



Fleet Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all managed to have as best a break as possible in the current situation.

Our topic this term is *Super Stories*.

During the first half of the term, each week we will have a different traditional tale such as; *The Three Little Pigs*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Gingerbread Man* to hang our home learning on. Each week there will be a video of me reading the text and a task sheet that will give you examples of activities to do at home including reading, phonics, maths, physical development, understanding the world and expressive arts and design. After half term, hopefully when we return to school, we will look at a range of modern stories that I believe the children will really enjoy. I'll send more information regarding this closer to the time.

Traditional tales provide valuable opportunities to develop language skills. Please talk to your child about; who is in the story, what happened, where it happened, what they think about the different characters etc. Please revisit the key text a couple of times over the week as we know that when children are really familiar with stories, this can feed into their independent play and imaginative ideas. It also helps them to become confident talkers and writers as they use stories they know as a base to develop their own ideas.

Reading

Please continue to read with and to your child every day at home! It is one of the best things you can do to support their learning. I will send two PDF books or videos out each week. I will scaffold the text for the children in the videos, modelling strategies good readers do and covering key words to learn.

We are also going to trial an online reading programme called Bug Club. More information regarding this will follow shortly.



I will endeavour to get story videos up each week for the children to listen to as well, so keep an eye out for these on our Twitter page and website.

You might like to promote use of these strategies when helping your child with reading at home -

- Get the first sound on the tip of their tongue.
- Search the pictures for clues.
- Think about what makes sense.
- Think about what sounds right.
- Jump over the word and come back to it.

Be careful if asking your child to only sound the words out because as we know, in English this does not always work. It is important they have a variety of reading strategies up their sleeve as well as being able to sound words out.

With all this in mind, we must ensure reading is fun and enjoyable.

If you can see your child is struggling, read the story to them first then they can have a go.

They could fill in the gaps, or have a little treasure hunt at the end of the story.

Such as, "Can you find the word '*the*' for me?" or "Put your finger on the word '*I*'."

Talk to them about what they see in the book and what words might be on the page?

It is always a good idea to ask them a little bit about the book when you have finished to check their understanding. Can they show you their favourite page? Why is that their favourite? etc.

The Early Learning Goal for reading that we want to get the children to by the end of Reception is to read and understand simple sentences, use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately and some common irregular words such as '*you*' and '*the*'.

If you have any questions about reading please do not hesitate to ask.

Phonics

Our phonics learning will continue over this period of home learning so please ensure you keep up with these. We will have 2 sounds each week. I will put activities on the task sheet and send accompanying videos too.

Phonics Ideas

Graffiti Wall

Fill up a page with a focus letter or words that start with that letter.



Odd One Out

Ask your child to tell you the odd one out?

cat, cookie, fish?

hiss, kiss, fall?

fox, dog, t-rex?

etc

They might come up with some random responses. Try to accentuate the sounds you want them to



Put it Together

Segment a word into sounds and ask your child to put them back together.
ie – “D, o, g?”
“Dog.”

Noughts and Crosses



Play noughts and crosses with 2 letters. Encourage your child to say something starting with their letter each time too.

Sound Tennis

Call out a sound, your child ‘bounces’ back something that starts with that letter. You can play this the other way around too.



For example – “D.” “Dinosaur.”

What’s in the Box?



Put a selection of toys and items in a box that all start with two different sounds. The children sort the items depending on the initial sounds.

Rainbow Letters



Practise writing a letter or word over and over with different colours, turning it into a rainbow.

Eye Spy

Don’t forget this classic game!
“Eye spy with my little eye something beginning with...”

Pictionary

“I’m drawing a picture of something starting with c.” etc

Websites

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>

This gets harder as the children go through the game.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> Try the free phase 2 games.

Jolly Phonics Songs

The Jolly Phonics songs are all on youtube.

Just search, *Jolly phonics songs*.



Writing


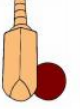










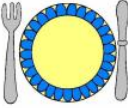













By the end of Reception, the writing aim is for the children to be able to write a simple sentence independently. To help them get there during this lockdown, please try and write with them every couple of days, if not every day.

Writing for a purpose is great place to start, such as writing reminders to stick on the fridge, shopping lists and cards for friends and family.

I will also set writing activities to do each week that link to our key text.

Talk to your child about what they want to write and help them get their sentence ready.

Ask, "What is your first word? Let's say the word slowly, what sounds can you hear?" Then encourage them to write down the key sounds they have identified. They might not include every letter or spell a word correctly and this is completely fine at this stage. As the children are at the beginning of their writing journey, celebrate every effort. They might need help with where to start on their page, writing left to right in English and with letter formation. Please use the following letter card to help them or you could model it on a scrap piece of paper. I have a general rule that I never use rubbers/erasers with children. This can be really discouraging for them. We want them to be able to see themselves as writers, feel happy with the hard work they have put in and confident to have a go. Thank you for your time with this. I know it is a commitment for you as they need help at this stage with their writing.

 a	 b	 c	 d	 e
 f ff	 g	 h	 i	 j
 k	 l ll	 m	 n	 o
 p	 q	 r	 s ss	 t
 u	 v	 w	 x	 y
 z zz	I to the no go he she me we was you they all my are			

Mathematics

Please try and do a little bit of number work each day. Physical exercise is a good way to drop in some counting. *Let's do 10 star jumps. Let's run for 20 seconds. How many hops can you do? How many steps do you think it is to the front door?*

When going out for some daily exercise, how about going on a number or shape hunt? *Can you see the number 11? Let's count how many circles we can find on our walk.*

Helping with food preparation is a nice way in too. *Can you get me 3 potatoes? etc*

This half term, our home learning focuses will include; estimating how many items they see in a set and counting them to check, adding small sets and use the language of addition and subtraction. We also really want to ensure the children are secure with number recognition and counting objects with one to one correspondence.

Please do let me know if there is anything you are unsure about or would like help with.

I really do appreciate all of your support and hard work at home with the children. I can't imagine it is easy. Hopefully we can get back to the classroom as soon as possible!

Keep safe and well,

Beth Cleine