

St. George's Primary School

CLARENCE ROAD, PORTLAND

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8.10.20

Dear parents,

A big thank you for all your help and co-operation during these past few weeks. It has been super busy and your children have happily adapted to school life. They are an asset to you!

A few things to remember:

- Please ensure that your child has a **pair of named wellies in a named plastic bag** at school ready for when the weather changes - so we can still get outside on the field!
- If you provide your child with a snack please ensure that it is either **fruit or vegetables and is named.**
- Please ensure that you provide your child with a **drink of water in a named bottle each day.**

Days to remember:

Monday - reading books sent home in a named plastic bag. You are more than welcome to keep the sound card and reading record at home. However you may wish to leave them in the named plastic bag for safe keeping.

Sometimes we will also send home ideas about things you can do at home to help to develop your child's understanding of language and reading skills.

We might also send home WOW cards which you can send back to school at any time and we will share these with the class. WOW cards also get a dojo point!

Thursday - reading books to be returned.

Thursday - Poetry folders and phonics 'homework' books sent home in a book bag - Please can you name your child's book bag.

Monday - Book bag with poetry folder and phonics 'homework' book to be returned.

Website:

Your child will bring home a **phonics 'homework' book each Thursday.** This will contain the 4 sounds that we have learnt at school that week. To support your child's learning it is vital that you practise these sounds as often as you can in a fun and interesting way.

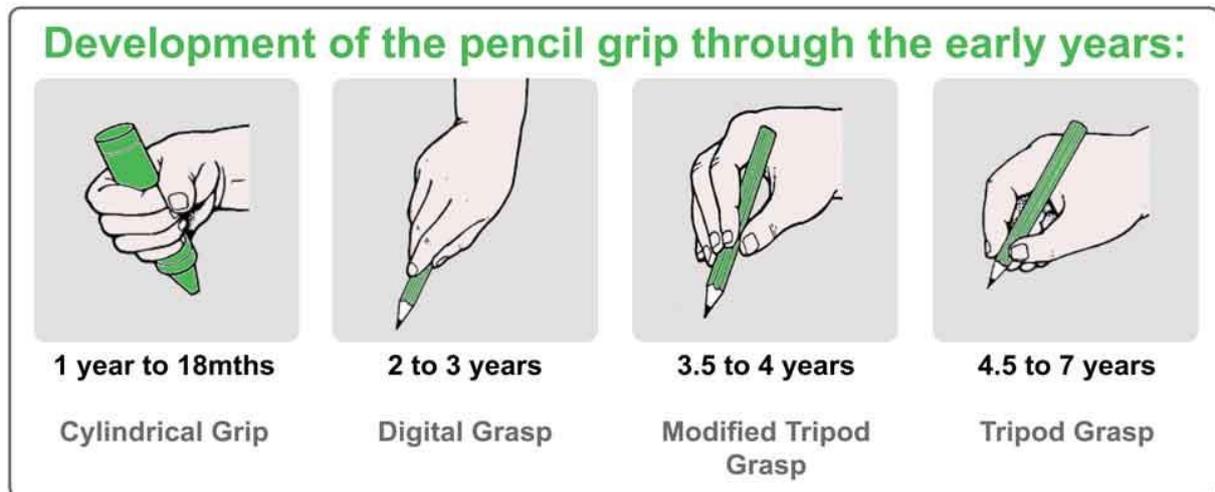
Please look on the school website for information about phonics and what you can do at home to support your child.

Feel free to use the phonics homework book to record photos, draw pictures and do other homework type activities with your child.

We would love to share what you do at home so please post on Tapestry. We share these lovely moments with the class. Your child will receive a dojo point for each Tapestry post.

Please remember that, when you do not have the phonic book, the sounds that your child has learnt are on the given sound mat. This shows you all of the sounds in the order that we teach them. You could play 'fastest finger' to see who can find the given sound first.

The rhymes on the back of the sound mat demonstrate how we teach the formation of the letters (Taken from Read Write Inc) If your child is ready to write letters please recite these rhymes to help them to remember how to form the lower case letters correctly. Remember to always start at the top of the letter.



As your child builds strength in their fingers please encourage them to hold their pencil correctly.

(Please find attached some ideas to develop fine motor skills)

The sounds, and the key words that we teach, are also found in the middle of your child's reading record. Please tick off the sounds that your child knows. You can use this as a running record and this will help you support them with any gaps in their learning.

Thank you for your continued support

The Reception Team

30 VERBS THAT PROMOTE FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

Stay At Home Educator

scooping pinching linking

pouring stacking lacing

transferring squirting placing

tweezing tonging cutting

tying tracing rolling

sprinkling picking twisting

beading pushing squeezing

tearing peeling poking

wrapping crumpling popping

sewing turning weaving

Ideas for developing fine motor skills

- 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
- How many small beads can children pick up in a minute with tweezers?
- Have mixtures such as dried pasta and peas. Can they separate the mixture using only tweezers?
- Scissor activity booklet - ensure children have correct scissor grip at all times.
- 'Melt monsters'. Draw monsters with felt tip pens and then using eye droppers drip water on them and watch the monsters 'melt'.
- Playdough (see over for recipe). Encourage the children to pull, squeeze, roll, twist it etc. Sometimes using the palms of their hands, othertimes using their fingertips. They can also prick out designs using toothpicks in the dough.
- How many bubble wrap bubbles can they pop?
- Threading beads onto a string
- How many paper clips can they join together?
- Have a simple outline drawing, children to stick string/wool onto these outlines.
- Play games that encourage strength in the shoulders eg: wheelbarrows, crabs, wall push ups etc
- Use individual hole punch round a piece of card. Children can then thread wool/ribbon through these.
- Play games such as tiddly winks or the frogs where you press their backs.
- Doing up buttons and zips quickly.
- Upright surfaces promote fine motor skills so do things such as painting on easels, writing on chalk boards/whiteboards etc.
- Pegboards
- Scrunching up sheets of newspaper with 1 hand (to then stuff something with eg: a scarecrow)
- Play board games requiring children to turn over cards/counters BUT they cannot slide them to the edge of the table to do so.
- Tracing round stencils
- Using small hammers, bang golf tees into something like a pumpkin
- Taking lids on and off small Tupperware containers