



We look forward to welcoming you and your  
child to

The Early Years at  
Odessa Infants' School in September 2021

Due to the continuing Covid 19 situation  
some of our usual procedures may change  
but we will do our best to keep you informed  
via text message or email. In order to do  
this it is very important that we have your  
up-to-date details.

# How to get your child ready for starting school

## Talk about school

- Start talking about school, ask your child how they are feeling. What are they most looking forward to?
- Look at our school website [www.odessa.gov.uk](http://www.odessa.gov.uk) and talk about the things you see.
- Be positive, if you seem upset your child will pick up on this and worry about you, going to school must be seen as a happy and good thing to do. Do not use any negative language such as, "you'll get into trouble if you do that".

## Encourage your child to have a go

- Develop self-help skills by encouraging your child to put on and take off their coat by themselves. Support them in learning how to fasten buttons and zips. Encourage your child to take their shoes and socks on and off. Don't wait until the first day—practise it now!
- Support your child in getting to the toilet in time, wiping themselves, flushing the toilet and washing their hands. Sometimes children get so involved with their play that accidents do happen. Please talk to our child about what to do if they have an accident, reassuring them and telling them to tell an adult. Please bring a bag in with some spare clothes just in case, not forgetting clean socks.
- Encourage your child to blow their nose themselves, binning the tissue and washing their hands. If this is reinforced both in school and at home it will become the norm and your child will develop a healthy routine.
- Encourage your child to use a knife and fork or a spoon to eat their meals. Support your child to be an independent eater.

## Teach your child to communicate their needs

- Talk to your child without the distraction of TV or computer/tablet screens. Talk about shared experiences that you have enjoyed such as visits, shopping trips and visits to the park.
- Sing songs and rhymes together to develop their vocabulary—in any language!
- Recognise and talk through your child's feelings and different emotions, this will help them to talk to staff.

- It is important for children to learn how to listen and follow instructions whilst in school. You can help at home by playing games such as 'Snap!' and giving simple instructions, e.g. hang your coat up and wash your hands, put your toys away.

### **Be healthy, active, friendly and helpful**

- Establish a good sleep routine for your child
- Talk about, and encourage, healthy eating. You could discuss the weekly school menu which is sent out in newsletters
- Go on outings, visit the library regularly, find books relating to your child's interests.
- Give children responsibilities around the house i.e. emptying the washing machine and helping you to hang the clothes up, laying the table and counting the correct amount of cutlery, making their bed and even washing up! Your child will enjoy doing 'grown up' jobs.
- Encourage children to talk to people you know to develop their confidence.

### **Holiday activities**

- If you have a garden or window box encourage your child to plant a few seeds and get messy digging and exploring.
- Paint a fence or wall with water and a paint brush—great start to mark-making and writing!
- Save boxes and cardboard rolls so that your child can build or make models with them, encourage them to use masking tape and scissors independently.
- Share books with your child and talk about the pictures and the characters.
- Make playdough—there are lots of recipes on the internet. This is a fantastic activity that involves measuring and mixing and can really help strengthen your child's hand muscles ready for writing.
- Complete puzzles.
- Sing songs for counting and rhyming—make up your own silly songs!
- Dance to music—all sorts of music!
- Go for a picnic and let your child help to make the sandwiches or wash the fruit.

- Point out shapes, numbers and signs whilst you are out and about.
- Play simple board games and ball games to encourage sharing and turn taking.

*Most importantly...  
play, play, play, play!*

## Our Curriculum

At Odessa we follow the Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and 'Birth to 5 Matters' document. We use a planning cycle to assess, plan and evaluate the next steps for your child so it is important that you let us know your child's interests so that we can incorporate them into our planning.

## Uniform

Our uniform consists of a school jumper and polo shirt both of which are available through Ian Howard Schoolwear.



[www.ianhowardschoolwear.com](http://www.ianhowardschoolwear.com)

409 Barking Rd, East Ham E6

The trousers, skirts or shorts must be black as must the shoes and can be purchased at most chain stores. **Please ensure that ALL items have your child's name on including coats and shoes which must be suitable for school and the weather.**

At a later date in Reception you will be asked to purchase a PE kit although your teacher will let you know when your child will need this. It is a health and safety requirement that children change fully for PE. Our PE kit consists of;

- Red shorts
- School polo shirt
- Plimsoles

These must be kept in a school PE bag and **all items MUST have your child's name in them**—including plimsoles, as you will appreciate it is very hard to tell who's is who's when all the children are wearing the same.

Your child will require a school book bag as they will be given a reading book which must come into school everyday to support their reading.

## Communication

We feel that good communication between home and school is essential for the children's well-being.

Here at Odessa we communicate with you in different ways, these are;

- Email
- Text
- Newsletters
- School Website
- Telephone

If you need to get in touch with us you can email us at;

[info@odessa.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@odessa.newham.sch.uk)

Or phone:

020 8534 7967

If your child is ill or cannot attend school for any reason please phone as soon as possible to let us know. We expect at least 97% attendance.