



Ivy Education
Trust

Starcross Preschool
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Starcross Pre-School. The first day of Pre-School is an exciting milestone on your child's educational journey, your child is embarking on a stage of their life that will lead them into many roads of discovery and learning. This is a wonderful time which can also be quite stressful for a young child, new situations and change can be unsettling for us all at times. For many children this may be their first experience of separation from parents or carers at home and it is common for even the most outgoing child to be anxious on their first day.

You will be invited to attend a meeting at the pre-school where you and your child will be introduced to the staff and have time to speak with your child's allocated 'Key Person'. Your child will be able to visit the pre-school while this is taking place which will enable them to have a look round and familiarise themselves with the setting, it also gives you a chance as parents to discuss your child more formally before they start with us.

When it comes to leaving your child with us we provide a few suggestions below which may help your child at this time. Please remember the pre-school staff will be available to provide support and assistance, making your child's first pre-school days, happy days.

Some suggestions for your child's first day at pre-school:

- Prepare your child for the new experience by explaining what to expect. Answer all questions directly and honestly.
- Convey a positive attitude, young children are aware of your feelings and your enthusiasm will reassure your child that pre-school can be a fun and exciting place.
- Clearly state where you will be and when you be returning to collect them. It may also be useful to discuss what will be happening when you return to collect them.
- Maintain a clear goodbye routine. Our experience is that the best approach is to say goodbye to your child and leave. Prolonging this will often lead to your child becoming more upset and anxious. We suggest telling your child that you are leaving, give them a kiss and hug then wave goodbye and walk away. Once you tell your child you are leaving it is important to follow through. Extending the goodbye with 'ok, one more hug' tends to heighten anxiety rather than relieve it.

Please be assured that we are here to help make the first day at pre-school a happy one which reinforces a positive transition for you and your child.

Once again, 'Welcome to Starcross Pre-School', we are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Tish Broome and Sarah Williams
Starcross Pre-School Managers