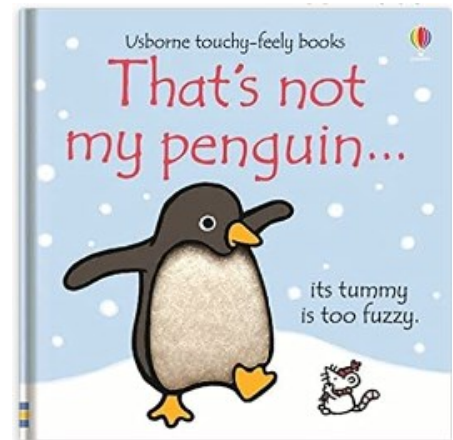




Friday 2nd February

The children have loved finding out about penguins and their habitat this week. We have incorporated a lot of Science into our learning too, investigating materials and their properties, as well as changing states of matter. We have explored melting ice into water, how to speed the process up and how to slow it down. We have also been very hands on, describing how different materials feel and making our very own versions of "That's Not My Penguin". Next week we will be exploring the Chinese or Lunar New Year learning about the great race and trying some Chinese foods. We would like the children to come to school dressed in red/yellow clothes on Wednesday for a special New year parade around the school for the other classes.



Phonics

The children have now learned all of the phase 2 and phase 3 sounds taught in Reception. The rest of the year our Phonics teaching will involve lots of blending as well as other phonic skills. This week's sounds are "air" and "er". The children also learn phrases that match each sound taught—(these are attached as well) and are a huge help to them.

Reading

Moving forward, we will be applying a different approach to reading during school. Children will now read individually or in pairs instead of groups. This will allow us to support the children more closely as they develop their decoding and blending skills now all sounds have been learned. They will still take their book home at the end of the week to continue to practice at home with you.

Finger Gym

Children need help to strengthen muscles in their hands and arms in order to be able to hold a pencil firmly to write. We have attached a sheet at the back of this newsletter with some fun ideas for you to try at home., such as squeezing and manipulating play doh!

Mathematics

Our focus for this week in maths has been on the numbers 6, 7 and 8. A really powerful tool to help children understand and process numbers is a tens frame. This is a model we use in most of our lessons as it helps the children to visualize and manipulate numbers as well as develop understanding of how numbers can be combined together to make larger ones. Here is a link to a great online interactive 10s frame if you want to explore the numbers 6, 7 and 8 at home with your child. Try to encourage them to fill the top row of 5 first and fill in the bottom row until you reach the target number. Being able to quickly recognize 5 without individual counting is a really important skill to try and master by the end of the year. <https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/tenFrame/index.html>

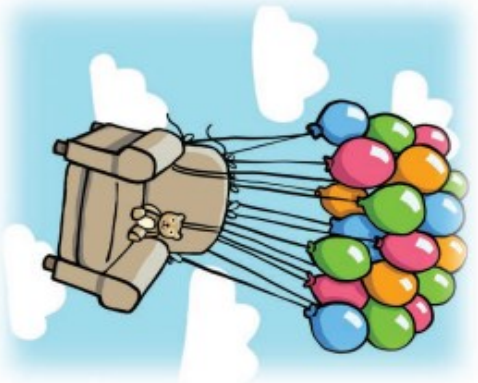
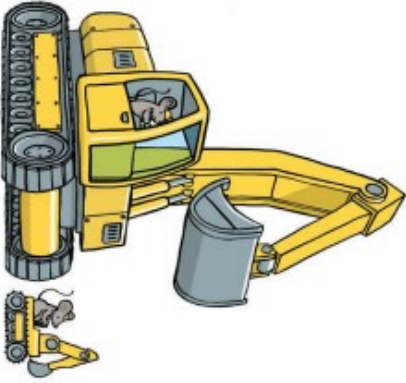
Forest School

A polite reminder that children must come to school on Tuesdays dressed in warm home clothes as well as named waterproof clothing to cover tops and bottoms in a named bag. We do have limited spare waterproof clothing but we cannot always guarantee a perfect fit so a home set of waterproofs is always the preferred option for Forest School. Thank you!

