

Welcome to Reception!

(Also known as EYFS and Foundation Stage 2)

In the EYFS children learn through...

- Indoor and outdoor play
- Self chosen activities
- Adult led small group activities
 - Individual activities
- Whole class carpet times



Starting School

- * Our focus in the first few weeks is settling the children into school, familiarising them with staff, the learning environment and rules and routines.



- * Statutory baseline assessment is also taking place, with children taking part in short activities.
- * Informal baseline observations allow us to plan from children's starting points to further their learning.

Learning in the EYFS

There are 7 main areas of learning and these are split into prime and specific areas. The prime areas are the building blocks upon which learning in specific areas takes place.

Prime Areas	Specific Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal, Social and Emotional Development• Communication and Language• Physical Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literacy• Mathematics• Understanding the World• Expressive Arts and Design

Every half term the children will learn about a new topic and activities will cover all areas of learning.

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Ourselves	Marvellous Minibeasts	Under the sea
People who help us Christmas	How does your garden grow Easter	Up in the air

We also plan from the interests of the children and home/school diaries help enormously with this. They do not need to be written in all the time, contributions from time to time will be really helpful. We collect diaries in on a Monday and return them on a Tuesday.

Supporting your child

There are many different ways you can support your child.

Helping your child with reading



- Practise recognising their name.
- Read lots of books together and re-read favourite stories. Talk about what has happened and favourite characters. Make a simple story map showing what has happened in the story. Rolls of wallpaper offcuts are great for this!!
- Visit the local library.
- Look at signs on shops and during walks around the local area. Spot letters and play 'I spy'.
- Act out favourite stories using small world toys and put on puppet shows.
- Make a story telling box containing small world characters, pictures of settings, e.g. the woods, seaside, a castle, space, etc, and interesting objects. Choose one or two of each and make up a story.
- We have now started our Twinkl phonics programme. Each sound will be introduced with an action. Please help your child to practise recognising these regularly as this will help develop reading and writing skills. Children do need to be able to recognise and write capital letters but please focus on the sounds the letters make first.

Helping your child with writing

- Drawing and painting
- Develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination through play dough modelling, threading, weaving, colouring, dot to dots, cutting and sticking.
- Practise writing letters using sticks in mud and sand. Use pens, pencils, chalks and crayons and practise writing names, then move onto initial sounds when they are introduced in school. (Sounds books will be sent home and updated every Friday)
Children will be taught to use the 'tripod grip' to hold a pencil.



- Encourage your child to write cards, simple messages and lists. This will take the form of lines and marks at first. Please encourage them to give meaning to their mark making and ask them what it says. As their literacy skills progress children will move onto using letters and will then sound out and record simple words.



I w t v p.



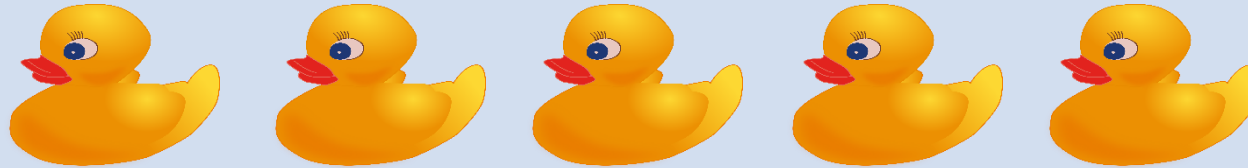
I wt tw v pk.



I went to the park.

Helping your child with maths

- Look for numbers around you and talk to your child about what they can see. Ask them questions to extend their learning, e.g. one more and one less than numbers.
- Sing number songs and rhymes, e.g. '5 little ducks', etc.



- Count toys, objects around the house, sticks and leaves in the garden, claps, jumps, hops, the number of cakes and biscuits made when baking, etc.
- Practise recognising and ordering numbers. Play number hide and seek.
- Play dominoes and spotty dice games, number snap and pairs, etc.
- Go on shape hunts around the home and garden. Talk about the names of shapes spotted and what they look like.



Assessment

Ongoing assessment takes place through observations of the children during self-chosen and adult led activities. This year we are using paper learning journeys.



Homework

Homework activities will be available to access on Google Classrooms every Friday, using your child's log in details in their home/school diary. We will let you know when activities are available.



Reading Books

- * Children will begin to bring reading books home before the end of the first half term. They will bring two self chosen books at a time as well as one phonics book and a paper book to support learning about the sounds they have been taught that week.
- * We ask that you listen to your child read every evening and talk to them about what they have read. Short 5 minute sessions work really well.
- * Please write a comment and sign your child's reading record to inform us that they have read at home.
- * Phonics books will be changed on a Friday and other reading books will be changed during the week.



PE

- * Our PE day is Wednesday. We will notify you by text if this changes.
- * Children will need to come to school in their PE kits – black shorts or jogging bottoms, white t-shirt, pump shoes or trainers and school jumper.
- * Please remove earrings if your child has their ears pierced.



Enhancements

- * Didi Drama – Monday afternoons
- * Forest School mornings – Children will need layers of warm clothing, a waterproof coat, wellies and a spare pair of shoes for the afternoon session. If your child is wearing an all in one they will need a coat for the afternoon.

Forest School Dates:

6th November 25, 15th January 26, 5th February 26, 14th May 26, 16th July 26

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Friday 26th September 25

Stay and Play Sessions: 16th & 18th March 26, 13th & 14th July 26



A polite request...

- * Please label all items of clothing with your child's name, particularly coats, jumpers and cardigans.
- * Please send your child's book bag (named and with one key ring attached) and water bottle to school every day. Bottles should contain plain water only, not juice, sparkling, or flavoured water.
- * Play time snacks: Toast or a piece of fruit. Children are provided with milk in the afternoon.

And Finally...

You can contact me either at the classroom door, through your child's home/school diary or via email at admin@smota.co.uk

Thank you!

