

## Top Tips for buying school uniform

- **Remember to check out the school uniform section where you do your shopping;** supermarkets such as ASDA, Tesco and Lidl often compete to offer the best value school uniform so keep your eyes out in store or on TV and social media adverts
- **Children don't need the most expensive uniform – even if everyone else buys it;** it's very likely that your child is going to get their uniform stained, grubby and even lost in the first term so knowing that you can replace it cheaply takes a lot of stress out of it. Try and buy as many shirts or blouses just in case they're needing a clean one every day. Skirts and trousers often last a few days before needing a wash so 2-3 pairs means there's always a clean pair in the drawer.
- **Join the Facebook page for your area for low cost or even free preloved uniform;** many parents are looking to offload last year's school uniform to make way for this year's size so you'll often find that they are giving away lots of items or charging a very small amount. It's a great way to have a few spares or get yourself started. Many are often hardly worn.
- **Trainers;** despite what your child may tell you or choose for themselves, they don't need expensive trainers in primary school. Something that fits well and supports their feet will be just fine. Try looking in the discount sports shops or supermarkets first.
- **Buy a warm waterproof coat;** even if it's raining most children will still be outside at breaktime so a waterproof style makes sense. Some coats have a zip out fleece lining so they can wear it as a light coat in the Spring and Summer but it's warmer in Autumn and Winter meaning you just need to buy one coat. If you can, buy one with reflective strips to keep them visible on dark evenings and mornings.
- **Label everything;** there's nothing worse than losing a school jumper in the first few weeks. Children often take home the wrong jumper, lunchbox or coat. Try and label everything with either sew on labels, sticker or stamps to make sure it makes its way back to you.

