Bayton Church of England Primary School

Be the best you can be, as a child of God

Starting Year 2

Your child is entering an important stage of their primary school experience: this is the year of the Key Stage 1 (KS1) end-of-year attainment tests known as SATS, which mark the end of their KS1 journey. There has also been talk from the Government that Year 2 children will sit a past Phonics Screening Test late in the Autumn term 2020 so watch this space. More information will come to you when we know this for sure. So plenty of phonics practise over the summer holidays which help with reading, phonics and spellings in Year 2.

For many parents, this can feel like an emotional time, as your child prepares for their first formal testing and reaches the end of their stage as an infant. While you do need to be mindful of the end goal for this year, it is also important to see it for the wonderful year that it is.

The final year of KS1 will see your child being encouraged to work more independently.

As stated in many of Ms Simmonds' letters, we are prioritising assessing and being with the children in September before organising the curriculum and learning set up for the children. Although there are still restrictions in place for September, we want to make sure that all the children in Year 2 have fun and are happy being at school before digging into the learning.

As usual I am hoping to hold a Meet the teacher session with parents in September but this will all depend on the current guidance.

Important Summer Holiday homework for you and your child:

- Marvellous Me video – see the class dojo portfolio
- Complete a one-page pupil profile about your child and return it to the school office. I cannot stress enough how helpful these are for staff meeting as it really helps us to get to know your child before September so we can make them feel comfortable on their first day. It also supports any other adults who will be working with your child and their classmates over the year.
- Take part in the summer reading challenge https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/

Optional and beneficial activities to do at home with your child to help them get ready for September:

- Counting forwards and backwards to 110.
- Times tables: 2, 5, 10 and 3.
- Write postcards and/or letters to your family and friends
- Regular finger gym and gross motor skills activities to build up your child’s strength for writing in September. It will be a big change.
- Design yourself a bookmark to take into school with your in September for your reading book and new reading record. Check out these fab ideas! https://www.weareteachers.com/diy-bookmarks/
- Dough disco – Youtube it
- Gross motor skills – trampolining, dancing, obstacles courses, scooters, balloon and bubble play, martial arts, hopscotch etc.
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More information will come out to you in September. For further information about Year 2 see our class page with the National Curriculum expectations. https://www.baytonceprimary.co.uk/welcome-to-year-1-2/

School Ready Checklist

For school each day I need:

- Small school bag or bookbag
- A big smile 😊
- Water bottle with water
- Reading books and reading record
- Lunchbox and healthy breaktime snack
- P.E. Kit (only on PE days)
- Coat
- Homework book
- Anti bac gel
- Any letters to take to school?

*In September you will receive a homework book, reading books and new reading record.

- Finger gym activities:
Molding and rolling play dough into balls - using the palms of the hands facing each other and with fingers curled slightly towards the palm.

Popping bubble wrap

Rolling play dough into tiny balls (peas) using only the finger tips.

Using pegs or toothpicks to make designs in play dough.

Cutting play dough with a plastic knife or with a pizza wheel by holding the implement in a diagonal volar grasp. (see attached diagram)

Tearing newspaper into strips and then crumpling them into balls. Use to stuff scarecrow or other art creation.

Scrunching up 1 sheet of newspaper in one hand. This is a super strength builder.

Using a plant sprayer to spray plants, (indoors, outdoors) to spray snow (mix food coloring with water so that the snow can be painted), or melt "monsters". (Draw monster pictures with markers and the colours will run when sprayed.)

Picking up objects using large tweezers such as those found in the "Bedbugs" game. This can be adapted by picking up Cheerios, small cubes, small marshmallows, pennies, etc., in counting games.

Shaking dice by cupping the hands together, forming an empty air space between the palms.
Using small-sized screwdrivers like those found in a building set.

Lacing and sewing activities such as stringing beads, Cheerios, macaroni, etc.

Using eye droppers to "pick up" coloured water for colour mixing or to make artistic designs on paper.

Rolling small balls out of tissue paper, then gluing the balls onto construction paper to form pictures or designs.

Turning over cards, coins, checkers, or buttons, without bringing them to the edge of the table.

Making pictures using stickers or self-sticking paper reinforcements.

Playing games with the "puppet fingers" - the thumb, index, and middle fingers. At circle time have each child’s puppet fingers tell about what happened over the weekend, or use them in songs and finger plays.

Threading or weaving through netting, screw top jars with things inside.

-scissors with the dough (helps cutting skills as well as fine motor)
- knives and forks in dough

-peg activities across the curriculum - e.g. our calendar is a washing line, I do "peg words" - picture cards with 8 or so pictures, put pegs on the ones beginning with s. This way they are developing fine motor across the curriculum
- various threading activities - beads, numbers, teddies, plastic templates with holes in (more like sewing), children preparing their own template, putting the holes in and threading.

You can make big mazes (with only one way to go) and shapes that you laminate and then the children follow them using a whiteboard pen.

Making wool balls using two circles with holes in them is also good fun.

At the moment in our water tray we have loads of sea creatures and small fish, coloured water and glitter, we also have lots of strands of wool, the children are carefully catching the creatures by winding the wool around them, they unwinding to let them go, developing fine motor skills at the same time.

Clay is also good as it is not quite as malleable as playdoh and they really have to squash and squeeze to get anywhere.

Trays filled with (past their sell by date) rice/lentils and plastic tweezers. The children transfer the grains to little containers (old film canisters useful).

Also unscrewing little jars (start collecting empty cosmetic jars, rinse out well and put something interesting inside e.g. cotton wool dampened with lavender or vanilla essence, little beads).

Hiding 'treasure' in little mounds of playdough is fun.

Bending pipe cleaners into different shapes.

Children to draw a small picture and then make holes very close together - use cocktail sticks. When done the children can tear the picture out- like making a perforated edge.
In my finger gym I have hole punches and staplers - at the moment the children love making holes in paper plates and then locking the padlocks into them, I’ve been amazed how much time the most unlikeliest of my children have spent with this activity.

- Stretching rubber bands between individual fingers and thumb.
- Putting large plastic rings on each finger.
- Make small rolls of silver foil then flick into a ‘goal’.
- Finger puppets
- single hole punch