

This term's projects

We are very pleased that the children have settled well into school life. Each day they are getting to know the rules and routines of our school and increasingly they are becoming powerful learners. This term our learning will be inspired by the delightful story 'Stanley's Stick' by John Hegley which describes the adventures a small boy and his favourite wooden stick. In order to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the natural world we shall focus our outdoor learning in our Sense Garden. Our children will explore their five senses through exciting and creative activities. By observing, investigating and discovering we hope that they will develop their critical thinking and extend their vocabulary. We aim to help the children to develop a sense of community and belonging by maintaining our links with staff and residents at The Old Rectory and The Lilacs care homes.

Mathematics

Have you got the counting bug? Our mathematics at this time of the year is all about numbers. Accurate 1:1 counting is a vital skill to learn and it is so easy to practise. Take every opportunity to count groups of objects such as apples in a bag, pennies, conkers, leaves and acorns. Why not count the stairs to bed or the cars on the street?

Look out for numbers in the environment such as prices at the supermarket, house numbers, registration plates and road signs. You'll be surprised how many numbers you'll be able to spot!

You only
have to know
one thing:
**you can learn
anything!**

Literacy

Children have begun to develop their phonic skills through daily Letters and Sounds inputs. It is important that they establish firm foundations in Phase 2 of our program before they begin to bring Guided Reading books home to share with you.

Don't forget to share a bedtime story every evening. By reading to your child regularly you are helping them to foster a love of reading, develop their vocabulary and listening skills and encouraging their imagination and understanding.

Many of the children are becoming interested in the early stages of writing. Please give them plenty of opportunities to draw, paint and write at home.

How you can help

At home:

Help your child to practice writing their name. Make sure they are using a tripod pencil grip and forming their letters correctly.

Go to:

Education City
>Subjects>F2>Phonics, to practice Phase 2 letters and sounds.

Visit:

Stoke Woods or Haldon Forest and enjoy the outdoors and fresh air. Maybe you could look for a stick of your own.
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/find-woods/>

Look out for:

Seasonal changes around us. Notice the autumnal leaves and search for conkers or acorns.



'Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.'
Fred Rogers

Tripod Grip use the thumb and first two fingers, pencil leaning back a little - for left handers this is the same.



Inspire



Discover



Succeed

Creating independent learners

We encourage the children to feel proud when they can achieve things by themselves. This includes taking responsibility for their possessions. We are establishing routines whereby children are able to ensure snack pots, water bottles and book bags find their place in the classroom.

Grown ups can help by encouraging children to put on their clothes, coats and shoes by themselves and by helping them to eat independently at meal times.

Help your child learn to write



SCRIBBLING & DRAWING

Your child needs to practice making marks and shapes before being able to write letters. Provide lots of opportunities to scribble and draw so they can develop these skills.

PLAYDOUGH, PEGS & FINGER PUPPETS

Your child needs to be able to use their fingers independently to write. Activities that strengthen and encourage your child to use their fingers will develop the skills your child needs.



CLIMBING & SWINGING

Your child needs strong arm and body muscles to sit up and write. They also need good control of their arms. Outdoor activities that encourage them to use their whole body will develop these muscles.

THREADING, CLAPPING, BATTING & STREAMERS

Crossing the body's mid-line is an important skill needed for writing. Encourage your child to thread items along a string. Clapping games, batting a tennis ball or a balloon, and playing with long streamers, all help to encourage this skill.



TORCHES & BALL GAMES

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Your child needs to track with their eyes to write. Asking your child to follow a torchlight, just with their eyes, will develop their tracking skills. Ball games will also develop this skill.

PLAYING WITH AND IDENTIFYING LETTERS & WORDS

Your child needs to be interested in letters and words to write. Encourage your child to look for letters and words in their home and environment.



WRITING LISTS & WRITING FOR A PURPOSE

Your child needs to understand that writing has a purpose. Ask your child to help you write a shopping list or write a note for a friend or neighbour.

