



Handwriting is a physical skill and is part of the Physical Development area of learning. Children need to have flexibility and control from their shoulder to their fingertips as well as good core strength in order to develop fluent handwriting.

At home you could:

- Improve upper body and core strength by spending time outside climbing, digging, and playing games
- Develop elbow movement by lifting sand, marbles, acorns etc. with spoons and spades
- Develop wrist movement by tearing paper or playing with nuts and bolts
- Develop a pinching movement by playing with pegs or threading beads and buttons
- Play with dough as it helps with all the muscles and movement needed to write fluently



Mathematics

We will be

- Singing number rhymes
- Learning to use our fingers as we sing and count
- Counting to and then beyond 10
- Recognising numerals
- Discussing most and fewest in play activities
- Learning about shapes

At home you could:

- Count everything (objects and movements)
- Sing number rhymes
- Play number games and board games, especially those which go along a track and which use dice
- Notice numbers in the environment
- Notice shapes around the home and when you are out (the names of shapes and what they are like e.g. straight, curved, wide, number of sides etc.)

Welcome to Year R at Hook Infant School.

Our classrooms are full of resources which allow children to learn as they follow their own interests. We balance this learning with our half-termly topics, designed to introduce children to a wider variety of activities.

This half term our topic is



This booklet is designed to let you know what we are learning about at school for this half-term and how you can support your child's learning at home.

5 Ideas to help your child learn this term

1.  **Encourage independence:** Only help with getting dressed, cutting food, doing up their coat etc. when they are struggling. *"I'll sit beside you whilst you have a go by yourself"* is often all they need to encourage independence.
2.  **Encourage Good Listening:** Try games and activities which require children to listen for a signal such as "Simon Says" or use "Ready, steady, go" to start an activity.
3.  **Physical Development:** Add challenge to games they already enjoy such as *"Can you get all the way around the climbing frame without touching the ground?"*
4.  **Make time to read to your child every day.**
5.  **Mathematics:** Sing number rhymes such as *Ten Green Bottles* (for counting backwards) or *One Elephant Went Out to Play* (for counting forwards).



Continuing the Learning at Home

The most effective way to support your child's learning is to spend time talking to them, showing an interest in their interests and playing their games.

At the start of the year they will also need plenty of time just to 'be' at home as they have been working hard learning all our routines and getting to know so many new people.

If you would like to talk to your child about what they have been learning at school try the ideas below.



Nursery Rhymes

This is a language-based topic which also provides lots of opportunities for physical activity, maths, literacy and creativity

We will be:

- Reciting Nursery Rhymes so we can build up a good bank of ones we know. Research shows children who can recite lots of Nursery Rhymes find reading easier to learn.
- Finding out about our families.
- Using our senses to find out more about the world.
- Talking about what we like and what we don't like, giving reasons.
- Use our bodies in lots of different ways, experimenting with ways we can move.

At home you could:

- Sing/say Nursery Rhymes LOTS!
- Look through family photos and talk about the members of your family.
- Use your eyes to look at things when you go out for a walk. Talk about how you could find out about the world if you didn't have eyes.
- Be as quiet as you can be and listen carefully for sounds around you. Can you tell what the sound is when you can't see what is making the sound?

The Characteristics of Effective Learning

These are the ways your child engages with other people and the world around them. They underpin all learning and development. We have turned the characteristics into characters so this half term, as your child learns, they will try to be



a Try It Tiger – when they have a go at something new



a Pretending Panda – when they play pretending games



an Interested Iguana – when they take interest in the world around them



a Choosing Chimp – when they choose their own way of doing things



Reading

Try to read a story every night to your child, and also ask them to share their reading scheme book with you. The more they read, the better they will get!



Mark Making

At this stage of the year we are keen to encourage children to make marks with a whole variety of things. Some children already enjoy drawing and writing whilst others can be encouraged to draw in the mud with a stick, use their fingers in shaving foam or use chalks on the ground.

At home you could:

- Make recycled paper, old envelopes, notepads, pencils and pens available
- Make shapes and letters in the bubbles in the bath