



# Hello

My name is Mrs Holdbrook and I am going to be your child's Reception Class Teacher. I want to welcome you to our St. Gabriel's family.

I am so glad that you have been able to join us today for your child's induction session. It is always so lovely being able to spend some time getting to know your child and yourselves a little better before September. It is also a great opportunity for your child to meet some new friends, explore the classroom and meet the Reception Class team.

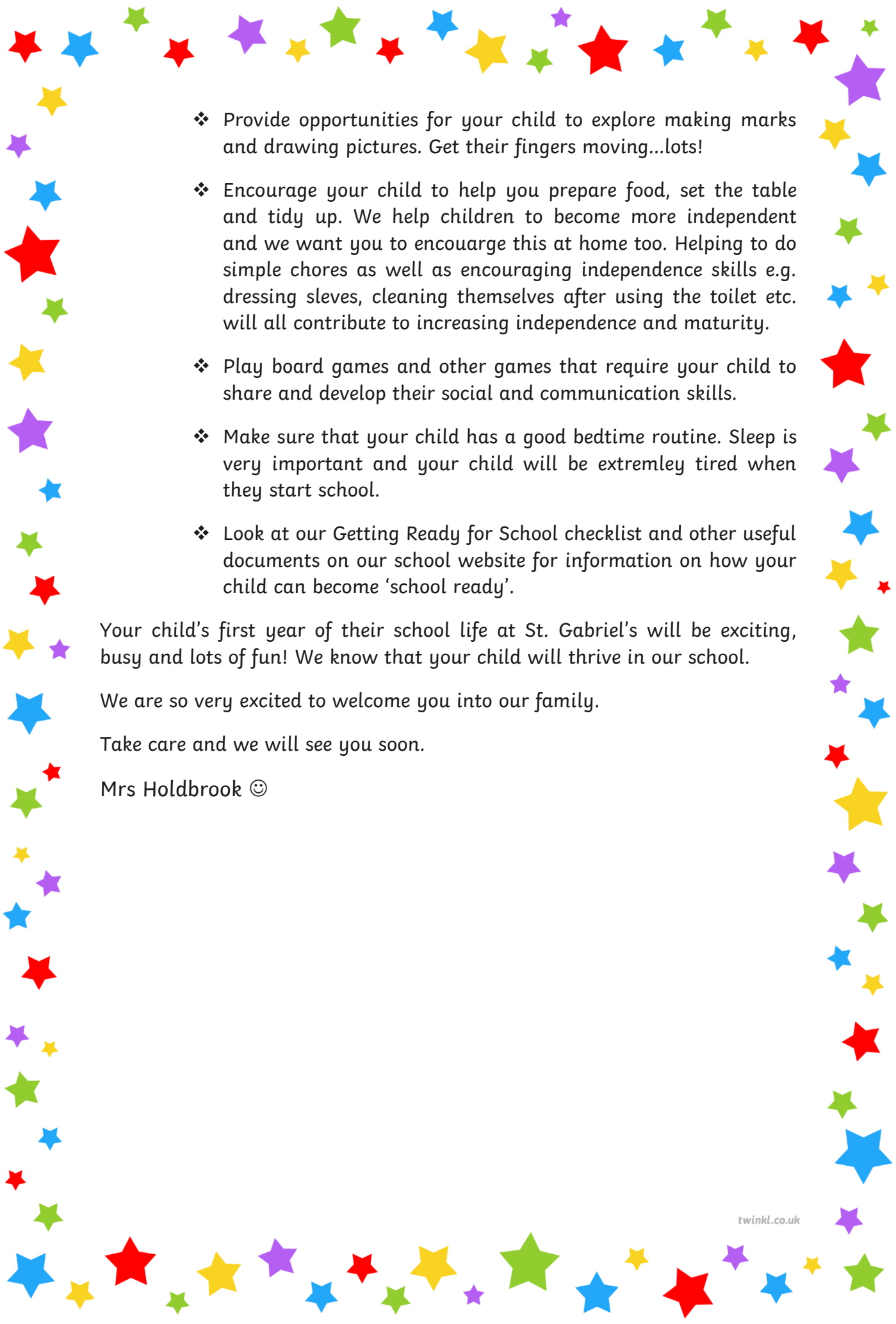
An important part of this meeting is sharing important documents and information about our school and also sharing how you can best support your child in being 'school ready'. Blackburn with Darwen borough council have worked with child care providers and schools to define what 'school ready' means and what it looks like. Today I am providing you with a 'Getting Ready for School' checklist. This document lists early learning and basic skills that will ensure that your child is ready for school. Some of the statements are taken from the School Readiness document and others are early learning and skills that I believe will give your child the best start to their school education. You will also find this checklist and other useful documents in the 'New Reception Intake' area of our school website. Please do take the time to look at these documents as we want your child to have the very best start to their education. Full details of our EYFS Curriculum can also be found on our website under the 'Learning' tab.

*How can you support your child in the meantime?*

Well, you are your child's first and most important educator and your child will be learning without you even realising. Here are some simple yet extremely beneficial experiences that you can provide for your child.

- ❖ Read with your child, asking them to join in with parts of the story that they remember. Talk about pictures, characters and events that happen. Ask your child questions about what you have read to them. Do you recognise any letters? Are any of those letters in your name?
- ❖ Go outside and explore using your senses. Talk about the changes in season, notice different living things and make comparisons.

Please turn over

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- ❖ Provide opportunities for your child to explore making marks and drawing pictures. Get their fingers moving...lots!
  - ❖ Encourage your child to help you prepare food, set the table and tidy up. We help children to become more independent and we want you to encourage this at home too. Helping to do simple chores as well as encouraging independence skills e.g. dressing sleeves, cleaning themselves after using the toilet etc. will all contribute to increasing independence and maturity.
  - ❖ Play board games and other games that require your child to share and develop their social and communication skills.
  - ❖ Make sure that your child has a good bedtime routine. Sleep is very important and your child will be extremely tired when they start school.
  - ❖ Look at our Getting Ready for School checklist and other useful documents on our school website for information on how your child can become 'school ready'.

Your child's first year of their school life at St. Gabriel's will be exciting, busy and lots of fun! We know that your child will thrive in our school.

We are so very excited to welcome you into our family.

Take care and we will see you soon.

Mrs Holdbrook ☺