enthusiasm for all the fun that school has in store.

### **Relax and have fun!**

The months leading up to starting school are a time to be celebrated and enjoyed to the full. Simply spend as much time as you can with your child just having fun together.

### **Supporting the journey**

Many children are used to spending time in a pre-school environment so are already developing many of the skills that they will need for school. Our Kindergarten team have been working hard to prepare the little ones to ensure that the move to Reception is the natural next step. Some children start school having never had any experience outside of their family unit and may need more support. Whatever your child's previous experiences, their transition will be tailored to meet their individual needs to ensure those first few days and weeks are a positive experience.



### **Here are some practical tips to help prepare your child for a positive start:**

- Help them to try on their uniform before their first day and celebrate how smart they look!
- Look at the school Facebook page and show your child some of the photos of Pre-Prep activities, events and trips. This will help them to visualise some of the things they may do here at Moor Park.
- Spend the two weeks leading up to starting school establishing the bedtime routine they will need after a busy day at school. Remember that they will be exhausted at the end of the day for the first few weeks and having already established a routine will ease the emotional meltdowns that tiredness can inevitably trigger!
- Provide plenty of chances for your child to make friends with others who will be in their class. Our Class Reps often arrange some play dates leading up to September, enabling the children to meet up and begin forging new friendships.
- Some children may only just have turned four when they start school. Whilst we find the vast majority of children transition incredibly smoothly to the longer days and the full time requirement, we do recognise that this can be too much for some children and we are happy to tailor an induction that is appropriate to their needs.





“You’re off to great places.  
Today is your day! Your  
mountain is waiting, so ...  
get on your way!”  
Dr. Seuss,  
*Oh, the Places You’ll Go!*

Being able to tackle some simple daily tasks independently will give your child confidence and will stand them in good stead for a very successful start. For example:

**Getting changed** – Allow time for them to practise putting on and taking off jumpers, coats, shoes and welly boots. Help them to make sure sleeves are pulled out ready for the next time they are needed and show them how to fold or hang their clothes up carefully. Shoes with Velcro fastenings are much easier for little fingers than buckles and laces but practising putting shoes on the correct feet is always worth the effort! One novel idea to support this is to cut a round sticker in half and place one half in each shoe so that it is clear when the shoes are placed together which way round they should go.

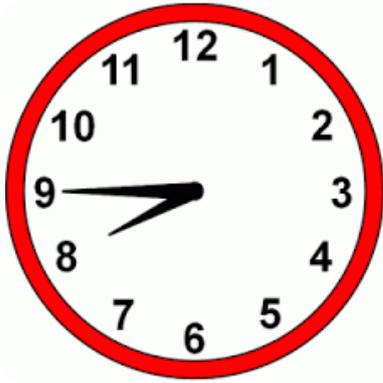
**Toileting** – Help your child to feel secure about getting to the toilet in time and wiping properly using toilet tissue.

**At mealtimes** – Support your child by encouraging them to hold their cutlery correctly and using it to cut up their food. You could use cutlery and play dough to practise this skill.

**Hand washing** – Help your child to understand how important it is for them to wash their hands after going to the toilet and before eating.

**Helping out** – It is a good idea to encourage your child to lend a hand with some simple tasks at home such as setting the table, clearing away their toys, pouring the drinks and so on – anything to promote responsibility and independence.





## The 'To-Do' list for a successful start

- Make sure that you have labelled everything (yes, everything!) and sewn strong loops into items of clothing that need to be hung on pegs.
- Check what uniform/kit your child will need each day. Timetables for Reception can be found on the school website.
- Ensure you know where to go on the very first day. You can arrive from 8.15 am and need to be at school by 8.45am for registration.
- Check what time you'll need to collect your child - Pre-Prep children finish school at 3.45 pm unless they are staying for After School Club.



## And what to do when the novelty wears off!

The first few weeks of starting school can seem like a bit of a holiday as everything is new and exciting and children are still reasonably 'fresh'. It is quite common for the novelty to wear off at some point, especially as tiredness creeps in, and all of a sudden your happy child who has skipped into school with a beaming smile for the first few weeks suddenly becomes clingy. This is perfectly normal and although it feels horrible to leave them when they are crying and holding on to you, after a very short time they are likely to be completely engrossed in something fun.

