



Dear Parents/Carers,

5th January 2021

Happy New Year. I hope you have managed to have a relaxing Christmas break and are all staying safe and well, despite the trying circumstances we find ourselves in.

As you will be aware, we have now entered another national lockdown and school is shut for the next six weeks. This means we have had to move to remote learning. Whilst I appreciate this is not ideal, I assure you I will do all I can to support you and your child whilst they are at home. For Class 1 this means a **weekly home learning grid** which will go onto Class 1's page of the school website at the start of each new week. The activities and ideas suggested reinforce practical hands on learning experiences as this is the best way for Early Years children to learn. There are some links to activity sheets if you would like to use them. You will also find our **medium term planning 'Castle and Dragons'** for this half term, and we will also be learning about Winter time. This plan gives an overview of some of the intended activities we would have delivered in school and some will be included on the weekly home learning grids. Due to current circumstances this planning is flexible and will be adapted due to the current situation.

The weekly grids will signpost you to maths and phonics sessions, suggest some writing activities and provide links to other activities and lessons. Additionally, we may suggest ideas to ensure your child is able to take part in other areas of the EYFS curriculum, for example, physical activities, RE, music and PSHE. We fully appreciate that home learning can be very challenging, especially with our younger children who need lots of support, and there may be other constraints placed upon parents, such as their own work to attend to, or babies and toddlers to care for, or indeed, if they are ill themselves. As such, we ask that you do what you can but we do not want anyone to feel under any unnecessary pressure. However may I stress the importance of keeping your child's learning going wherever possible. If you are struggling, for whatever reason, please speak to me and I will help in any way I can.

The Class 1 section on the school website is where you will find the weekly learning grid and from there click on the pink box that says **Google Class Site**. Here there are links to useful websites and a **Parents Resource file** where activity sheets and other useful documents can be accessed and printed off as required.

Literacy

Nursery Children are working at Phase 1 of the letters and sounds programme. Please continue to reinforce this phase, and if your child is ready to learn letters by their shape and sound follow phase 2 in the 'Parent's Guide to Phonics' on the school website. Nursery children should continue to practice reading and writing their own names and singing the alphabet, to familiarise themselves with letter names.

Reception children The weekly learning grids will detail which letter sounds to learn and will use Scrap's phonics videos and teaching activities to reinforce them- <https://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk/what-we-offer/discovery-education-espresso> (Log in to Espresso: student9562 Password: ca5tle) There will be other phonic activities on the weekly learning grid to develop skills for reading and spelling for Reception children. The children have recently completed Phase 2 prior to the Christmas break and will benefit from reinforcing the letters and sounds in this phase. They will now follow Phase 3 and the sounds and tricky words to learn are detailed in the 'Parent's Guide to Phonics' which is on Class 1's page on the school website. Please continue to learn the 'tricky' words in your child's reading folder.

Both Nursery and Reception children - Please continue to read picture books with your child. Talk about the main characters and the meaning of any unfamiliar words to increase your child's vocabulary and understanding of language.

The following websites are useful for reading and phonics skills:

<https://www.mrmcmakingmemories.com> Mr. Mc has some great phonics lessons and he is also on Facebook.

www.phonicsplay.co.uk All resources and games are currently free to use

<https://ictgames.com/mobile> Literacy/phonics games to use

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk> Offers helpful advice for parents and free simple reading 'ebooks'

Mathematics

Nursery children

- Continue to count out loud by rote to 10 and beyond.
- Continue to develop recognition of numbers up to 10 and beyond if they can.
- Count out sets of objects carefully and say how many there are altogether.
- Recognise written numbers up to 10 (start up to 5 then extend to 10). Match the correct number of objects to a written number.
- Continue to sing a variety of number rhymes and songs.

Reception children

The weekly home learning grid will include activities to support mathematical skills. We currently use some of the White Rose Maths resources and you have access to their videos and activities using the link which is on our class Google site -

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning>. Here are some other useful links for maths:

<https://oxfordowl.co.uk> follow the maths link and use 'Fun maths at home'

<https://nrich.maths.org> Early years activities to reinforce understanding of number

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks> Great video clips and linked to White Rose Maths

<https://topmarks.co.uk> free maths games and activities available

The children enjoy the following songs on You Tube: The big numbers song, 10 little numbers, Jack Hartmann Count to 100, Let's count to 20, Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons (they love this one!)

I will keep in close contact with parents during school closure, in the first instance via email but am always available on the phone if you prefer to speak in person. Please use Tapestry to post any photographs of activities your child completes. Tapestry is a great way for me to keep track of your child's achievements, and another way to keep in contact with you whilst your child stays at home.

I have put together a pack for your child with a few resources that you may find useful and some reading books that can be collected from school on Wednesday. Please contact school to arrange collection.

Zoom Meetings : Finally, it is important that we stay in touch as a school community during this time and we are planning a number of Zoom meetings each week so the children can see each other as a class, as a bubble and as a whole school. Our first Zoom will be tomorrow morning (**Wednesday**, January 6th at **10am**) where we will join with Class 1 for a catch up and story time. We hope to make this a regular meeting. Ms Stacey will also invite you to a regular school assembly Zoom on **Thursday January 7th at 2.30pm**. We will also have a regular Class 1 Zoom each week on **Tuesday at 9.30 am** where we will share our news, and have a quick maths and/or phonics activity. Links for these Zooms will be emailed out to you.

I appreciate this is a lot of information to take on board. Please let me know you require anything further. In the meantime, stay safe and well.

Kind Regards,

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