



COOKHAM NURSERY SCHOOL

WEEKLY UPDATE 11.06.26

THIS WEEK

The children have been practising their scissor skills during Free Flow, remembering “elbows in and thumbs to the sky”. ‘Practise makes permanent’ and they will continue to revisit and refine this skill throughout their Reception year and beyond.

Scissor practise is just one small part of developing strong fine motor skills. Fine motor development is woven into everyday Free Flow at Nursery through painting, mark making, puzzles, small world play, Duplo, Lego, and of course, playdough.

A little note: using gluten-free flour makes playdough trickier to roll—excellent extra practise for strengthening hand and wrist muscles!

We discovered this while rolling out playdough beanstalks to compare lengths.



We have also been practising underarm throwing and catching large balls. This involves many skills, including hand-eye coordination. Learning to throw and catch is an important part of developing spatial awareness, supporting not only physical development but also future mathematical and literacy learning.



NEXT WEEK



We've continued exploring Yayoi Kusama's wonderful polka-dot designs while creating our Father's Day cards (shhh... a surprise is on the way!). Next week, we'll be practising our early writing skills for the card inserts. Before children learn formal letter shapes, they first need to develop a "have a go" attitude, understand that marks carry meaning, know that we write from left to right and top to bottom, and build the fine motor control needed to hold a pencil.

There is so much important learning that comes before letter formation, and it all takes lots of practise. Letter shapes will come later, when they begin learning phonics in Reception. When you receive your child's card, please celebrate their mark-making and ask, "What did you write?" as you gently run your finger from left to right along their marks.

Composition—deciding what we want to write—is a huge part of early writing, not just how we form the letters. However, if a child shows interest in copying a few letters from their name, it becomes a valuable and special step in their early writing journey.

AT HOME

Please practise throwing underarm and catching a large ball with your child. Remind them to watch the ball and have their hands ready. When throwing back, check that they have their hands under the ball to throw it underarm and that they practise throwing toward the catcher's hands.