If your child does struggle with leaving you in the morning for a longer period of time, their teacher will work through this with you in order to support both you and your child.



Your child will be very tired by the end of the day so do build in some quiet time for them when they get home and try, if you can, not to schedule too many other activities after school during the first term at least. Also remember they are likely to be hungry at the end of the school day and so a nutritious snack is often needed to restore energy levels, in turn lifting emotional levels too!

# What will your child be getting up to each week at Moor Park?

## Phonics and Reading

Each and every day the teacher will spend time with your child developing their phonic knowledge and reading skills, setting them on the road to being an independent reader. Small classes ensure this time is plentiful and meaningful.



## Numeracy

We believe in a practical and fun maths curriculum, giving each child the time and support they need to develop a mastery of basic number skills - firm foundations on which to build.

## Topic Based Learning

Creative, exciting and practical approaches are used to develop the children's knowledge and skills under themed topics.

## Woodland School

Whatever the weather the children are suited and booted for their adventures in the woods.



## Mini Movers Dance Classes

Mrs Leianne Bates, Principal of Insteps Dance Academy leads these fun and creative weekly sessions for all of our Early Years children, building on their confidence and movement skills.

## Sports Stars

Specialist sport tuition is a highlight of the week, with children being taught the ABCs of sport (Agility, Balance, Coordination and Speed). These sessions are always lively and fun!



## Music

Specialist taught music is the perfect stepping stone to developing a life-long love of singing and music.

## Information Technology



As well as the computer and interactive whiteboard within the classroom, Reception enjoy developing their skills during their C&IT lessons in our Mac based IT Lab.

Phew! And that's just some of the many adventures ahead of them!

# Why choose a Moor Park Education for your child at Reception age?

## **We are 'Outstanding'!**

Graded as outstanding in all areas in our most recent ISI inspection (May, 2016), you can rest assured that your child is in the best of hands. This stamp of approval shows that the quality of education and the care that is taken for the children's welfare, safety and happiness are our absolute priority.

## **We will treat your child as an individual**

The staff at Moor Park pride themselves on knowing every single child. Whatever point your child is starting from, it is our goal to nurture their curiosity, develop their talents, stretch their boundaries and develop in them a confidence that ensures they feel ready to tackle anything.

## **We keep classes small and staff:pupil ratios high**

This means that every child gets the time and attention they need - every child receives one-to one time with their teacher every single day. No child gets lost at Moor Park and every child matters.

## **Specialist staff using outstanding facilities**

Reception children make the most of the school's wonderful facilities including the sports hall, C&IT suite, Design Technology room, tennis courts, astro and swimming pool. The specialist staff in dance, music and sport all help to create a wonderfully broad and varied curriculum.



### **Need wrap around care?**

Moor Park provides both before school and after school care, from 7.30am in our Breakfast Club, to 6pm at our After School Club - perfect for busy working parents.

### **Healthy body, healthy mind**

Homemade, locally sourced food, cooked fresh each day with menus overseen by our nutritionist. Our children lead active and busy days and fuelling them in the right way is vital.

### **Get suited and booted for learning outdoors!**

We embrace an active and outdoor education and make the most of our wonderful grounds and dedicated Woodland School site. You will often see a child's character emerging most effectively when they are allowed the time, space and freedom to just explore and discover.

### **We teach your child skills for life**

Whether on the playground, in the classroom or up at Woodland School, children are not bubble wrapped here at Moor Park. Children are taught how to make safe and reasoned judgements and are supported to build the confidence to take risks and to have the resilience to bounce back and try again when something doesn't work.



Your child will be exposed to a whole new world when they start school and they will be supported every step of the way as they adjust to new routines, expectations and experiences.

Some ups and downs are perfectly normal. Remember that, as they settle into their new routine, they are processing a massive amount of new information and it is only natural that this may result in something of an emotional roller-coaster ride until things become familiar to them!

In essence, success for your child lies in strong partnership, open communication and consistent support from home and school. With the right balance, your child is sure to achieve amazing things!



**Moor Park is a leading independent day and boarding school for boys and girls aged from 3 months - 13 years**

For more information or to arrange a visit, contact us on 01584 876061 ★ [www.moorpark.org.uk](http://www.moorpark.org.uk)



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