

Foundation Stage Learning at Home

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support over the next couple of weeks. I hope you find some of the resources in the pack useful, and you enjoy having the time at home to spend together.

I would really love to see some of the things you get up to on Tapestry - I will keep logging on, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Number/letter formation: I have included examples of how we form letters and numbers in foundation stage. You can use the sheets provided, but it is more fun and engaging for the children to make pictures and posters, using a range of pens, pencils and even paint or glue to write these. Obviously they don't need to be written in isolation - making rainbow words and messages is great! You can also trace numbers and letters in sand, rice, liquid soap... or get a pot of water and decorating brush and paint the patio and fence. Please keep an eye on your child's pencil grip and encourage them to use a comfortable tripod grip.

Number cards: There is a set of number cards to 20 with corresponding pictures to cut out and make games. You can put numbers in order forwards and backwards (ie starting at 20) and match them to groups of objects. You can help your child to find sets of objects around the house to match each numeral, or play lotto, pelmanism or snap! with them. Please encourage your child to talk about the number that is one more/one less. It would also be fantastic if you can practise counting back as well as up, maybe taking turns to say one number each so your child is really having to listen and think. Many children are finding it tricky to count back through the 'teen' numbers so securing this would be most beneficial.

High frequency and tricky words: Please spend time with your child reading these words. It is most helpful for children to be able to read these on sight as they come across them so frequently. You can go on word hunts together - look in books, comics and on packets, write words on card or post-it notes and play pairs, or stick them to the floor and jump on them, jumble up the letters and have a go at making them - even easier if you have magnetic letters on the fridge!

Technology Home Learning Challenges: With the pace of technological change, and the limits of school budgets, for us technology is one of the most challenging areas of the early years curriculum to explore and find evidence for. The sheet gives you some ideas about some of the things you can do together - please share these on Tapestry. In addition, early programming skills begin with being able to give an accurate sequence of simple instructions. This can be a lot of fun - can you and your child design a simple obstacle course for one of you or a toy to follow? Or can your child give you instructions for making a sandwich? This can be hilarious if you follow exactly what

they tell you to do - but it is also wonderful to see how quickly they learn to plan what they are saying so it works out.

Easter Home Learning Challenges: A collection of six seasonal, cross curricular activities to share at home - we will talk about these when the children come back to school. If they would like to bring their baskets in and explain how they made them to their friends we would love to see them.

In addition to the activities in the packs each child has an exercise book - please use this as a diary to keep together - you can draw, write and stick things in each (school) day. It does not need to be a lot, in school every child writes a short sentence each morning, usually including one or more of the tricky words we are learning. If you can maintain this habit at home it will really help your child. If you and your child prefer to write a novel together, that is also wonderful and we will celebrate your achievement, but don't feel pressurised to do so!

There is also a huge range of activities you can share with your child, many (all?) of which you probably already do that are of enormous benefit educationally and developmentally. A few ideas...

Reading, reading, reading, reading, reading, reading..... sharing stories, rhymes, recipes, comics, everything... and encouraging your child to have a go themselves! Talk about what you have read, ask you child their opinion about characters, places, events and if they were writing that story would they change anything? You can also make up your own stories together, write them down and illustrate them, then read them back together.

Baking and cooking - lots of practical maths and science as well as using tools safely - encourage discussion about what they are doing and notice - you may even get dinner out of it!

Glue/paint/collage - can be done outside using natural materials as well as cutting up magazines and old birthday cards or fabrics.

Transient art/pattern making - google the artist Andy Goldsworthy for some inspiration

Junk modelling (masking tape is your friend - children can find the end and cut it easily themselves) we have been learning about 3d shapes in school naming cube, cuboid, sphere, cylinder and cone and describing their properties - the language we use includes faces, corners, edges, straight, flat and curved.

Board games either games you already have or design/make your own - great for mathematical thinking, combining numbers (if you use two dice) and 1:1 correspondence.

Sewing great for fine motor development, and also very rewarding for children. You could use an old pillow case and transform it into a cape or other role play outfit perhaps? Or cut out an egg shape and stitch patterns onto it as an Easter decoration. Simplest of all, stitch an initial onto a paper plate (it doesn't move as much as fabric) or around the edge of a birthday card to make a picture.

Putting on a show! Sharing stories together, acting them out, dressing up, adding some music and dancing - maybe record on your phone or ipad and watch back together... about the most fun a four or five year old can have and brilliant for developing communication and language skills, social awareness, expressive and imaginative skills, understanding of story structures (the list goes on).

Play dough always a winner! Google a recipe for playdough, there are a few different methods. If you don't want to keep it for ages then you don't need to cook it. Most recipes have 2 cups of flour, half - 1 cup of salt, oil, cream of tartar and water. You can add your own colouring, textures and scents. If you want really stretchy dough you can use bread flour. Don't use baking powder to replace cream of tartar unless you want sticky dough - if you don't have cream of tartar it is ok to leave it out. Experimenting is part of the fun! Once made you can use different tools, containers, cutlery, objects to embellish (beads, flowers, leaves - whatever you have)

There are also a number of apps and programmes available you can share with your child, here are a few suggestions:

Phonicsplay we use this in school but it is possible to access parts of the website for free. In foundation stage the children have all completed Phase 2 and most children are beginning Phase 3. When you play the games you have an option to select the sounds you want to focus on. Ms Bradby's phonics group has covered up to the long vowel digraphs ai and ee in class so far, my group have covered up to v. (as of Friday 13th March). All children will benefit from revisiting Phase 2 games as well as the new sounds.

Teach my monster to read this is a great app for building reading confidence. Personally I find having to get the ducks onto the pond exasperating, but the children seem to manage perfectly!

Numberblocks This is very good visually to help children to understand the composition of numbers and place value. There are lots of episodes on You tube - we have been partitioning and recombining numbers to 10 this term. Even better if you can watch together and talk about what is happening, or even get some sticky squares or bricks and make the different characters

[Numberjacks](#) an older programme, but popular.

There are also a number of interactive maths apps you can pay for (unless they offer a free trial) - very much up to you if that is what you would like to do - it's just another option, these include - Bugs and Numbers , Busy things, Maths age 4-6.

Above all else, stay well and enjoy having this extra time together - your children are amazing!