

# How to Prepare your Daughter for Starting School

I firmly believe the first years at school are the most important, setting a solid foundation. Here at The Maynard School we have already met your daughter and feel confident that she will thrive here. Part of preparing your daughter for school is to reinforce positive relationships and help her feel secure through spending time together, having fun and sharing memories and experiences together. We do also have some suggestions and guidance on the skills and understanding she will need in order to make a strong start in September.

Social skills are the key to making and keeping friends at school, being able to share and take turns as well as listening and responding to instructions. We do however also expect girls to have practical skills; significantly the ability to dress herself and use the toilet independently.

At lunch time girls are expected to eat with a knife and fork. We will give reminders about good manners and appropriate table etiquette. Our lunch is a formal meal with staff.

When entering Reception, it isn't necessary for your child to read and write and know their numbers, but it is helpful if she can recognise her name, and maybe even write it too, to enable her to find her coat hook and personal items quickly. Social and personal skills are more important at Reception.

All of our girls are expected to maintain high standards of personal hygiene and arrive with clean shoes and tidy well-groomed hair. Everything must be clearly marked with a name tape. (shoes, pants, individual socks, hairbands, everything!) It is very easy for things to go missing. Please do check our lost property tub if you do lose anything and of course tell us!

We're here to work in partnership with you – we want the best for your daughter! Please come and speak to us if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We are very much a family school – siblings are encouraged to support as many events as possible.

Starting school can sometimes be quite a daunting experience, and not just for the child but for the parents as well. I can assure you that we make the transition smooth and seamless and we have your child's best interests at heart. We are all here to help you and your daughter – our doors are always open, so please come and speak to your class teacher or myself if you have any questions.

Emma Cook  
Head of Pre-Prep

