

Nursery Newsletter – January 2021



Happy New Year

The new year has brought new challenges with the announcement that schools will be closed for the majority of children. This means that for most we will be moving to remote home learning. We will be primarily using tapestry to set challenges to do at home so please make sure your details are up to date and make sure you regularly check Tapestry.

Tapestry

There are still a few parents/carers that have not signed up to tapestry. It is crucial that we have this up and running as this is a really good way to keep in touch during this time.

If you have not yet signed up please send an email to learning@beechwoodprimaryschool.co.uk with your child's name, your full name, email address and relationship to the child.

If you have already given me your email but your account is not yet activated, check your email to see if there is an activation email. It could be that I have inputted the email incorrectly so if you are having any trouble please email me with your details so I can get this sorted for you.

Home Learning Packs

We are also busy preparing a home learning pack that will have some activity ideas to support your home learning throughout the school closures. It will also have some key resources such as scissors, glue, scrap book, pencils, whiteboard and pens so that your child can access some of the suggested activities at home.

Mini mash

You will also be provided with a login for Mini mash. An online educational website packed full of activities for children aged 5 and under.

Spring Term Topic – Fantasy Worlds



Our new topic is '**Fantasy Worlds**'. We will begin by talking about what we know about 'Fantasy' and vote on what we would like to start learning about. Please check Tapestry to share your ideas and vote!

Weekly Challenges

As well as topic challenges and activities we will be setting weekly Maths, Communication, language & Literacy, Physical development and PSED challenges. Please check Tapestry each week for the specific challenges.

Here are some general activities and ideas that are useful to do on a regular basis (the home learning pack will also support these activities:

Maths:

It is key that your child continues to be exposed to number daily in a playful way throughout the spring term. See if you can encourage your child to count to 10 and then 20 confidently aloud. Here are a few ideas of maths activities that can be done daily/regularly.

- **Number songs** - please continue to sing number songs such as 5 little speckled frogs, 5 little monkeys & ten green bottles. Youtube is great. (We use singing hands on YouTube in nursery). Why not use toys as props for these songs, then you can take the toys away as you count down.
- **Chanting to 10 and then 20** – in different voices. Can you count to 20 in a quiet voice? Loud voice? Scary voice? Squeaky voice?
- **Counting with actions** – Can you do 3 jumps? 5 hops? 7 claps? Can you start small and grow to 10?
- **Playing games** – Dice and board games are great at encouraging your child to count how many spaces to move a counter across. Other favourite games that involve counting aloud are hide and seek and what time is it Mr Wolf!

- **Numberblocks** – All the numberblocks episodes can be found on Cbeebies. They are great for introducing your child to a range of mathematical concepts and are great at helping your child recognise and understand numbers.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

Literacy:

- **Rhyme time** – Please ensure you are singing, reciting rhymes as much as you can throughout your day.
- **Story time** – Please set aside some time each day to share a book.
- **Name** – Work on your child being able to recognise their name. If they are confident with this you could begin to encourage them to make a mark for their name, even if it is a squiggle or the first letter in their name.
- **Mark making** – Encourage your child to mark make and talk about what they are drawing. (**also see physical development**)

Don't worry if you're reading the same book again or always singing the same rhyme as repetition is key at this age. Look at the pictures and talk about what they can see. It is a great idea to be really cosy while doing this so a great activity would be to make a **reading den**.

Here are some useful links for rhyme and story time:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/barefootbooks> Great songs

