

Learning at home

In light of the current COVID 19 situation, children will be spending extended periods at home. We would like to suggest the following activities and websites to support home learning:

- We will send home letters and sounds books for you to revise phase 3 sounds.
- Continue with daily reading, using books from home.
- Encourage independent writing.
- Please see attachments for suggestions on how you can provide learning opportunities at home.
- Lots of further learning opportunities are available on Education City <https://www.educationcity.com/> and Purple Mash <https://www.purplemash.com/sch/northdowns> The user name and password is the same for both websites and these can be found in your child's reading diary.
- Please remember you can upload evidence of all learning to Tapestry for us to see and celebrate.

We are doing everything we can in these difficult times and thank you for your continued support. The children remain happy and enthusiastic to learn!

In the last 2 weeks we have...

- Planted seeds and learned how to take care of them. Now we must be patient and wait for them to grow!
- Explored our grounds looking for changes from Winter to Spring.
- Told the story of the 3 Billy Goats Gruff using story language.
- Halved, doubled and shared
- Talked about the life cycle of a bean
- Discussed how we keep healthy.

Over the next two weeks we will...

- Observe changes as our seeds germinate.
- Continue our Spring diary
- Use story language to retell Cinderella
- Halve, double and share
- Explore coins

Wanted

- Recycling that can be used for junk modelling (Owls only)
- Any old/outgrown uniform and underwear

Reminders

- Please remember to name ALL clothing including socks if possible
- Please continue to let your child handle coins at home to help with their knowledge and coin recognition.

Dear Parents,

Whilst schools are closed, we hope that you enjoy the extra time with your children at home. As you know, the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum focuses on encouraging children to become independent learners by applying their skills and knowledge to self-initiated activities and play at home provides a great opportunity for extending your child's learning.

Your children have worked very hard to build up their knowledge and confidence with their letters and sounds. We are sure you will have noticed how far they have come with their reading and writing and we are asking for your support to ensure they continue learning whilst schools are closed.

Here are a few key things to help your child develop their phonic knowledge:

Try to find time to practise letters and sounds every day. Just 5-10 minutes of quick revision will help them to remember what they have learned. In school, we use flash cards as a prompt for each sound (post it notes will work just as well), using the phrase "My name is my phoneme is". Remember to revisit Phase 2 phonemes (in your child's blue sound book) as well as Phase 3 digraphs (in your child's green sound book). Some children have already created their own phonics wall at home, so if you have a space that can be used to display letters and sounds on post it notes your child can create their very own learning environment.

Encourage your child to use their sounds to write labels or captions for their drawings, lego models, pretend play scenarios etc. Challenge them to add a common exception word (shown in the front of each sound book). We have taught capital letters, finger spaces between words and full stops at the end of their sentences so praise your child where you see these in their writing. Do not be tempted to write the word for them to copy, let them try for themselves; a word that is written phonetically is highly valued as this shows that children are applying the phonics code independently. In school, we encourage children to challenge themselves, using their 'phoneme fingers' to orally segment and blend each word before writing.

Read with your child every day. Share a range of books including fiction and non-fiction. Can they spot any common exception words? Listen to stories (the library offers ebooks and CBeebies have a range of stories to listen to online). We have recently been learning about traditional tales and associated story language e.g. Once upon a time, Lived happily ever after.

To develop mathematical skills at home, you might like to try and look for the following learning opportunities.

Encourage your child's counting skills, being mindful that each object has one number name and that counting is not simply reciting number names in order. Can your child recognise the written numeral to match the number of objects counted? Can they spot numbers out on a walk? Can they write the numeral? Can they count in 2's? We are working with numbers to 20.

Can your child tell you how many they would have if they had 'one more' or 'one less'? Does the number get larger or smaller? Is the quantity 'more' or 'fewer'?

If you have 2 sets of objects, can your child combine them to find the total (addition)? Can they combine more than 2 sets? Can they spot a 'double' (the same number added to itself)?

Can your child name and describe 2D and 3D shapes?

What do coins look like? How are they different? What is their value? How many ways can they make 5p, 10p etc?

Please remember to share your child's learning on Tapestry as we will be checking this on a regular basis; It is very helpful for us to know how much adult support was given so that we can provide you with effective feedback.

Have fun! Children learn best when they are enjoying themselves.

Thank you so much for your support in these difficult circumstances,
Miss Morgan and Mrs Cobbold