



## Autumn Weekly Bulletin 04

### Friday 26th September 2025

Rooted in the community to grow and flourish

The Parable of the Mustard Seed, Matthew 13: 31-32

Dear Families,

Schools talk to families a lot about the progress their child is making in terms of phonics/reading, writing and maths, but this week I want to raise the profile of the importance of gross and fine motor skills. Whether your child is 2 years old attending pre-school or 11 years old and part of our Year 6 cohort, the development of these physical skills are vital.

Gross motor skills involve the large muscles of the body that enable such movements as walking, running, jumping, kicking, sitting upright, maintaining balance and co-ordination. They form a foundation for participation in daily activities, play, and sports, influencing a child's ability to socialise and engage with their environment. During the school day, children are given the opportunity to build on their gross motor skills but there are also lots of ways you can encourage this at home.

Activities to Promote Gross Motor Skills -

**Obstacle Courses:** Create or use existing obstacle courses to build balance, coordination, and problem-solving skills.

**Balance Activities:** Engage children on balance balls, seesaws, and wobble boards to enhance stability and tummy muscle strength.

**Dancing and Movement:** Activities like hopping, dancing, swimming, and using sensory parachutes improve coordination and overall movement.

**Playground and Park Activities:** Parks offer a variety of structures for climbing, running, and jumping, supporting development.

**Pushing and Pulling:** Provide pushchairs, heavy toy cars, or the opportunity to help with vacuuming to strengthen muscles and develop proprioception.

**Sports and Ball Play:** Kicking, throwing, and catching balls helps with hand-eye coordination and agility.

**Biking, Scooting and Cycling:** Encouraging cycling promotes balance and larger muscle development.

Fine motor skills, on the other hand, are the precise, coordinated movements using small muscles in the hands, fingers, wrists, and even lips and tongue. They are essential for daily tasks like writing, eating with utensils, and dressing. They are important because they enable dexterity and precision for countless activities, promote independence, are crucial for academic success in tasks like handwriting. They also have a connection to cognitive development by enhancing hand-eye coordination and problem-solving abilities.

Again, there are lots of different ways you can support your child in developing these skills at home -

Drawing and Coloring: Using crayons, pencils, and markers on paper.

Painting: With paintbrushes or fingers to create shapes and images.

Puzzles: Putting together jigsaw puzzles or using pegboards.

Origami: Folding paper into various shapes.

Stickers: Peeling and placing stickers to create patterns or designs.

Paper Crafts: Tearing paper into small pieces, crumpling it into balls or using scissors to cut

Playdough/Clay: Kneading, rolling, squishing, and using tools or cookie cutters to make shapes.

Building Blocks: Using hands and fingers to push and pull small blocks together.

Threading: Stringing beads, Cheerios, or other small objects onto string or yarn.

Tweezers/Tongs: Picking up small objects like marbles or dried beans with tweezers or kitchen tongs.

Syringes/Droppers: Using syringes and eye droppers for art projects.

Dressing Skills: Fastening buttons, zipping zippers, and tying shoelaces.

Food Preparation: Peeling and eating fruits or helping with tasks like stirring and kneading dough, using a knife and fork.

Opening Containers: Twisting open and closed lids on bottles or small jars.

Setting the Table: Placing utensils or other items on the table.

Washing Up: Helping with drying and washing dishes using sponges

Board Games: Playing games that require small movements, such as Connect 4 or Pop-up Pirates.

Magnet Fishing: Using a magnetic wand to pick up small items.

If you have any queries about your child's ability to use fine and motor skills, do get in touch.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Griffiths

### **SHAUN THE SHEEP -Design a new Christmas jumper for Shaun the Sheep**

Please note the deadline for this is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - there is still time to enter. You can pick up a competition entry from the School Office.

Remember, the winning entry is going to be turned into a real jumper.



## Attendance

Attendance figures for this week are:

Reception: 100%

Year 1: 93.64%

Year 2: 95.45%

Year 3: 100%

Year 4: 97%

Year 5: 92.2%

Year 6: 93.64

Whole School Attendance: 94.7%

Notification of a child's absence must be reported to the school office on each day of absence.

A phone call or email must be received by the school office prior to 09:00 giving the reason for absence.

Attendance monitoring takes place regularly in school and Council. If your child's absence drops below 90%, you will



# Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

## Diary Dates

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Kingfisher Phonics Workshop for Parents/Carers 14.00 – 15.00

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Wrens Phonics & Reading Workshop for Parents/Carers 14.15 – 15.00

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October- Scholastic Book Fair 15:05 – 14:45 – School Hall

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Skylarks and Owls Reading Workshop for Parents/Carers - 14.15 – 15.00

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October – World Mental Health Day – Wear Yellow and donate to Youngs Minds

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival at the Church of the Holy Rood – all welcome to join – 14.15

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October -SEND Parent/Carer /Teacher Consultations 08.30 – 16.30

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Parent/Carer/Teacher Consultations 15.20 – 17.30

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Parent/Carer/Teacher Consultations 15.20 17.30

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Last day of half term – normal finish time 15.05 finish time

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday October – Half Term

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – INSET Day – School closed to pupils

