

28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Fortnightly Focus Year R

**Phonics:** We started daily phonics sessions this week. We have been learning to listen for the initial sound of a word, e.g. d for duck and b for ball. Next week we will be learning to spot rhyming words and to continue a rhyming string e.g. “bat, cat, hat... what else rhymes with these words?” If your child says a ‘nonsense’ word, this still counts – we call them alien words at school! You could support your child’s phonics learning at home by playing a game of I spy or try an alternative version of the game using rhyming words for example I spy something that rhymes with...

### Ideas To Support Your Child At Home:

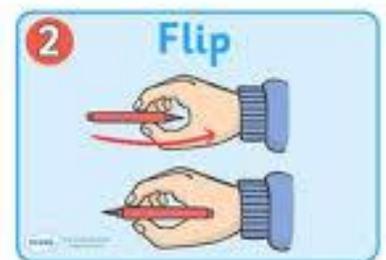
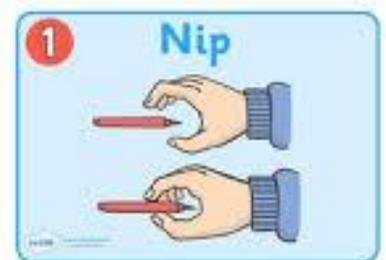
We have been practising writing our names and drawing our families this week, we have noticed that some children are still developing the correct pencil grip. It is really important to encourage correct pencil grip to support fluency and speed in handwriting, as well as correct letter formation. We’ve attached a poster with information about the different pencil grips for you to look at. To practise holding our pens correctly we use the ‘Nip, Flip and Grip’ method for picking up our pens – encourage your child to use this at home. Children often develop better grips when using shorter, chunkier pens, chalks or crayons as there is less room to spread out the fingers.

If your child finds drawing/writing tricky help them develop hand strength and control by drawing on vertical surfaces such as easels or chalking on the floor as this uses a wider range of muscles from the shoulder to the wrist. It doesn’t have to be pen based – they could use a diy paintbrush dipped in water to do ‘magic painting’ on the wall/fence. Other activities that encourage fine motor development include: playdough, bead stringing and hama beads.

### General:

**Please can we remind you that water bottles should not be put in bookbags. It is helpful to start this routine now before they start to take home school books. We have had significant water damage from leaking bottles in the past.**

**We are currently assessing the children and will be sending out reading books on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October. This is when we will also send home the reading record books shown to you at the home visits. Please note that we have had to change our book change days this year to Tuesday and Friday – the children will get two books each time. Planners should be in bookbags everyday, we check and sign every planner once a week on a Monday.**



Thank you for your support!

Mrs Moore

Miss Scott