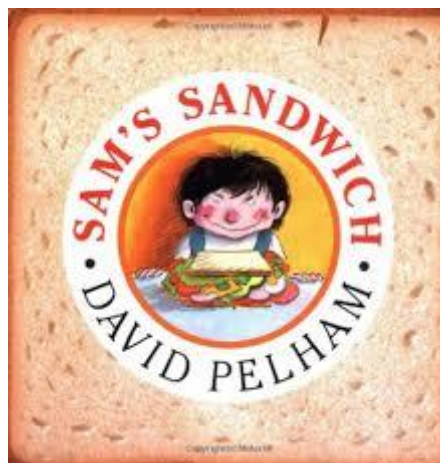


Nursery Peek at the Week

Weekly News

This week in Nursery, the children have been making their own sandwiches. They were very proud of themselves when they were able to do this independently. They drew their own shopping lists (giving very good meanings to their marks) and some of the children attempted to write the initial phonemes for the ingredients that they wanted. They then read their shopping lists to select the ingredients that they needed. They then made their own sandwiches spreading the butter, slicing ingredients and then cutting the sandwiches into different shapes. We had many conversations during this time talking about how one sandwich can be cut into two, three or four smaller sandwiches.

We also had our first Early Birds sessions this week where lots of parents joined us to partake in different fine motor activities to develop their children's finger muscles to be ready for writing.



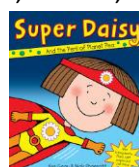
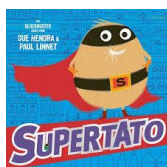
If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me or Munaza using the email addresses below:

aglover13@suttonmail.org -Annabel Glover-Nursery Class Teacher, EYFS lead and Phonics Lead

mahmad68@suttonmail.org – Munaza Ahmad- Nursery Class Teacher

Learning about different jobs

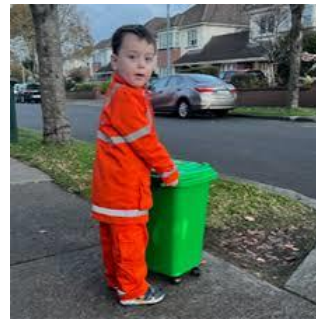
After half term, we will be learning about fictional superheroes with stories like Supertato and Super Daisy. We will then be learning about real life superheroes and talking about people who do jobs to help us like doctors, fire fighters, scientists etc. If you would like to come and talk to the children about your job, we would love to welcome you to Nursery or if you know someone who is a Police Officer, Dentist, refuse collector etc. please let us know.



Superhero Day

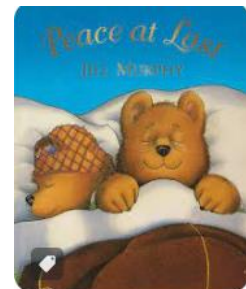
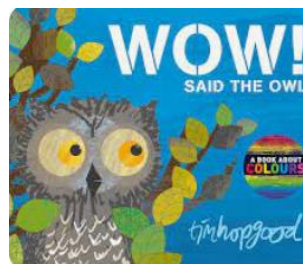
Friday 14th March

To celebrate our learning about Superheroes, we will be having a Superhero day in Nursery on Friday 14th March. Children are encouraged to come to Nursery dressed as their favourite fictional or real life Superhero. Please do not feel that you have to spend money on an expensive costume, homemade costumes can be very effective.

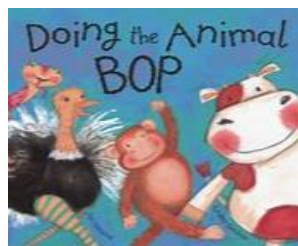
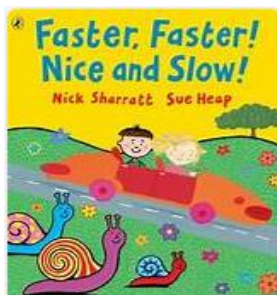


New 3 a Day stories for after Half Term

3-a-day Stories for Amber, Casper and Millie group children: The children have learnt our last 3 a day stories really well. These are our new 3 a day stories for next half term:



3-a-day Stories for Ollie group children: These are stories that the children hear every day. These stories have been carefully chosen to help the children to develop a love of reading and to help them to develop early reading skills. These stories have key elements that support the children to retell them for example many of them use rhyme or repeated phrases.



