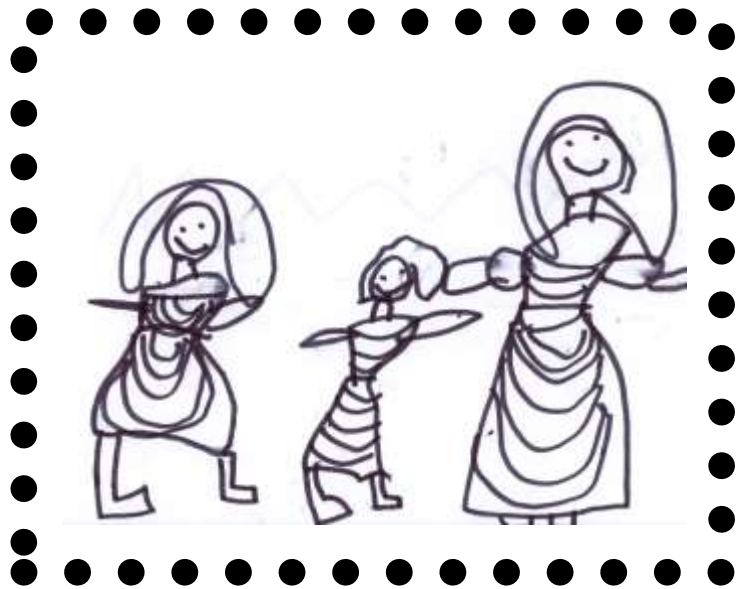


Welcome to Arden Primary School

Be prepared

When your child comes to school for the first time, it is a huge step for both of you. We must work together to ensure it is a success!

Talk to your child about the school and help them to look



forward to it. Even if you are dreading it, don't let them know that! Make school seem like a real, grown-up adventure, something to be excited about.

We want your child to have a very happy and successful time with us and hope this little booklet will answer any last minute thoughts or concerns you may think of.

We recognise how much you have taught your child already, and how, from now, school and home are a partnership in your child's learning and development. If you have any queries or things you would like to discuss with your child's Teacher, do not hesitate to do so. In the first few weeks of school, it is especially important that you feel happy and trust your child's Teacher. This helps build up your child's confidence.

Equally, if something different is happening at home that might unsettle your child, it helps if the Teacher is aware of this as it may explain a change in behaviour.

