

Starting School Information

This leaflet is designed to provide you with a range of activity ideas to carry out with your child at home. The aim of these activities is to support you in preparing your child for school life.

The activities are optional, however we would love to see if your child takes part in them. This could be done by bringing in the physical outcome e.g. a painting or drawing. You could also document the activities through photos and videos and share them with us on Seesaw in September.

Photos and 'work' from home can be a powerful way of encouraging children to speak to new adults and build relationships.

We look forward to getting to know your children and talking about their summer learning in September!

Making Play Dough

Playdough is so much fun for children and is also fantastic for developing the muscles in their hands that they need for writing. You can make your own play dough to use at home over the summer using this simple recipe:

2 cups flour

1/2 cup salt

1 cup of hot water (possibly 1/2 cup more)

2 tablespoons cooking oil

2 tablespoons cream of tartar

Food colouring (optional)

Add all of the ingredients to a bowl and stir to mix together. Knead the dough, adding extra flour if needed, until you get the right consistency.



THORPE
PRIMARY ACADEMY

One Community, Growing Together

Starting School Activity Ideas

Thorpe Primary School - Starting School Activity Ideas



Let's go shopping: Go on a shopping trip with your child to choose and buy their new water bottle. Let them pick a design they enjoy and will recognise when sorting their own things. Make sure they can open and close the bottle on their own to drink from it without needing to ask for help.

Fashion Show: Encourage your child to try on their new uniform to show friends and family. Take photos to email to family from far away and have a fashion show for people close by. This will help them to feel excited about, and comfortable in, their new clothes.

Independent Dressing: Give your child plenty of chances to practise putting on and taking off their own cardigans/jumpers, coat and their shoes and socks. This will help them to be more independent with their clothing in school. It is also very useful to practice how to pull out sleeves that get stuck inside out.

Exploring Foods: Take your child shopping and ask them to choose, bag and weigh different fruits and vegetables. Then try these together at home. At school they will get a chance to try lots of different fruits and vegetables at snack and lunch and we want them to be confident and excited to try new things.

Drawing: Encourage your child to develop a love for drawing. They could draw a picture of their family, their new school, their favorite animal etc. They could use felt tip pens, crayons, pencils or chalks. Expressing themselves through drawing is a great way to develop their pencil grip and control ready for writing.

Recognising their name: Write their name on pieces of card or post its and hide them around the house for them to find. Can they play this game with siblings or friends and only find their own name? Write their name on a strip of paper and cut it up, can they put the letters back in the right order to build their name?

Name writing: All children will join us working at different levels with their name writing. It is helpful for you to make sure your child can write at least the first letter of their name. Support your child further by encouraging them to copy the letters in their name. Can they write any of it on their own without copying?

Story time: Spend time together regularly looking at books and reading stories. Expect them to handle books carefully and turn pages one at a time. Ask simple questions about the pictures, characters and what is happening in the story to check their understanding. Ask them what they think will happen next and why.

Dice Games: Play simple dice games together. When your child rolls the dice encourage them to tell you how many spots they can see without counting them. Get them to carefully count the spaces as they move their counter and remember to stop when they reach the number they rolled on the dice.

Talking, talking, talking: Encourage your child to talk about anything and everything. Encourage them to use simple sentences and answer questions. If your child doesn't speak English at home spend a short time each day only using English to support their language development.

Counting: Count anything and everything with your child. Count the stairs as you climb them; count your items of clothing as you put them on; count how long it takes them to brush their teeth. Check they are saying numbers 1-10 in the correct order.

Singing: Sing songs together. What are your favorite songs? What songs do you think you will sing at school? Learn nursery rhymes and simple songs that they can then share with their teacher and friends at school. There are lots of nursery rhymes on YouTube if you are not sure where to start.