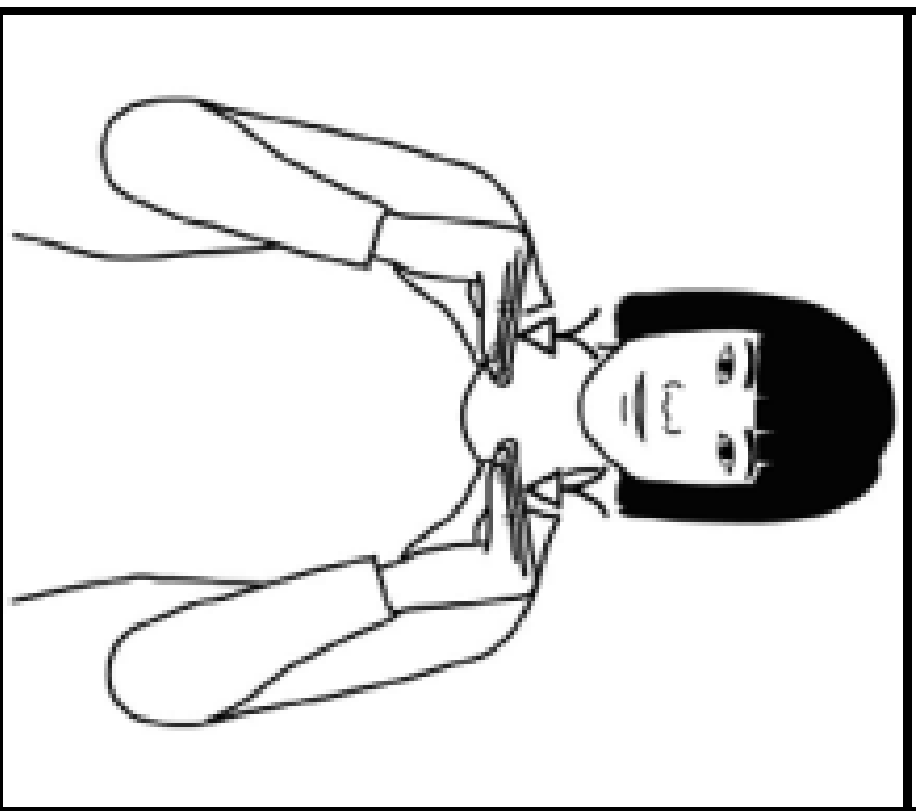
Mental Health and Wellbeing Week

Next week we will be focusing on our Mental Health and Wellbeing. On Sunday there is a 'Park Run' at Sander's Park (9am start) - organized by 'FRIENDS'. We hope to see you there! Tuesday is internet safety day and Friday the children can come to school dressed as 'express yourself' - so anything that makes them happy. The week will have planned activities in school for the children to do. Please go to:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

<p>air</p>	 <p>chair in the air</p>	<p>Open your mouth wide, push your tongue down as you say air air air</p>
<p>er</p>	 <p>a bigger digger</p>	<p>Open your mouth in a relaxed way, push your tongue down and say ur ur ur</p>

FINISHED



Open hands (palms in, pointing up) fingers move sharply down on to thumbs.



