

## 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 they are becoming increasingly powerful learners.

This term our learning will be inspired by the traditional tale of 'The Enormous Turnip'. We shall encourage the children to explore ideas around the harvest of fruits and vegetables at this time of year. Autumn provides us with a plethora of opportunities to explore and discover new smells, sights, textures and flavours. Through observation and investigation we hope that they will extend their vocabulary and develop their critical thinking.

### 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!



### Literacy

Your child will have begun Guided Reading in school this week and will have brought home their first Guided Reading book or reading activity. Please find time to share regular reading practise together at home. Regular reading forms the main basis for home learning this term as we really want to ensure a solid foundation has been established. We recommend a minimum of three short sessions (10-15 minutes) per week. Please remember to let your child's teacher know how they are getting on at home in their green 'Reading Diary'. It is also very important to share a bedtime story every evening.

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

## How you can help

### At home:

Help your child to practise writing their name. Make sure they are using a tripod pencil grip to form their letters correctly.

### Go to:

[theimaginationtree.com](http://theimaginationtree.com) - a great source of ideas of activities to make and do with young children. Why not try out their sensory slime and playdough recipes?

### Visit:

Killerton Apple Festival on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/killerton/features/killerton-cider-and-apple-festival](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/killerton/features/killerton-cider-and-apple-festival)

### Look out for:

There are all sorts of delicious and colourful vegetables around at this time of year. Why not cook some hearty soup together?



*'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



*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.

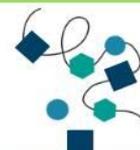


### CLIMBING & SWINGING

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.

