



# ST JAMES

## Preparatory School

### Reception Newsletter: Autumn Term, Week 2

#### What have we explored this week?

This week we have completed Phonics, Maths and English assessments in order to find out what the children know already. I have been super impressed with how engaged the children have been during this time and with their enthusiasm for their learning.

Whilst I have been completing assessments with children individually, the children have been enjoying their Play and Explore time. They have been engaging in play in both playrooms and getting used to the environment. They have particularly enjoyed the Playdough Area, Construction Area, Home Corner and Music Area.

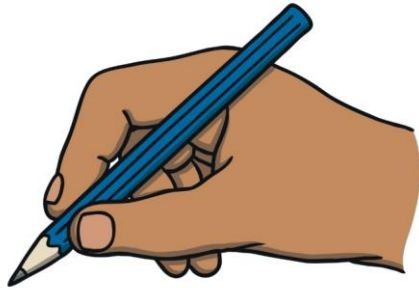
We have some great photos of the children settling in during the past two weeks:



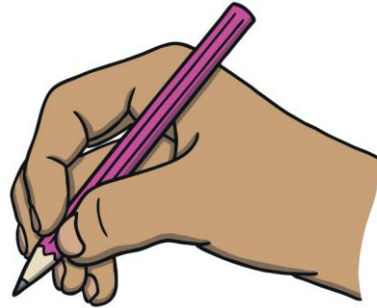


In English, we have worked on our name writing and are trying to hold our pencil with 'snappy fingers'. Please encourage this at home, writing with a tripod grip such as this:

### Dynamic Tripod Grasp



or



Please also encourage the children to write their name with a capital letter at the start and then the rest of the letters in lower case, such as 'Mary' not 'MARY' or 'mary'.



In PHSEE, we have played lots of circle time games such as ‘doggy, doggy, where’s your bone?’, ‘\_\_\_ has a hat’ and ‘roll, roll, roll the ball’. This has helped the children get to know each other and learn everyone’s names.



In Topic work, we have used natural objects to begin conversations about our topic of ‘All About Me’. We made pictures of ourselves and our families using the found materials which sparked conversations about how each family is different.



Every Tuesday, the children visit the Nursery outdoor area and enjoy the climbing frame and other equipment to help develop their gross motor skills. This week they even got to do some songs and dancing with Miss Fortune.



Here are some photos of the children enjoying some of their subject specialist lessons:



## Things to Remember

- **Beginning of Year Service:** On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September the children will be visiting St Mary Abbot's Church in Kensington. Please make sure the children are dressed smartly in **black** school shoes and wearing their blazers.
- **Items to bring in:** Please make sure your child has the following things in school:
  - Water bottle
  - Wellies for Forest School on Monday
  - Smock every Monday (to keep until Friday)
  - Folder
  - Wear gym kits on Thursdays and Fridays to school
  - Library books returned on a Friday
- **Labelling:** Please can you make sure all of your child's property is labelled.
- **Baby Photo:** Please could you also send in some named baby photos of your child at certain stages in their life e.g. baby, 1, 2, 3, 4 and now so that we can talk about how they have changed and to create some timelines with them. It would really help if they could please be put into your child's folder for us to find them easily.