



**Welcome to the Foundation Stage -
The beginning of an educational
adventure**



Class Structure

At Southwold we have 7 classes and a Nursery provision. The Foundation Unit is staffed by 1 full time teacher, 2 full time teaching assistants and 1 part time teaching assistant

Foundation Unit staffing

Mrs Lindsey Johnstone: EYFS Lead, Reception class teacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Naomi Mitchell: F1 Teacher



Mrs Claire Melnyk : Full time teaching assistant



Mrs Gemma Reader: Part time teaching assistant



Our Curriculum

Our curriculum focuses on key areas of learning and development, ensuring that every child reaches their full potential through play-based and hands-on experiences. The EYFS is structured around seven key areas:

1. **Communication and Language:** Encouraging your child's speaking, listening, and understanding skills.
2. **Physical Development:** Promoting movement, health, and well-being.
3. **Personal, Social, and Emotional Development:** Helping your child build relationships and manage their emotions.
4. **Literacy:** Introducing early reading and writing skills.
5. **Mathematics:** Developing early number and problem-solving skills.
6. **Understanding the World:** Helping your child explore and make sense of the world around them.
7. **Expressive Arts and Design:** Encouraging creativity through art, music, and imaginative play.

We believe that learning through play is the best way for young children to explore the world, develop key skills, and build confidence. We are committed to providing a warm, nurturing environment that encourages curiosity, exploration, and joy in learning.



Communication and Language:

In the EYFS, we place a strong emphasis on developing communication and language skills through engaging, interactive, and enjoyable activities that give your child the confidence to communicate with others. Here are some activities that we incorporate into our daily routine:

Reading Together: Sharing stories with children, talking about the pictures, and asking questions about the story.

Singing Songs and Rhymes: These activities help children develop their listening skills and pronunciation.

Role Play and Drama: These activities allow children to practice language in different contexts.

Encouraging Talk in Everyday Activities: Taking time to talk about what children are doing during playtime, whether it's building with blocks, drawing, or playing outside

.Role Play activities



Reading together



Physical Development:

Physical Development is one of the key areas of the EYFS curriculum, and it plays a crucial role in supporting a child's overall growth, well-being, and learning. It focuses on developing both **gross motor skills** (large movements) and **fine motor skills** (smaller, more precise movements), helping children to gain control over their bodies, stay healthy, and build confidence. At Southwold we develop:

Active Play: Both structured (e.g., games, activities) and unstructured (e.g., free play in outdoor spaces) opportunities that allow children to develop and refine their physical skills.

Motor Skills Activities: Simple tasks like stacking blocks, drawing shapes, or running through obstacle courses to help children develop their physical abilities and spatial awareness.

The use of tools and Equipment: Introducing children to different tools, such as brushes, pencils, and spoons, to encourage fine motor development.

Gross motor skills



Motor skills activity



Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED) is a crucial area of learning within the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) curriculum. It focuses on helping children understand themselves, build positive relationships with others, and develop the social and emotional skills that are essential for lifelong learning and well-being.

At Southwold we devote time to this through focus teaching sessions using our school scheme SCARF. We encourage cooperative play and group activities where children share, take turns, and solve problems together. We model and reinforce positive behaviours, such as saying "please" and "thank you," and showing kindness. We support children in resolving conflicts, listening to others, and understanding how their actions affect others' feelings.

Building positive relationships



World Mental Health Day



Literacy

In EYFS Literacy is a vital area of learning that focuses on developing essential language and early reading and writing skills. It sets the foundation for children to become confident readers, writers, and communicators as they grow.

Early literacy skills are key to academic success. Children who develop a love for books and language early on are more likely to enjoy learning and continue developing literacy skills throughout their schooling

At Southwold we follow the RWI phonics scheme to develop reading and writing. This begins as soon as the children begin in Nursery using pre phonic games based on developing children's listening skills. RWI phonics begins for Nursery in the Summer term.

Early writing helps children develop fine motor skills and understand how writing communicates ideas.

We provide opportunities for children to draw and make marks, even before they can form letters or words. We then encourage children to practice forming letters and writing their names as they start to recognize the alphabet. We encourage children to use writing in different ways, such as drawing pictures with labels, creating lists, or writing notes to others.



