



Ash class newsletter

Autumn 2020 first half term

Mrs Hunt

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and an extra warm welcome to our new families. It has been wonderful to see the children come in to class so confidently this week, despite new routines and ‘strange’ looking teachers in visors and aprons! Well done everyone!

Thank you for **keeping in touch** via our Home-School books, Tapestry or e-mail. It feels really odd, being less able to share details of the day face to face with you, but please do catch us if you ever want to talk anything through. We can always find a space to have a socially-distanced chat.

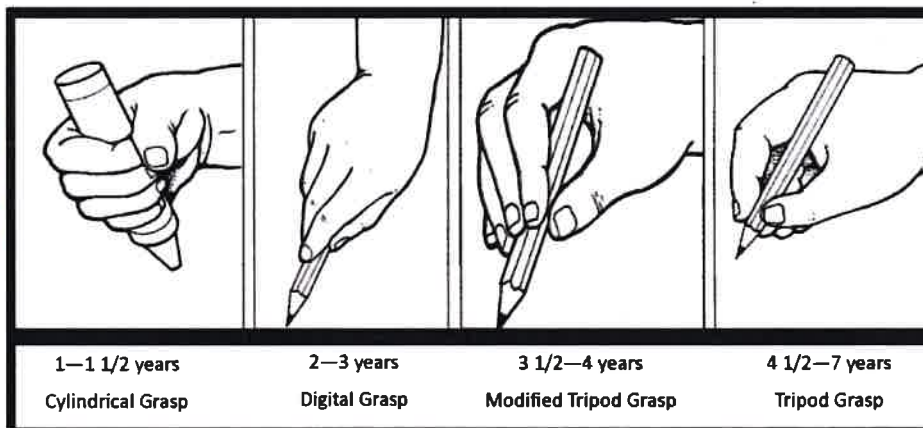
If you are having problems accessing **Tapestry**, please let us know and we will do our best to help.

As you may have seen in the whole school email, we are now being provided with **fruit** for **snack time**, so there is no need for you to provide any next week. Thank you.

This half-term’s theme is **‘Love.’** We will be concentrating on **social and emotional development**, in order to settle the children into their learning. We will explore what makes each one of us special, our similarities and differences, friends and families and enjoy some fun activities investigating our senses. We will also learn about **Harvest** and spot seasonal changes as we head further into **Autumn**.

Many of the children have been keen to mark-make, including chalking, drawing and painting and this has been encouraging to see. We timetable slots to support each child with their **fine motor skills**, aiming to strengthen finger muscles and ultimately enabling them to hold a pencil comfortably. Activities such as using nuts and bolts, popping bubble-wrap, pulling lego bricks apart, twisting spinners, threading beads or using scissors and tweezers are all excellent for improving dexterity, even before a pen or paint brush is picked up! If anyone (especially those with left-handed children) would like to **borrow a pair of children’s scissors**, please just ask. It would be great if the children could practice any of these fine motor skills at home please. Thank you.

There are a number of stages towards a ‘correct’ pencil grip that most children go through, as outlined here.



We aim for holding

‘tripod grip’ within their Reception year. Even older children may need reminding how to hold their pencils every now and again: ‘pinch’ the pencil between thumb and index finger with thumb bent outwards, middle finger underneath the pencil and the last two fingers tucked up into the palm. It is important to watch that only the fingers are making the pencil move, not the wrist, elbow or shoulder.

As always, please do not hesitate to ask if you have any queries or concerns. We look forward to a busy and hopefully sunny few weeks!

Kind regards
Sally Hunt

children to be pencils in a