



Phonics and Reading

This week we will be learning the sounds **ck**, **e**, **u** and **r** and the HRS words **to**, **go** and **into**

If you haven't had the chance already do check out the ELS presentation and pronunciation videos on our website (link is in the QR code) to help you feel confident when supporting your child with reading. For many children blending the sounds they know to make a word will be what is challenging them right now. If your child is trying to read pot and they are able to sound out p-o-t but then can't hear the word, they might benefit from you repeating the sounds back to them and getting faster until they can hear the word. We hope you are enjoying looking at the books on Oxford Owl and a heartfelt thank you to all parents who have already logged on.



Literacy

We are now moving on to a new text, *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas. This book is a great setting off point for discussing emotions as well as likes and dislikes.

We are also beginning to teach children how to hold a pen or pencil correctly. You might have heard the term "tripod grip" which we do use, but we also use the term the "3 friends hold" which comes from our handwriting scheme Kinetic Letters. A step-by-step guide to picking up a pencil and holding it correctly can be found on the back of this newsletter.

Maths

Next week in Maths we will continue to focus on subitising. Subitising is when you look at a small quantity of objects and know how many there is without consciously counting them. We will be focusing on subitising 3, 4 and 5 objects. You can try doing this with your child at home using small toys. You can arrange the objects in different ways (e.g. 3 cars can be put down in a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line, in a triangular configuration, or two together and one slightly further away) to increase the difficulty too

The wider curriculum

The children are really enjoying their Welly Wednesday session in the woods. Each week we begin sessions by taking a moment to ascertain what we can see and hear. We are on the look out for signs of autumn and are keeping a close eye on the colour of the leaves.

We have also been assessing children's scissor holds. It is quite common for children to hold their scissors upside down, with fingers on top. If a child does this, we will remind them to put their "thumb to the sun". Have fun at home cutting grass, fallen leaves, strips of paper and playdough.

Regular Reminders

- ⇒ Please bring back your child's reading folder each Friday so that it can be checked and books changed.
- ⇒ Please remember book bags every day.
- ⇒ Every time you wash jumpers and cardigans check their names are still visible on the labels.

Dates for your diary

Friday 13th October is World Mental Health Day which we will celebrate by asking children to come to school wearing brightly coloured clothes

Tuesday 15th November is the date of our next parent workshop and stay and play. We understand some parents were sad to miss our recent phonics workshop, so we wanted to give you plenty of notice for the next one. More details to follow closer to the time

Preparation is crucial to ensure the pencil is picked up by just the Holding Fingers.

Practise the first two lines of the song as a stand-alone activity at first. Link this to when they practised with beads/rice (4.06).

Pencil Pick Up

Strategy

★ Before the Song starts (see first photo below - Fig 100):

1. Point the pencil at your tummy
2. Put the Writing Hand flat on the surface by the pencil and check that the thumb is alongside where it will pick up the pencil. Re-adjust if required (left-handers will pick it up further from the tip - 4.05).
3. Recall how the Holding Fingers picked up the beads/rice and pretend to do this, then return the Writing Hand to its flat position by the pencil and **start the song**.

Holding Fingers ready
Touch them together several times.

Pick your pencil up
Use only the two Holding Fingers for this.

© Kuidak Lethbridge 2018

Tip it back
Use Helping Hand for this.

To lay across the hand
The web between the Writing Hand thumb and first finger, supports the pencil.

Pillow finger under
Emphasise *under*.

To keep Poor Curly safe
Blu-Tack caterpillar must not be squashed (4.23)

3 Friends Hold
These are the only fingers that *touch* the pencil.

© Kuidak Lethbridge 2018

Pencil Song Part 1: Pencil Pick Up

Ready to start

You get your
Holding Fingers ready.

And pick your pencil up.

4.08

You tip it back

to lay across your hand.

You put your Pillow Finger under,
To keep poor Curly safe.

That's your 3 Friends Hold.

4.09

Fig 100 Pencil Pick Up Routine and Song