Maths

Early math education focuses on building a solid foundation for numeracy skills in a fun and engaging way, helping children develop both an understanding of numbers and an ability to think critically about shapes, patterns, and measurement

When counting children begin by learning to count objects, pictures, or people. They also learn to count forward and backward, often using songs and rhymes to reinforce this skill.

Children also start to recognize numbers in different contexts and learn to match numbers to quantities. For example, "How many apples are there?" or "Can you find the number 5?"

Children begin understanding basic addition and subtraction concepts through practical activities, like counting objects, adding more, or taking away items.

Children also develop numerical pattern skills. They understand and explore simple patterns, sequences, and relationships between numbers.

At Southwold we use Whiterose Maths as a basis for our maths progression. This consists of lots of practical opportunities for children to develop their maths skills through everyday learning.

Number games



Making patterns



Understanding the World

This area focuses on helping children explore and make sense of their world, encouraging curiosity and developing their knowledge of people, places and the natural world.

Children learn about the people around them, their own family, different cultures, and communities. They learn about various jobs people do, communities they live in, and different parts of the world.

We also explore the natural world, animals, plants, and the environment by going on nature walks, looking at the changing seasons and thinking about the environment and world we live in.

We learn about different animals, plants, and their habitats. We observe the life cycle of plants or animals, like watching seeds grow or caterpillars turn into butterflies.

At Southwold children begin to ask questions about the world around them, which fosters critical thinking and exploration. By learning about different cultures and communities, children develop an understanding of diversity, kindness, and respect for others. We learn about different religions and celebrate many religious festivals.



Expressive Art and Design

This area encourages creativity and self-expression, helping children explore and communicate their ideas, feelings, and experiences through different forms of art, music, movement, and role-play. It is all about giving children opportunities to be imaginative, to explore different materials, and to engage in creative activities that allow them to express themselves in a variety of ways.

We use materials like paints, crayons, clay, paper, and fabric to create artwork. Children learn to experiment with different textures, colours, and shapes. Children have access to a creative area daily where they can decide what they would like to make and how.

By being imaginative we are encouraging children to use their imagination in play, storytelling, and role-play. We provide opportunities for children to use a variety of resources to tell imaginative stories. Different areas of continuous provision are always available to enable children to develop their imagination and creativity.

Beat Feet



Being Imaginative



Our EYFS Timetable

F1 (Little Acorns) Timetable	
8.45-11.45	
Our Nursery children attend this 3 hour session during the morning.	

Some Nursery children are entitled to 30 hours. Please speak to a member of the EYFS team for further information regarding this.

F2 Reception (Big Acorns) Timetable	
8.45-3.15	
In reception children will have a daily maths, project and phonics lesson. They will have a mixture of adult led and child led activities. Children will also receive adult focussed teaching.	

It is important that your child is brought and collected by a known adult. If you are unable to collect your child and need to make other arrangements, you will need to inform either a member of staff or the school office prior to collection.

Special Needs

If we are concerned about a particular child, we will contact parents at an early stage. Should it be appropriate to involve outside agencies we would always seek the permission/consent of the parents/carers first.

Parent Consultations

Staff are always available at the start and end of each session. If you would like to discuss your child's development in more detail you are always welcome to make an appointment with the class teacher. We also have 'Stay and Play Days' which include an opportunity to talk to the Class Teacher. If or when your child is in Foundation Stage 2 we also offer a more formal parent's meeting once a term.

Parent involvement

We have regular reading sessions when parents are invited in to share books with the children. We also have a termly project exhibition to share all the learning we have been doing. We post regular updates on Class Dojo showing our learning and any messages we would like to share.

What to bring

We ask parents to provide a change of clothing to keep at school. Children can bring their own water bottle. Children will also require a bag to put their library book or reading book in.

Toileting

As part of our nursery readiness expectations, we kindly require that children are toilet trained before starting nursery, unless there is a medical reason preventing toilet training, in which case we ask that this is discussed with us in advance.

Thank you for choosing Southwold Nursery and Early Years Centre for the beginning of your child's educational journey. We know they will love it.

