

# Top 10 Essential Items to Pack in Your Supply Bag

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## 1 Books

Bring one or two of your favourite children's story books with you. Children of all ages love having a story read to them and a new book is always welcome in the classroom. For some of the older pupils, I bring a book containing some short stories.



## 2 Pens

Schools all have a marking scheme unique to them and this will include what colour pens they use. Having your own pens ready just in case there aren't any to hand can be time saving and useful. In my pencil case, I always bring a red, green, purple and black biro. Some schools also use pink and green highlighters in their mark scheme so they are handy to bring too!



## 3 Post it Notes & Paper Clips

For organising any work you have marked and left. It can be very helpful for the class teacher you are covering if you organise the work you have completed with the class into different piles e.g., maths, literacy, finished, not complete, etc., and provide a brief note on next steps or any children who have not quite completed the learning objectives.



## 4 Stickers and Certificates

Children love praise and rewards. I always follow the behaviour/reward system that the school has in place, but I find as supply it is nice to have a little stamp of your own. I like to bring some smelly/holographic stickers with me and I find they are always a hit with most ages in a primary school. You can also find certificate books with 'Star of the Day' available to buy online which is always appreciated by the children.



## 5 A Cup/Flask with Sealed Lid



Some schools only allow staff to drink hot drinks out of cups with lids on, so if you like a hot drink this is essential! I tend to bring my own hot chocolate sachets/tea bags too. Most schools have a collective stock everyone can use, but some of the schools I've been to don't have this and all staff bring their own supplies.



## 6 Sanitiser and Facemasks

Since Covid you can find sanitiser almost everywhere in schools, however, I carry it with me and keep it on my lanyard to use through the day. It can be handy if you are on the move and you can't see one nearby. With constantly changing guidelines you can sometimes be unsure of when and where you need to wear a facemask. I always arrive wearing mine and then ask the receptionist about the school's current policy. I take a few spare facemasks with me as it's nice to have some fresh ones to change.



Jennifer with her beloved Pug, Frank. Please note, Frank should not be part of your essential supply bag!

## 7 Waterproof & Umbrella



You never know if you are going to be in a class that has lots of outdoor learning or if you will be covering a break duty, so it's vital to bring some waterproofs with you just in case, especially with the British weather!

## 8 Comfy Shoes



It's likely that you will be on your feet all day or you may even be teaching PE, so wearing some comfy shoes or putting a spare pair of trainers in your bag is a must.



## 9 Whistle

Just in case you are teaching PE outside, to save your vocal chords bring a whistle with you.

## 10 Your Fantastic Self

You are the most important! The school will be glad to see you and the children will be excited to have a new face in class. No day is ever the same with teaching, and that is even more the case when teaching supply. Be prepared to face the unknown, knowing that when you get into class your teacher instincts will kick in and you will do a great job.