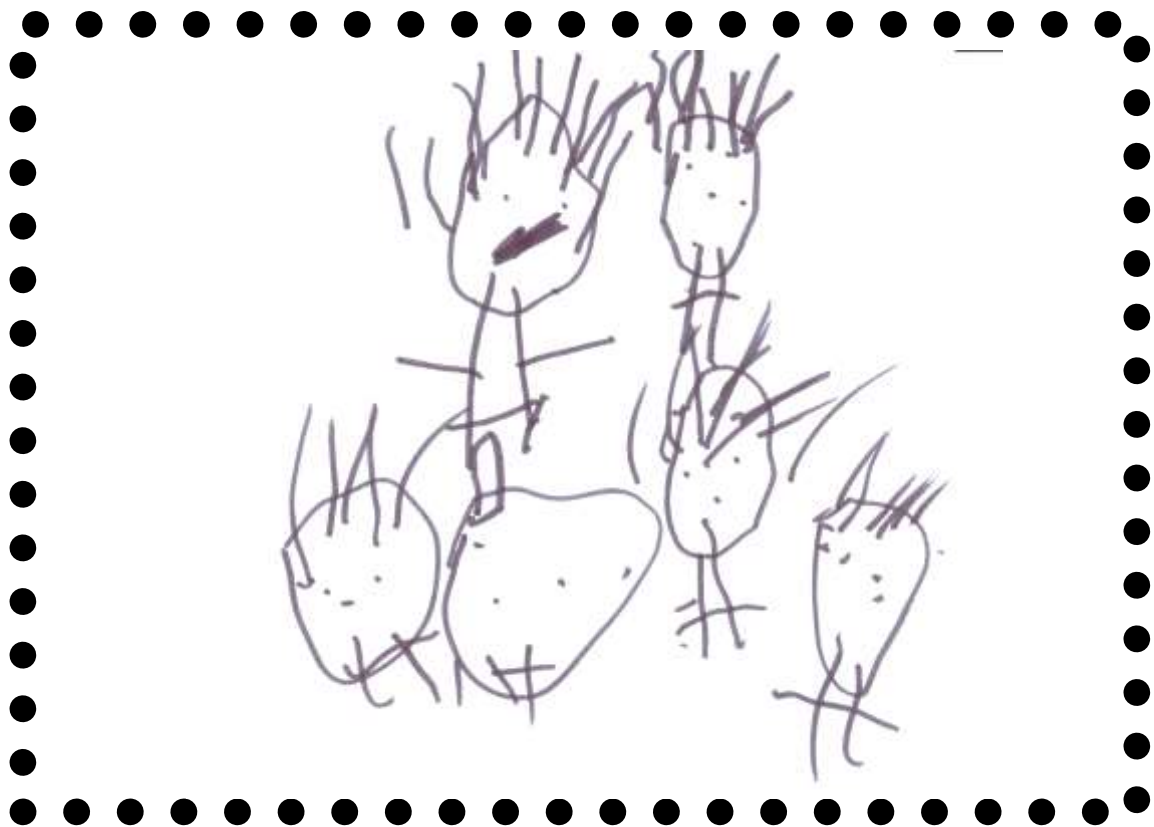
Developing Independence

Please support your child to be able to:

- Dress and undress including coats and shoes
- Go to the toilet without adult help
- Use a tissue and put it in the bin when finished
- Use a knife and fork to eat their meals

Being able to do these things will give your child:

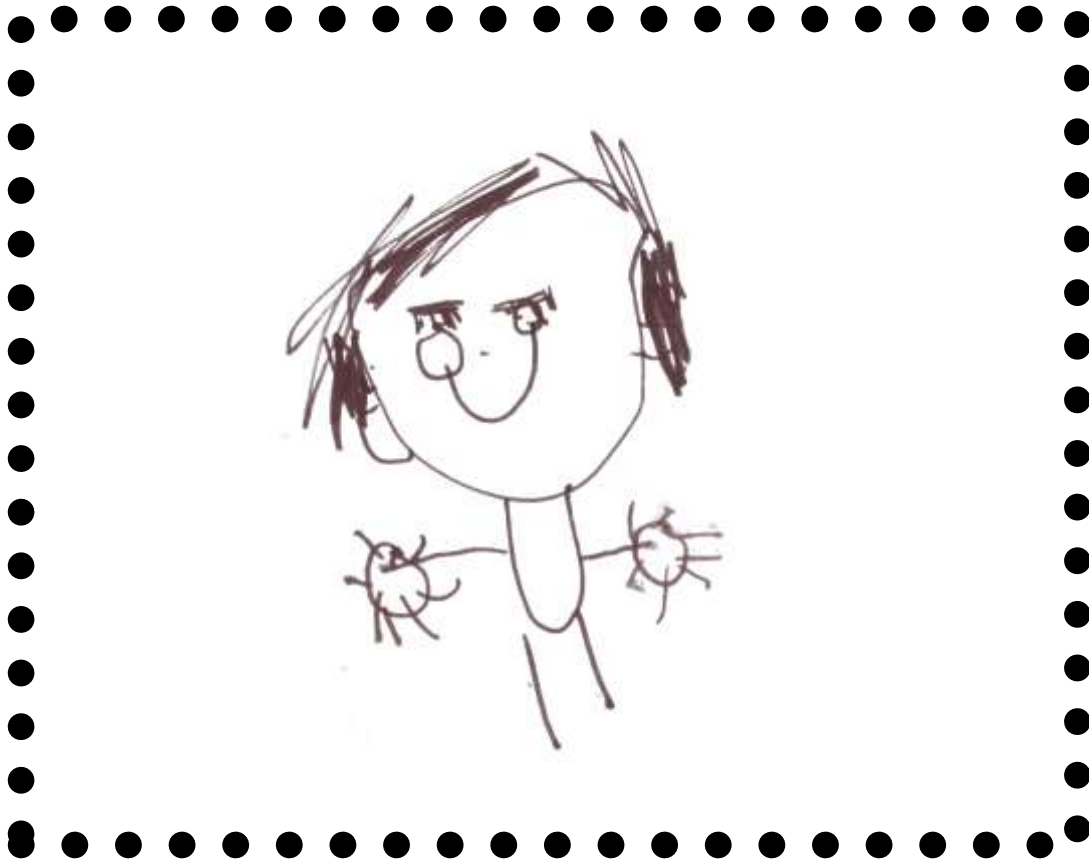
- Self confidence and esteem
- A feeling of security and well-being
- Greater control over situations
- Independence from adults



