Friday 12th December 2025

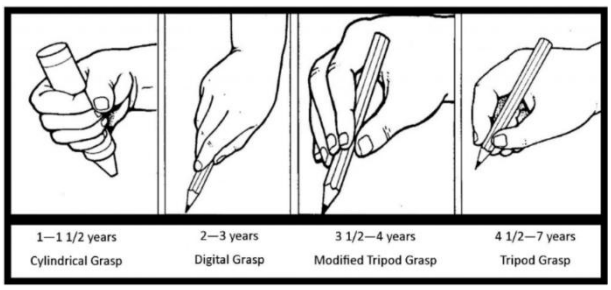
Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our amazing animals topic, we have continued to share lots of animal stories and had fun adding the finishing touches to the junk model animals that we designed. The children are very excited to bring these home to show you. Exploring the colder weather and finding a clutch of ice eggs, we became problem solvers as we thought about the ways that we could help a penguin chick hatch out of an ice egg! Suggestions ranged from making the egg warm by rubbing it or wrapping it up, putting it in hot water, putting it in the sun or on a radiator to melt the ice. Other ideas included blowing on the egg and even cracking it with a hammer, but gently!

In phonics we have introduced the children to the letters **th ng nk** and the sounds that they make. Making the sound **th** is challenging and your child needs to stick their tongue out to say the **loud th** sound as in this, that, them, then and the **quiet th** sound as in moth, thumb, think, bath. It is easy to confuse the sound **th** with **v** and **f** if it is not said correctly and this will make spelling words such as with (wiv) and think (fink) tricky. Remember **th** is two letters that make two sounds – a loud and quiet th. Our new letter blend is **nk**. It is not a digraph or new sound just two sounds said closely together as in sink, bank, junk. We need to listen carefully to hear the difference between the digraph **ng** and the letter blend **nk** when sound talking and spelling words.



During our maths sessions we have been practising adding two parts together by counting all of them to find the whole number; understanding that the amount becomes more. "3 is a part, 2 is a part, the whole number is 5." We have had fun using this skill as we played games. Some children are even beginning to take on the challenge of counting on from the biggest number when they roll two spotted dice, subitising and counting on "5…6, 7"



Home Learning

Challenge your child to copy the letters **th ng nk** and have a go at writing their own. Please continue to encourage them to hold their pencil with a correct tripod grip. Continue to practise reading the tricky words attached to your child's reading record so that they can read these quickly. Have fun rolling two dice and counting how many altogether. Can you count on from the biggest number?

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Team Puffins

We value our parents as partners. Please leave a comment on any aspect of your child's learning. Things they are enjoying, new learning that they may have shared with you or things that they may be finding tricky.

My child's name: Date: