



Water Mill Primary School

Reception's Optional Homework & Inspiration Ideas for Parents

These activities are linked to our current theme in school and are designed to be fun, flexible and engaging. They are completely optional – please feel free to choose the ones that interest your child most. They include a mix of written, practical and visit-based activities, with local free/low-cost suggestions where possible.

### Autumn 1 – What is Magical About Me?

Activity Type	Suggested Activity	Local Link / Resource
Written	<b>My Family</b> – Draw your family and ask your child to tell you about each person. Write their words underneath.	
Written	<b>When I Was a Baby</b> – Look at a baby photo together. Ask your child what they can do now that they couldn't do as a baby. Record their words.	
Practical	<b>Mirror Talk</b> – Look in a mirror together. Encourage your child to describe what they see (hair, eyes, smile).	
Practical	<b>Name Hunt</b> – Write your child's name on paper. Hide it around the house for them to find and shout out the letters.	
Practical	<b>Feelings Faces</b> – Make happy, sad, excited and tired faces together. Talk about times when they feel that way.	
Visit	<b>Local Walk</b> – Take a short walk around your street. Encourage your child to name and describe things they see (house, bus, shop).	Around Selly Oak streets
Visit	<b>Park Picnic</b> – Visit Selly Oak Park and play "I spy" with senses: I hear... I see... I smell...	Selly Oak Park, Gibbins Rd, B29 6NT (free)



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## Autumn 2 – How Do We Use Light to Celebrate?

Activity Type	Suggested Activity	Local Link / Resource
Written	<b>My Favourite Celebration</b> – Ask your child to draw a celebration they enjoy. Write their words about what happens and why they like it.	
Written	<b>Night and Day</b> – Ask your child to tell you what they see in the sky in the daytime and at night. Record their ideas.	
Practical	<b>Shadow Play</b> – Use a torch in a dark room. Make hand shapes and ask your child to describe what they look like.	
Practical	<b>Sparkly Art</b> – Use glitter, foil or shiny paper to make a “firework” picture while talking about colours and sounds.	
Practical	<b>Celebration Role-Play</b> – Pretend to have a party with songs, dancing and candles. Encourage your child to explain what's happening.	
Visit	<b>Christmas Lights Walk</b> – Visit Birmingham City Centre or your local high street to see festive lights. Talk about colours and shapes.	Birmingham City Centre or Selly Oak High Street
Visit	<b>Library Festival Story</b> – Visit Selly Oak Library and borrow a book about a festival or celebration. Share it together.	Selly Oak Library, 669 Bristol Rd, B29 6BJ



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## Spring 1 – Who Will You Call?

Activity Type	Suggested Activity	Local Link / Resource
Written	<b>People Who Help Us</b> – Ask your child to talk about someone who helps them (doctor, teacher, lollipop person). Record their words.	
Written	<b>Emergency Numbers</b> – Ask your child what they would say if they had to call for help. Write down their exact words.	
Practical	<b>Role-Play Emergency</b> – Pretend to be firefighters or doctors. Encourage your child to use words like help, rescue, safe.	
Practical	<b>Uniform Match</b> – Look through clothes at home. Can your child dress up to look like a helper (hat, jacket, badge)?	
Practical	<b>Build a Vehicle</b> – Use recycling to make a fire engine, police car or ambulance. Encourage your child to explain what it does.	
Visit	<b>Walk to the Post Box</b> – Write/draw a simple thank-you card and post it together. Talk about where letters go.	Local post box
Visit	<b>Fire Station Spotting</b> – Walk past Selly Oak Fire Station. Talk about the engines and what firefighters do.	Selly Oak Fire Station, Bristol Rd, B29 6NA



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## Spring 2 – What Magic Can We Find in Animals and Minibeasts?

Activity Type	Suggested Activity	Local Link / Resource
Written	<b>Animal Talk</b> – Ask your child to draw their favourite animal and tell you why they like it. Write their words.	
Written	<b>Minibeast Diary</b> – If you find a snail, worm or insect, ask your child to describe what it looks like and how it moves. Record their words.	
Practical	<b>Bug Hotel</b> – Collect sticks, leaves and stones to build a bug home in the garden. Encourage your child to explain what they are making.	
Practical	<b>Move Like an Animal</b> – Play a game where your child moves like a frog, butterfly, or worm while saying the name.	
Practical	<b>Sorting Animals</b> – Gather toy animals (or pictures). Ask your child to sort them into groups: big/small, wings/no wings.	
Visit	<b>Local Park Bug Hunt</b> – Go to Selly Oak Park and look under logs or leaves. Ask your child to describe what they find.	Selly Oak Park, Gibbins Rd, B29 6NT
Visit	<b>Farm Trip</b> – Visit Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park (low cost). Talk about animals and their homes.	Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park, Pershore Rd, B5 7RL



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### Summer 1 – How Does My Garden Grow?

Activity Type	Suggested Activity	Local Link / Resource
Written	<b>Plant Diary</b> – Plant a seed in a pot. Each week, ask your child to describe what they notice. Write their words.	
Written	<b>Favourite Fruit</b> – Ask your child to draw a fruit or vegetable they enjoy. Record what they said about its taste and colour.	
Practical	<b>Watering Job</b> – Let your child help water plants at home. Encourage them to talk about why plants need water.	
Practical	<b>Fruit Tasting</b> – Try different fruits. Ask your child to describe the flavours (sweet, sour, crunchy).	
Practical	<b>Nature Patterns</b> – Collect petals, leaves or stones to make a picture. Encourage your child to describe it.	
Visit	<b>Allotment Walk</b> – Visit Selly Oak Allotments (or another local one). Spot different plants and vegetables.	Selly Oak Allotments, Gibbins Rd, B29
Visit	<b>Botanical Gardens</b> – Visit Birmingham Botanical Gardens (low cost for children). Explore plants and flowers together.	Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Westbourne Rd, B15 3TR



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## Summer 2 – What Lives Under the Sea and Around the World?

Activity Type	Suggested Activity	Local Link / Resource
Written	<b>Sea Creature Story</b> – Ask your child to draw a sea animal and tell you about where it lives. Write their words.	
Written	<b>Around the World</b> – Look at a globe, map, or picture book. Ask your child to choose a country and say what they notice. Record their words.	
Practical	<b>Sink or Float</b> – Collect small objects (plastic cup, stone, toy). Test in water and talk about what happens.	
Practical	<b>Ocean Dance</b> – Put on music and move like different sea creatures (wiggle like a fish, glide like a turtle).	
Practical	<b>Recycled Sea Art</b> – Use boxes, bottles or foil to make a fish or sea creature. Encourage your child to explain what it is.	
Visit	<b>Local Canal Walk</b> – Walk along the Worcester & Birmingham Canal near Selly Oak. Spot ducks, boats and water.	Worcester & Birmingham Canal, Selly Oak
Visit	<b>Sea Life Centre</b> – Visit the National SEA LIFE Centre Birmingham (ticketed but often discounted). Talk about favourite creatures.	National SEA LIFE Centre, Brindleyplace, B1 2HL