

# Best school bags: Your guide to the best backpacks

September means one thing to anyone with children: back to school and all the shopping and planning that requires. And while uniform and school shoes are fairly straight forward, the question of backpacks is a much wider one. So we've scoured the high street to find the best school bags, whatever your need or budget:

## The colourful school bag

Got a child who knows what they want? Pink? Green? Gold? Silver? Shiny? Sparkly? Hype have got you covered! A dazzling array of designs, there's literally no limit to the choices your child can have. From Mint Holographic to Blue Acid Denim and Gold Glitter, these roomy backpacks have become a popular, yet, thanks to the multitude of different styles, individual choice for style-savvy kids up and down the country. From £24.99.

SEE: [Where the celebs get their children's school uniforms from](#)

## The anti-theft backpack

If public transport travel is part of your child's school

commute, having a secure backpack will be high on your list of priorities. The Bobby Compact backpack is a literal Fort Knox – there's no external zippers and has thick, cut proof material. Kids might be more enamoured by its sleek design and integrated USB port which you can connect to an internal power bank, so when their phone or tablet runs low, they can attach it to their bag for some more charge and carry on undisturbed. It's fully waterproof, ergonomically designed, and comes in different colourways and full of hidden pockets too. From £74.99.

## **The bag for little adventurers**

Wipe-clean is the only way to go when your little darlings are mini adventurers and this Mini Joules Backpack is spot on. With plenty of room for lunch boxes and school supplies, the padded arms mean it won't cut into your child so they can run around till their heart's content. The cute design should please them too. From £26.95.

## **The one for sporty types**

Sporty students will appreciate the multitude of pockets of the Under Armour Storm Contendor Backpack. The tough, abrasion-resistant bottom panel won't fall foul to being dumped on a football pitch while the water-repellent front pockets are designed to keep valuables safe. Perhaps one of the best features though is the adjustable, padded, HeatGear shoulder straps, just the thing for post-cross-country. From £65.

# The stylish rucksack

Older students will love the minimalism of style of this Fiorelli Zip Top Backpack, which puts a cooler spin on the traditional rucksack shape. It's stylish as well as practical, as it opens fully (so easy to reach for those pens) but includes a small zipped pocket for valuables plus a slip slot for tablets. From £69.

# The best bag for growing backs

A lot of students opt to lug all their books around at all times for fear of forgetting the one important item but that means a lot of weight on young, developing shoulders and for some this is a real concern. The YUUschool backpack takes weight distribution to new levels: vertical compartmentalisation of pockets keeps weight higher up and closer to the spine. S-shaped padded straps are sewn close together to centralise the weight to the body. Deep pockets and security straps avoid weight falling to the middle of the bag causing pain and pressure. From £39.99.

**MORE:** [The most stylish celebrity nurseries and children's bedrooms](#)

# The one for the glitterati

You can't beat a bag to put a smile on their faces and this cheap and cheerful number from Paperchase is just the ticket for those grey, autumnal days. The rainbow design carries through to the zip too, and with a large compartment and smaller one at the front, it's an ideal choice for those that travel light. From £35.

*Hello!*

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## 10 Ways to Prepare Your Child for School

Starting [school](#) can be a difficult time for children. Every child is hesitant to go somewhere new and see people she's never met before. Here are some helpful ways to prepare your child for her first day of school:

- 1.** Let your child know what his schedule will be like. Tell him what time school begins and ends each day.
- 2.** Ask your child about her feelings – both the excitement and the concerns – about starting school.
- 3.** Visit the school with your child to see his new classroom and meet his new teacher before school officially starts.
- 4.** Point out the positive aspects of starting school. It will

be fun and she can make new friends.

**5.** Let your child know that all kids are nervous about the first day of school.

**6.** Leave a note in your child's lunchbox that will remind him you're thinking of him while he's at school.

**7.** Reassure your child that if any problems arise at school, you will be there to help resolve them.

**8.** Try to have your child meet a classmate before the first day of school so she will already have a friend when school starts.

**9.** Arrange for your child to walk to school or ride together on the bus with another kid in the neighborhood.

**10.** Find out about after-school activities that your child can join. Will there be a back-to-school party? Can she join a sports team?

*Sources: American Academy of Pediatrics; Caring for Your School-Age Child: Ages 5-12, by Edward L. Schor (Bantam, 1999)*