

South End Infant School Reception Newsletter September 2025

The children in Reception are all settling in well and are continuing to enjoy the many exciting things that school has to offer. New friendships are being made and your children are enjoying exploring all of our learning environments. We are so proud of them all! **All of the Reception team would like to say a huge 'thank you' for your continued support in settling the children into 'Big School' and for helping to give them an amazing start to their time at South End Infant School.** There are so many more exciting things ahead.

Every day your child is in school, they will be progressing on their learning journey, so please do not forget to chat with your child about their day. Our online Learning Journal (Tapestry) will provide you with another window into our school day and a Parents' Evening is coming up. More information will follow very shortly. If you have any questions, please just pop in or look at our website where you can find information on how we teach reading, letter formation, phonics and much more.



Reception RBA

At the start of Reception, S.E.I.S staff continue to learn more about your child. Part of this process involves them participating in a national Reception Baseline Assessment. It sounds very official but simply involves your child spending 1-1 time with their class teacher participating in some fun activities.

The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar with. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a progress measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between reception and year 6.

Please ask your child's class teacher if you would like to know more or visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

Maths



Your child will be engaging in lots of fun practical activities that you will also be able to work on at home. Some of these may be very helpful additions to sharing out the family chores, especially when we focus on sorting socks, shoes and putting things back where they belong! Stories and rhymes will also be focused on and linked to our weekly maths themes.

This term, we will be exploring ways to match and sort items by different criteria such as colour, size and type. We will also be encouraged to think of our own ways to sort things as well as trying to guess what criteria the grown-ups used.

We will look at different ways to compare size, mass and capacity. There will be many new things to learn as we have fun working out ways to compare amounts using terms such as more and fewer to describe what we are doing.

During the last few weeks, we will be looking for different patterns all around us as well as making lots of patterns of our own.

PE

We have PE sessions on **Thursdays** and your children can come to school in their PE kits for the day. You can check what is needed for PE on our website.

Please name everything and remember to take out earrings on PE days.



Literacy: Writing

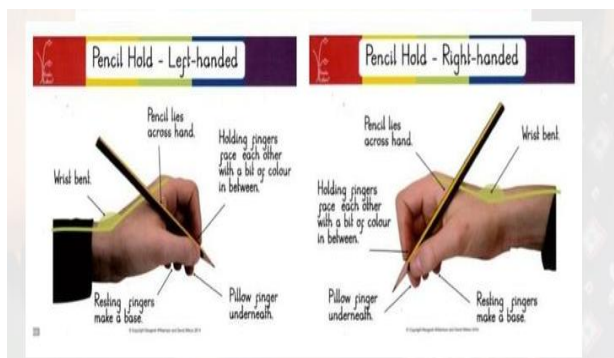
Learning to write is great fun and empowers your child. We will be initially focusing on learning to write our names, as this is one of the most important words to start with. We will learn to hold our pencils in a tripod grip so that we can write comfortably and then form our letters correctly. It is important that you help us at home with this. (Please see picture of **Correct Pencil Hold**).

We will learn to hold our pencil by following some simple steps and will sing a song to help us. Please ask a Reception Grown-up if you would like to find out more

We will be following our 'Kinetic Letters' handwriting programme.

<https://www.southendinfant.com/handwriting/>

We are going to be learning exercises so that we have a strong posture and strong finger muscles for helping us to write.

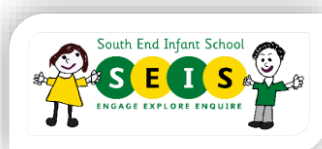


Correct Pencil Hold

Your children will always be encouraged to write in their play activities. Clipboards, paper and pads are always available so they can write their names, lists and anything else they would like to say. Please help your child by encouraging your child to write as well as allowing them to watch you write, this inspires them to be a writer. Writing in mud, water on a fence or chalks on the path are often very popular as well as helping with the shopping list or writing toy wish lists.

Keeping hydrated!

Your child always has access to their **named** water bottle. Please can you make sure it is in school daily and **filled with water**. We will send it home daily so that it can be cleaned for the following day. Thank you.



Literacy: Reading and Phonics

We will soon start our Phonic Lessons. In these, the children will learn letter sounds to help them become confident readers and writers. We really want your children to be reading and writing for you! With your help, your child will learn to recognise letters and learn how to "Say the sounds and write the sounds," as well as being able to "Say the sounds to read the words."

There is a lot of information about how you can support your child with phonics on our website; this includes a video of how we pronounce the 'pure sounds' for each letter.

A letter containing information will also come home shortly as well as your child's 'Super Sounds Pot'



Sound strips will continue to come home as we learn new letters. We ask that you help your child to recognise them at home and play games with them. Ideas for games are on the same piece of paper. Please cut out the sounds, ready for your child to use and keep them in the 'Super Sounds Pot'. This pot can stay at home for you to use together. 'Reading for Learning' books will follow shortly after.

We will also be inviting you to come to school to join in with one of our Phonic lessons and will let you know when this will take place.

At SEIS, we use 'Talk for Writing' to engage and develop language and writing skills. This term, we will be focusing on the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We will be learning to tell the story using a 'Story Map' similar to the one below. At the end of the term, expect your child to be able to tell you the story in its entirety with actions.



We will also be listening to a wide range of stories and talking about these, as well as learning new nursery rhymes.



Your children are already working hard to become even more independent. Can you further support this by encouraging them to...

- ☺ Wash their hands properly with soap and water.
- ☺ Manage their own personal hygiene.
- ☺ Be able to take on and off their jumpers and cardigans.
- ☺ Hang up their coats and put away their own belongings.
- ☺ Use a knife and fork to eat.

Just to let you know!

Some days, you may see a different 'Grown Up' in your child's class. No need to worry, as when this happens your child will be in the capable hands of Mrs Prudden or Mrs Bland. Their usual adult will soon be back with them again.



Tip of the Week! Thank you for your continued co-operation at drop off and pick-ups. For safety reasons, please can you stand back from the gates at the end of the day. We can also find you quicker if you stand in the **same place** every day and give us a wave when your child is at the front of the line.

Outside Learning

We have access to our Outside Areas in all reasonable weathers. We often go outside as part of our learning, so being prepared **for all weathers is necessary**. Please can you ensure that your child **always** has appropriate clothing in school e.g. coat, hats, scarfs and gloves (when needed), sensible footwear, a vest under their T-shirt if it is very cold etc. We do have wellies and all-in-ones for those very wet, yet fun, occasions. Please can you help your child to become increasingly independent by showing them how to zip up their coats, put on winter garments and keep all belongings together. This independence can really help us all to get outside and enjoy our learning much quicker. Please can you make sure that anything that can be taken off by your child is clearly named, as our lost property boxes are still bulging from last year.

Thank you ☺



Thank you for your continued support. We are always here if you need us.