What you can do to help

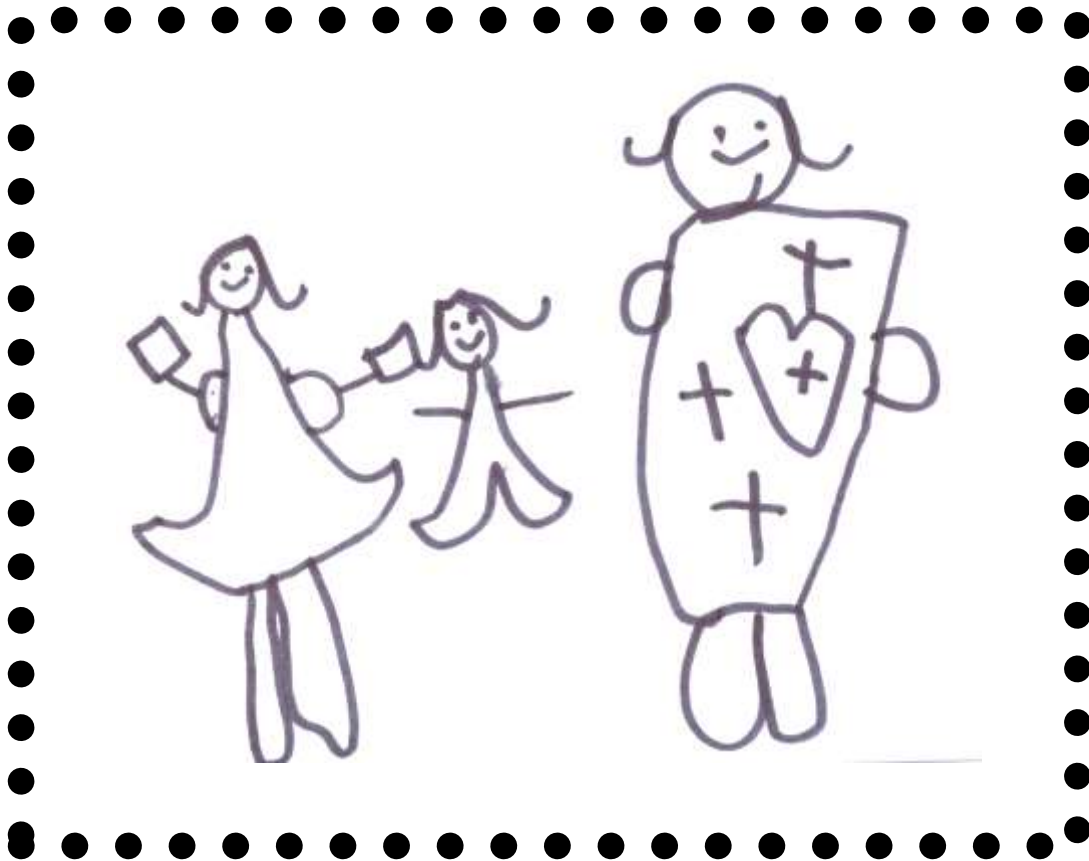
- Show them to how to use their lunch box if they are having a packed lunch
- Put names in all school clothing and shoes
- Make everything you do with your child short and fun. Be led by your child's interests!
- Talk to them about their interests, concerns and activities.

