

Thank you for sending the children in their Christmas jumpers last week and for the lovely prizes sent in for the hampers. Don't forget the children are welcome to wear their jumpers again on the last day of term for our Christmas lunch.

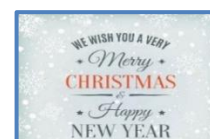
We hope you can come and enjoy the nativity performance this week. Thank you in advance for sending the children in their black bottoms and white tops on Wednesday. Please could you also ensure your child has a jumper to put over their top to avoid them getting dirty for the second performance.

Next Wednesday will be the last day of term, so this week and the start of next will be a week of fun Christmas activities and enjoying this special time of year together. Well done to all the children for a great first term, we have felt very proud of them. We have really enjoyed sharing the Autumn Term with your children. Many thanks for all your support.

As this will be the last newsletter this term, we would like to wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 9 January 2024.

Best wishes

Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy



Finger Gym and Nursery Rhymes

Your children may have shared with you various nursery rhymes and finger gym rhymes we have been learning and carrying out daily. Next term we will be learning more finger gym rhymes and activities. Here is some information about Finger Gym.

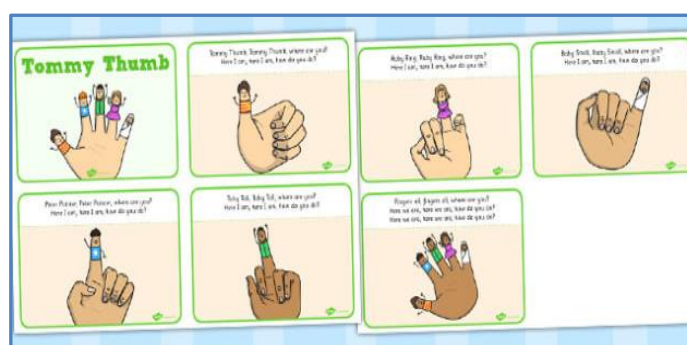
Finger Gym

Finger Gym is a programme of developmental games, stories, rhymes, and activities to improve fine motor skills, language and eventually handwriting. It is a programme that can benefit children from 9 months to 9 years. It helps to develop strong, flexible fingers, hands, and arms. It promotes better hand-eye co-ordination, differentiated movement and manual dexterity. It fosters children's use and understanding of spoken language.

People realised a long time ago that the combination of poem or rhyme and movement positively influences a child's development. The oral tradition of any country provides examples of poems and rhymes accompanied by movements such as *Round and Round the Garden* etc. Later this folk wisdom was confirmed by scientific study. Studies carried out suggest that the development of fine motor skills creates the preconditions for many psychological processes, in particular speech and language development. Some work suggests that motor skills and speech develop in tandem, so when we stimulate fine motor development through hand and finger exercises, we positively influence the development of speech and language.

Fine motor control and hand-eye co-ordination take time and practise to develop. We can prepare children's hands for learning to write long before they have to pick up writing tools. When children start writing and drawing their fingers and hands must work as hard as a marathon runner's legs, so Finger Gym is going to help us get in training!

Over the holiday you can help children your children remember the names we have given the fingers. Perhaps at night-time they can say 'Goodnight Tommy Thumb, Goodnight Peter Pointer, Goodnight Toby Tall, Goodnight Ruby Ring, Goodnight Baby Small, Goodnight fingers all! (The children can isolate and wiggle each finger and then all fingers at the end).



Don't forget.....

School applications must be completed by **January 15, 2024**. It's a good idea to get applications done so there is no risk of forgetting the deadline. The online application is a fairly straightforward process. Go to <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/online-school-applications> for more information.