Dip and Do

These are some ideas of things that you may like to do to support your child's learning at home.

- Can you prepare a meal?
- Can you find out about the different jobs that people in your family do? We would love to see some photographs or drawings!
- Can you practise some of our fine motor activities from early Birds?

What have we been learning Nursery?

Please show your child these pictures and encourage them to talk about them.

Why do we wash our hands before we prepare food?

What did you put in your sandwich?

How did you prepare your ingredients?

What did your sandwich taste like? Did you like it?

Would you change it if you made a sandwich again?

Can you make a sandwich at home?









Early Birds

Thank you to all of the families that joined us for Early Birds on Thursday. It was lovely to see so many of you! We hope that you found the fine motor activities useful as it would be beneficial if you can continue to practise these activities at home to develop your child's finger muscles. This will help the children with their early writing skills.

Please find details of the activities that we used below.



We are learning to use our finger muscles with control. We are exploring different ways to make jewellery.

Parent/Carer guide



Threading helps people of all ages to develop their fine motor skills. These are the skills that help us to make small muscle movements in our hands and fingers. Having good fine motor skills is what supports a child in their quest to draw, write, manipulate small objects, and complete everyday tasks such as doing up buttons and zips.

Completing a threading activity requires the child to use their small hand and finger muscles to manipulate the objects into place and move them around in a controlled manner. It is also necessary to have good eye-hand coordination and strong concentration skills when threading. Another area of development, which is perhaps lesser well known but holds importance for children, is being patient and persevering to solve problems.

We are learning to use our finger muscles with control.



How can you thread pasta onto your string?
 What is the best way to hold the pasta?
 Is there another way?
 What has made this easier/trickier to do?





We are learning to use tools with control.

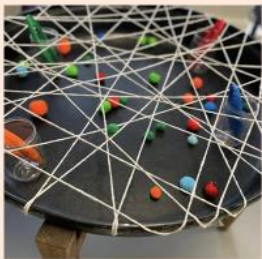
Parent/Carer guide



Using Tweezers strengthens a child's pincer grasp which enables them to pick up small objects between the thumb and forefinger, which is an essential pre-handwriting skill. These colourful tools will develop hand-eye coordination which prepares the muscles and brain for writing.

Learning to use tweezers teaches the children concentration, improves dexterity, and increases fine motor development. Tweezing also teaches children to be patient and persevere if they are not successful on their first attempt.

We are learning to use tools with control.



Can you use the tweezers to save the objects?
How do we hold tweezers?
Is it tricky? Why?
What else could we use?



We are learning to use our finger muscles with control.

Parent/Carer guide



Button placing activities are great for developing fine motor skills and strengthening those tiny hand muscles, because picking up and placing the button uses the pincer grip - an essential step in preparing for holding a pencil.

Also, by manipulating and placing buttons, children can develop their hand-eye coordination, dexterity, and concentration skills while also learning about colours, shapes, patterns and counting.



We are learning to use tools with control.

We are learning to use our finger muscles with control.



What colour buttons will you choose?
Can you follow the pattern?
How will you hold the buttons?
Is it tricky? Why?
What else could you use?



We are learning to use tools with control.

Parent/Carer guide



Learning to cut with scissors helps to build hand strength, develop hand-eye coordination, improve bilateral coordination, and improve attention to tasks. Additionally, while using scissors the child is improving visual motor and visual perceptual skills.

Opening and closing scissors helps children build up the small muscles in their hands. These muscles are important for everyday activities such as drawing, using cutlery, brushing your teeth and getting dressed.

It is important that children learn the correct way to hold and use scissors safely. If we allow children to use an in-correct grip then it is harder for them to re-learn how to do it correctly.

Practise makes skills permanent we need to try and help the children to practise the perfect way.



We are learning to use tools with control.



Can you use the scissors to cut the toilet roll tube?
How do we hold scissors correctly?
What do we need to remember to be safe with scissors



We are learning to use our finger muscles with control.

Parent/Carer guide

Balancing glass beads or marbles is a game of coordination, as it involves using both hands and eyes to perform a task. Children can improve their fine motor skills by manipulating the small and delicate glass beads or marbles with precision and accuracy. Balancing marbles develops hand muscles, because picking up and placing them requires the pincer grip - an essential step in preparing for holding a pencil.



We are learning to use our finger muscles with control.



Can you balance the marbles?
How will you hold the marbles?
Which fingers are the best fingers to use? Why?
Is it tricky? Why?
What else could you use?





We are learning to use our finger muscles with control.

Parent/Carer guide

Fine motor skills can be improved by engaging your child in activities with pegs.

Playing with pegs as toys helps children to refine the muscle strength in their hands and fingers. In turn, this will allow them to have more control of their hand movements. Squeezing the tail end of a peg is a great way of doing this.

Using pegs will help your child to develop accurate and automatic movements in their thumb and index finger. This is important for pincer grasp which supports your child when writing, feeding and dressing themselves.



We are learning to use our finger muscles with control.



What does your animal need?
Can you hold the peg and attach it to your animal?
How many pegs do you need?
Is it tricky when opening the peg? Why?



We are learning to use tools with control.

Parent/Carer guide

Squeezing pipettes is a great fine motor skill activity as it builds finger strength and supports the development of a pincer grip. Using the pincer grasp, squeezing with the thumb and pointer finger, children are building the muscles that will later be used for writing with a pencil.

Including pipettes with these activities also helps children develop hand-eye co-ordination and concentration.



We are learning to use tools with control.



What colour water will you use?
Can you use the pipettes to fill the holes on the Duplo?
How do we use the pipettes?
Is it tricky? Why?
Is there another way?





We are learning to use tools with control.

Parent/Carer guide

Painting with the cotton buds helps the children with their fine motor skill and pincer grip development, concentration and focus while they are painting. These skills are all important for early writing and will support the child in holding a pencil.



We are learning to make marks with control.

Parent/Carer guide

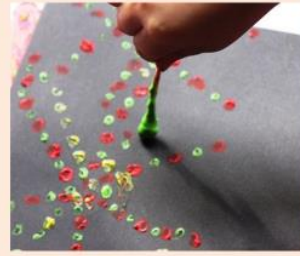
Writing Trays are a creative way to help children to learn to write letters, numbers, shapes, and pre-writing strokes. The sensory input children receive from materials like rice, sand or glitter help them to feel the shapes that they are making.

Writing trays also promote fine motor skills development as children manipulate and explore materials like sand, rice, or salt to form letters and words.

By incorporating creativity and playfulness into writing instruction, makes writing more enjoyable and effective.



We are learning to use tools with control.



What will you use to paint?

What colours will you use?

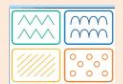
Can you use the cotton bud to make your painting?

How will you hold the cotton bud?

Is it easier/harder to use a cotton bud than a normal paintbrush?



We are learning to make marks with control.



What will you write?

Can you think of a symbol to represent this?

Can you draw the symbol using your finger?

What else could you use?

Can you write some of the letters of your name?



Important Dates

Half Term Monday 17th February-Friday 21st February

School is closed but Willow Club are running a Holiday Club Monday to Wednesday (spaces must be pre-booked).

Children return to school Monday 24th February

World Book day Thursday 6th March

Children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Nursery Superhero day Friday 14th March

Children to come to school dressed as their favourite fictional or real life superhero.