Finger Gym Ideas



- ☺ Use padlocks and keys – how quickly can the children unlock them?
- ☺ Clothes pegs. How many can the children peg around a box in 1 minute? Which child can peg the most if playing against a partner etc? Pegs can be used widely across different areas of learning as well – our calendar washing line, peg words, etc
- ☺ How many small beads, pieces of pasta, marbles can children pick up in a minute with tweezers?
- ☺ Fill small trays with rice/lentils/pasta and use tweezers to transfer the grains into different containers.
- ☺ Have mixtures such as dried pasta and peas. Can they separate the mixture using only tweezers? Perhaps try Cheerio's, small cubes, small marshmallows, pennies etc and make it into a counting game.
- ☺ Scissor activity booklet – ensure children have correct scissor grip at all times.
- ☺ Bend pipe cleaners into different shapes
- ☺ 'Melt monsters'. Draw monsters with felt tip pens and then using eye droppers drip water on them and watch the monsters 'melt'.
- ☺ Use droppers/pipettes to 'pick up' coloured water for colour mixing or to make artistic patterns.
- ☺ Play dough Encourage the children to pull, squeeze, roll, twist it etc. Sometimes using the palms of their hands, other times using their fingertips. They can also prick out designs using toothpicks in the dough. How many play dough balls can they make in a minute? Clay can also be used but it is not quite as malleable as play dough so they will really have to squash and squeeze it to get anywhere.
- ☺ Use cutters/plastic knives or pizza wheels to cut play dough.
- ☺ How many bubble wrap bubbles can they pop?
- ☺ Threading beads onto a string Or try lacing cheerios or macaroni.
- ☺ How many paper clips can they join together?
- ☺ Have a simple outline drawing, children to stick string/wool onto the outlines. Try weaving through netting.
- ☺ Use individual hole punch round a piece of card. Children can then thread wool/ribbon through these, put a padlock through the hole and then lock the padlock.
- ☺ Play games such as tiddly winks or use the frogs where you press their backs.
- ☺ Doing up buttons and zips quickly.
- ☺ Upright surfaces promote fine motor skills - painting on easels, writing on chalk boards/whiteboards etc.
- ☺ Pegboards; wind-up toys; small hand held spinning tops
- ☺ Scrunching up sheets of newspaper or strips of newspaper with 1 hand (to then stuff something with e.g.: a scarecrow). This strengthens one hand.
- ☺ Make small rolls of silver foil then flick them into a 'goal'.

- ☺ Play board games requiring children to turn over cards/counters BUT they cannot slide them to the edge of the table to do so.
- ☺ Using small hammers, bang golf tees into something like a pumpkin
- ☺ Taking lids on and off small Tupperware containers
- ☺ Use a plant sprayer to spray plants both indoors and outdoors.
- ☺ Shake some dice by cupping your hands together and form an empty air space between the palms.
- ☺ Use small sized screwdrivers like those in a building set.
- ☺ Use finger puppets, drawing in the sand with a stick, a feather or a straw.
- ☺ Make pompoms with two circles of card with holes in them and wrap wool around.
- ☺ Draw a small picture and then make holes very close together, using cocktail sticks around the outline, then the children can tear the picture out, like a perforated edge.

Additional ideas from our Special schools group ☺

- ☺ Use pre-writing magnetic boards
- ☺ Fill plastic sweet tubs with items, some of which are magnetic and others which are not and use a magnet on the outside and watch what happens whilst using your fine motor skills. Chopped up pipe cleaners work well.
- ☺ Make a crepe paper strip and using a thumb action, with the paper strip on the table, try to fold the paper up.
- ☺ Post things into a post box – a large one or a small one!
- ☺ Use various types of tweezers.
- ☺ Pop a rubber band over your fingers and try to stretch it!
- ☺ On a doll or toy, have lots of different types of fasteners for the children to explore, such as a zip, a button, Velcro, a toggle, snap fasteners, laces.
- ☺ Mini Muffin Match Up game by Learning Resources.
- ☺ Try using the old manual hand whisks in a bowl of soapy water.
- ☺ Don't forget finger puppets for finger control too.



<https://teachhandwriting.co.uk/whole-class-tripod-pencil-grip-teaching-fs.html#:~:text=The%20original%20%E2%80%9CTommy%20Thumb%E2%80%9C%20rhyme,play%20with%20pre%2Dschoo%20children.>

CLICK on this link to learn the correct pencil grip