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SingingHandsUK>

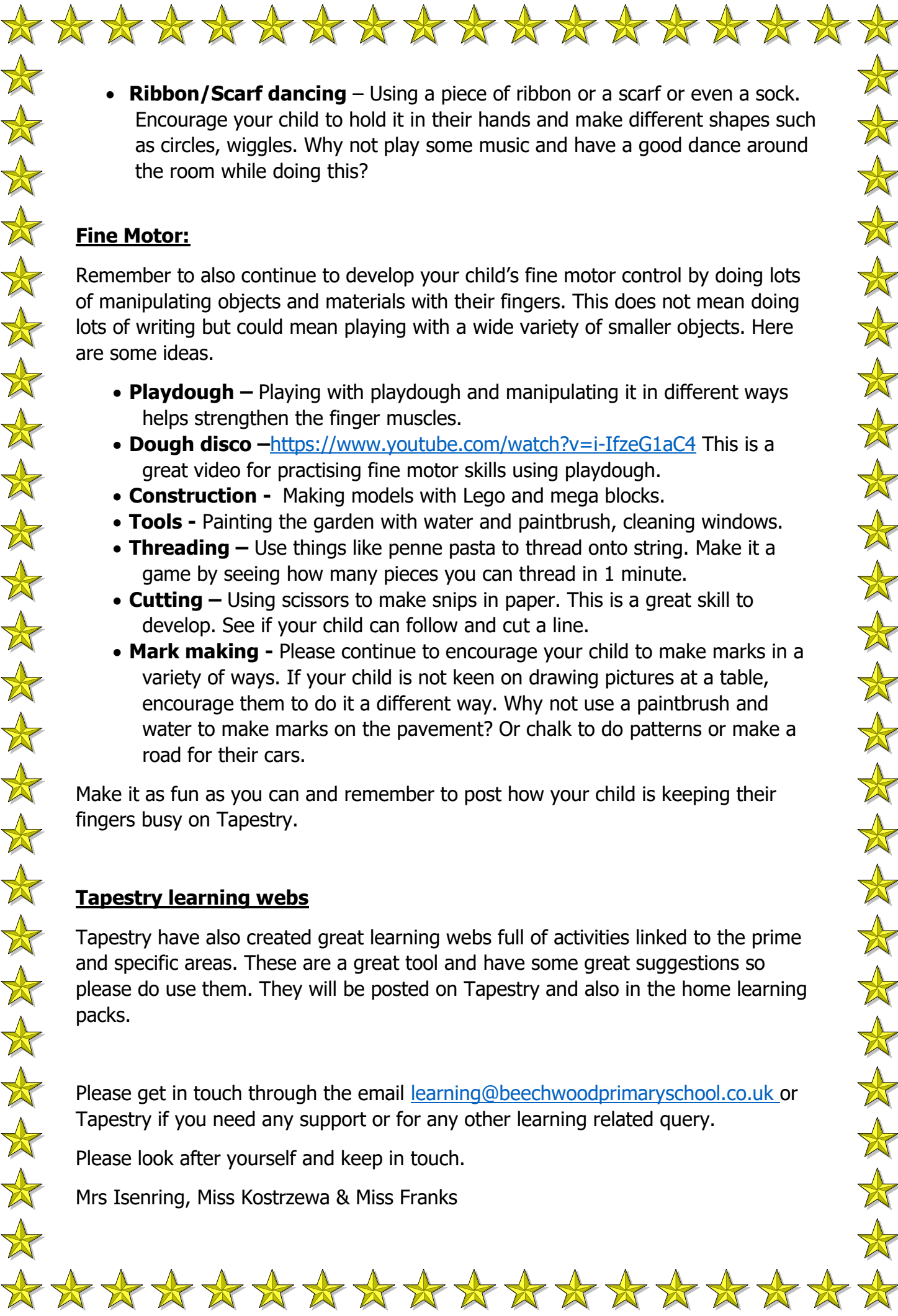
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvhbTxNHgJZh7TWFVCHDgUTa0xagrvzq8> – A link for great story books read aloud.

Physical Development:

It is important to do lots of activities throughout the week that focus on the development of gross and fine motor development.

Gross motor ideas:

- **Moving in different ways** – Play a game where you shout different ways of moving. Jumping, tip toes, crawling, hopping, walking and on hands and feet.
- **Balancing** – Can your child balance on one foot. Can they balance something on their heads as they travel around?
- **Ball/object** – Using a ball or small object get your child to practise their throwing and catching skills.
- **Yoga** – Can your child make different shapes with their bodies. Cosmic yoga is a great YouTube channel with different themed yoga sessions.
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>
- **Go noodle** – Dancing <https://www.youtube.com/user/GoNoodleGames>

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- **Ribbon/Scarf dancing** – Using a piece of ribbon or a scarf or even a sock. Encourage your child to hold it in their hands and make different shapes such as circles, wiggles. Why not play some music and have a good dance around the room while doing this?

Fine Motor:

Remember to also continue to develop your child's fine motor control by doing lots of manipulating objects and materials with their fingers. This does not mean doing lots of writing but could mean playing with a wide variety of smaller objects. Here are some ideas.

- **Playdough** – Playing with playdough and manipulating it in different ways helps strengthen the finger muscles.
- **Dough disco** – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-IfzeG1aC4> This is a great video for practising fine motor skills using playdough.
- **Construction** - Making models with Lego and mega blocks.
- **Tools** - Painting the garden with water and paintbrush, cleaning windows.
- **Threading** – Use things like penne pasta to thread onto string. Make it a game by seeing how many pieces you can thread in 1 minute.
- **Cutting** – Using scissors to make snips in paper. This is a great skill to develop. See if your child can follow and cut a line.
- **Mark making** - Please continue to encourage your child to make marks in a variety of ways. If your child is not keen on drawing pictures at a table, encourage them to do it a different way. Why not use a paintbrush and water to make marks on the pavement? Or chalk to do patterns or make a road for their cars.

Make it as fun as you can and remember to post how your child is keeping their fingers busy on Tapestry.

Tapestry learning webs

Tapestry have also created great learning webs full of activities linked to the prime and specific areas. These are a great tool and have some great suggestions so please do use them. They will be posted on Tapestry and also in the home learning packs.

Please get in touch through the email learning@beechwoodprimaryschool.co.uk or Tapestry if you need any support or for any other learning related query.

Please look after yourself and keep in touch.

Mrs Isenring, Miss Kostrzewa & Miss Franks