



YEAR R NEWSLETTER 20.4.2026

We hope that you have all had a relaxing Easter break. The children have been telling us lots about the exciting things that they did in the holidays.

This week, as part of our new Growing topic we will be focusing on changes around us in Spring, please find attached an overview for our new topic which will also be available on the website.

Phonics

We will spend this week revising our chapter 3 sounds learnt so far.

Maths– To 20 and beyond

This week we are focusing on the numbers from 10 to 20, exploring that each number is ten andmore. The children will begin to recognise numbers from 10 to 20.

At home, you can practise counting from 10 to 20 trying to use different starting points. Ask your child to count you out 12, 14, 17 objects.... etc.

School Uniform

Children can wear either summer or winter uniform for this term. Children should **not** be wearing a mix of both uniforms eg. children are not permitted to wear tights with summer uniform. Jumpers/cardigans remain part of the summer uniform and should be at school every day. Our uniform policy is available here <https://www.st-anselms.kent.sch.uk/uniform/> As always, check that every item of clothing is labelled, particularly jumpers and cardigans. Although the weather has turned milder, it still may be changeable therefore I would recommend providing your child with a light jacket/ raincoat.

Early Learning Goals

This week's focus is :
Physical Development

Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills

- Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others.
- Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing.
- Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.

Fine Motor Skills

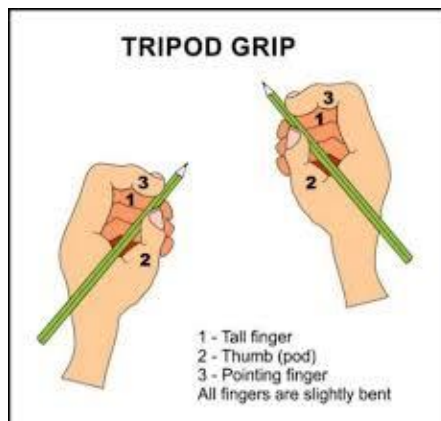
- Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases.
- Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery.
- Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.

Physical Development is a prime area of the early years foundation stage. These skills underpin children's development in all other areas and your child may struggle to learn in the school environment if they have not developed the appropriate physical skills.

Children should be getting 2-3 hours of physical activity across the day.

Top tips to support your child's Physical Development at home:

- Encourage your child to use alternate feet when using stairs.
- make use of a local park and allow your child to freely explore lots of different areas
- chasing games and ball games are a good way to get your child moving- games like tennis are great for building arm muscle strength as well as hand eye co-ordination
- dancing, whether following a routine or not!
- playdough and plasticine play
- using cutlery when eating (teach your child how to hold food still with a fork while cutting by moving the knife backwards and forwards)
- colouring and painting on lots of different sized paper (small and very large)
- cutting different types of materials not just paper eg. cardboard as well as precise cutting eg. cutting pictures out of magazines
- encouraging your child to hold their pencil properly in a tripod grip (see diagram)
<https://www.growinghandsonkids.com/pencil-grasp-development-for-writing.html>



If you have any concerns about your child's physical development or would like more ideas about how to best support your child, then please get in touch with me via the school office.

Term 5 Topic: Growing			
Stories/books		Jack and the Beanstalk When will it be Spring? Guess how much I love you in the Spring? The Acorn A seed in Need	
Area of learning		Early Learning Goal (small steps)	Activities/Ideas
Communication and Language	Listening, Attention and Understanding	ask questions to clarify their understanding respond with relevant questions	Make observations of plants. Make observations of minibeasts.
	Speaking	Express their ideas and feelings using present tense Offer explanations for why things might happen	Explain how plants grow. Explain the life cycle of some plants or animals.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Self-Regulation	Be able to wait for what they want Control their immediate impulses when appropriate	Show care and patience when bug hunting.
	Gross Motor skills	Demonstrate co-ordination	Follow specific paths and move in different ways to represent different animals. Create Spring dances.
Physical Development	Fine Motor skills	Use a range of small tools -scissors -paint brushes	Make pictures of plants and animals.
	Comprehension	Use their own words and recently introduced vocabulary	Use the correct words to describe parts of plant or animal life cycles. Retell stories
Literacy	Writing	Write recognisable letters Write sentences	Label pictures of growing plants and animals. Write captions for spring pictures.
	The Natural World	Make observations of animals and plants. Know some similarities between the natural world around them and contrasting environments	Identify how the garden has changed through the seasons. Compare our garden to the pictures that we look at in books and photographs that we explore. Identify similar plants/flowers.
Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with Materials	safely use and explore a variety of tools experiment with colour experiment with function	Make observational drawings/paintings of flowers and plants by choosing the appropriate colours and exploring colour mixing. Paint using brushes and other tools. Construct places for animals/bugs to live
	Being Imaginative and Expressive	Try to move in time with the music. Adapt narratives and stories	Create dances to music showing how animals move and life cycles.

Thank you for your continued support.