BE POSITIVE !



The first day at school

- Some children walk through the door without looking back, others might be more upset.
- If your child is upset, stay cheerful. Be brave and positive!
- Almost all children are fine once their parent has left – it's the parting that is hard, so try not to draw it out.
- If you are concerned however, you are welcome to phone school later in the morning to check everything is ok.



At School

**School begins at 08.55 am, (doors open at 8.45)
and finishes at 3.15pm.**

- Children leave by the same door at home time.
- It is always important to tell the teacher if someone else is collecting your child, so that we can be sure that we hand over your child to the right *person*.
- Please be on time to collect your child after school. It can be distressing for them if no-one is there to meet them. If you are going to be late, please inform the school office so that we can reassure your child.
- If you need to talk to the teacher about anything, please ask and we will arrange a convenient time

When children first start school they get tired very easily. Although many children have experienced playgroup or nursery, school is a different place. There is a lot to learn. To help your child settle in, we have a gradual introduction to school. You will be able to sign up to the part-time sessions during the parents' information evening.

Snacks and Dinners

Children are given a healthy snack for a morning break with water or milk. School meals are freshly cooked on the premises each day. The school has a Healthy School Award, ensuring a balanced and tasty menu. Further details are available from the office to help you plan a balanced diet for your child. All children up to Year 2 can now have a Free School Meal. If your child prefers a packed lunch, this should be sent in a named lunch box each day. Do not send fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate please.

Accidents and injuries

If your child should have a minor accident or injury whilst at school, we shall inform you at the end of the school day and ask you to sign our register. If, in the event of something more serious, we will contact you as soon as possible and discuss the situation with you. Our priority is the welfare of your child and school may need to make decisions on your behalf if we can not contact you.

Illness and medicines

If your child is unwell whilst in our care, we will contact you using the emergency contact numbers that you supply us. Please make sure that these are kept up to date (If you change your mobile phone or job).

If your child has been vomiting, then please keep your child off school for at least 24 hours after the last occurrence.

If your child needs regular medication (such as inhalers for asthma), parents/carers must complete a form to ensure that correct doses are given, and depending upon the seriousness of a condition a Care Plan may need to be put in place.

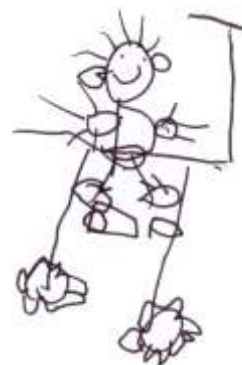
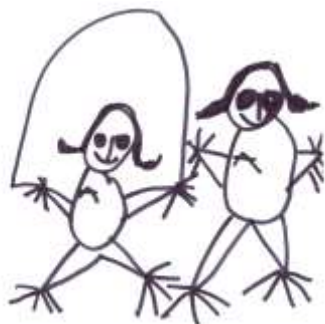
Other medicines can only be administered to children in school if they are prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.

We pride ourselves on being a caring school. We encourage the children to be kind and thoughtful to each other. This is reflected in many ways, older children sitting with younger children at lunchtimes, and when necessary helping them.

Physical Education

Your child will need a bag for their P.E. things (shorts, T-shirt and pumps). It is helpful to have your child's P.E. bag in school every day. **It is essential that every item of clothing is clearly named as the children do regularly mislay or mix up their belongings! Your child will also need a pair of wellies and a warm, waterproof coat for outdoor provision. (Children play in our outdoor areas daily and in all weathers!**

The children will be expected to change their clothes for P.E. with as little help as possible. In order to do this, it would be helpful if the children wore clothes and shoes to school that they can fasten/unfasten quickly and easily (belts, laces and lots of buttons are particularly difficult for small children). It would be useful preparation for school if they already had lots of practice changing their own clothes at home. School uniform can be purchased from 'Bonnie Bouncer'.



'I like playing on a bike'

I like playing on a bike

