

Monday 20th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and managed to have a relaxing Easter break under the circumstances. I know that this experience is different for everybody. I just hope you are all keeping safe and managing the time in the way that is best for your family. We really do miss the children and hope we can be back safely in school as soon as possible. Further to our last letter, below are some learning activities and a range of Website links you might like to use to support the children's learning. Please do bear in mind again though these are only suggested. This continues to be an unprecedented situation and we absolutely understand that what works for some children might not be suitable for others.

Should parents/carers wish to contact me (or send a message from child to teacher) please feel free to use the new class email address: devas@hunton.kent.sch.uk and I will ensure I check this daily (Monday-Friday). It would be also be a lovely way to perhaps share any children's work/ activities via photos; I would really love to see them! (But again, there is no requirement to do so!)

Below are activities for reading, writing and maths for the duration of Term 5.

Reading

As part of the previous learning pack, I have tried to provide books for the children to read. Thank you for all your support with the children's reading. Please do continue reading as far as you can. I have attached the phase 2 – phase 5 tricky words. These are sight words that have to be learnt as seen (they are not spelt phonetically). Practicing these will be helpful for the children.

There are some lovely phonics/ reading practice activities I would recommend on <https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/> (search EYFS.) If you could build in 15 minutes a day on these it would really help the children build their skills. This term we would have continued to consolidate the phase 3 phonic sounds if you wish to continue this practice! I have attached a mat with the sounds listed.

Writing

Essential practice would be to continue to master writing the phase 2 and phase 3 sounds. You could also...

Encourage the children to look at a range of different books, such as stories, poems, information books and comics. Talk about favourite stories and characters. Read some traditional tales.

Practise identifying letter sounds (phonics). Look for letters you see in different places like junk mail and cookbooks, and demonstrate reading the words. Can they spot any digraphs?

Make word and letter sound cards for sounds or words your child finds tricky. Try saying them in funny voices to help practising them more fun!

Encourage your child to explore writing using different materials such as pencils, chalk, crayons and pens. They could try writing letters into a tray of sand or flour using a finger or try painting letters onto a pavement using a paintbrush and water.

Demonstrate different purposes for writing such as writing a shopping list or a greetings card. Encourage the children to try writing for different purposes too and praise them for their efforts. They could even write to me telling me what they have done each day or a memorable moment.

<https://mailchi.mp/talk4writing/home-school-booklets> has a brilliant whole topic for EYFS. Something to be done in small chunks daily if you want to for around 10/15 minutes at a time.

Mathematics

Make a daily timetable with pictures in order.

At each activity look at an analogue clock; what number is the hour (small) / minute (big) hand pointing to?

Look for numbers in different places. Talk about house numbers, car number plates, prices of goods in the supermarket online (!), etc. Challenge children to identify the numbers and say which number is one more or one less than the ones they see. Play supermarkets by putting numbers on cans and getting your child to order them.

Play dice games with your child such as snakes and ladders. Talk about simple addition and subtraction in practical ways. Use toys or other items to demonstrate addition by counting on and subtraction by counting back. Write number sentences e.g. $1 + 2 = 3$

Look for 2D and 3D shapes around the house or when out and about and ask your child to describe them. Encourage the use of correct terms such as 'sides' and 'corners'. Build models or pictures using empty packaging or paper shapes and talk about the shapes used.

Compare size, weight and capacity. Get your child using words like 'longer', 'shorter', 'taller', 'heavier', 'lighter', 'full' and 'empty'. Talk about things you see in the world around you, or create opportunities for comparison, perhaps by rolling play dough snakes ('Can you make a longer/ shorter one?') or pouring water into different cups during bath time.

Follow a recipe. Ask your child to read out the numbers and help weigh ingredients.

This is a good resource from White Rose

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/early-years>

There are lots of lovely practical activities included (again I'd love to see any photos) based on the brilliantly funny book, Supertato (you don't need the actual book.) These can be found under the summer term 1 tab.

For writing and maths I have not sent any worksheets this time but, if you/ your children like worksheets as a learning tool, do access the EYFS section on the Twinkl website. They literally cover all aspects of the children's learning!

PE/ Outdoor activities

It's so important for the children to keep physically active. I am sure you are all familiar with 'Joe Wicks' live workout at 9am. Join in when you can. I am (and it doesn't hurt quite as much as it did the first few times now!)

At this point in the year we would be talking about the change of seasons, weather and the range of flowers/ plants and wildlife you might come across. I'd also love to see any photos or hear any comments from the children when you are out and about on your daily walks. What do they notice?

We would also have been planting in our garden this term. Are you growing any fruits, vegetables or flowers at home? We have managed to bed some flowers, strawberry plants, green beans, carrots and potatoes in our Devas planters, we're hopeful the children will be back in school to see them in full bloom!

Weekly activities

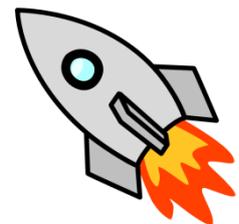
Space

This term we were due to begin our topic learning on Space. Each week we would be covering a different aspect of Space.

Every Monday I'll send a little list of activities and challenges similar to the sorts of things we may have done in school. You can do all of them or none of them. There's no pressure! Again I'd love to see any photos.

This week we are focusing on **Rockets**.

- Read the book 'whatever next'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nn73STXrPP0>
- Can you act out the story with boxes and sieves, retell the story or even create your own rocket out of a box? Where would you fly?
- Use 2D shapes to draw or collage a rocket- can you name/ label the shapes?
- Can you find out the names of the main parts of a rocket? Read 'roaring rockets'.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ko306WCHRns>
- Can you build a 3D rocket out of Lego/ k nex or junk modelling. Perhaps you could think of a different way to make a 3D rocket? What other materials could you use?
- Can you watch a you tube video of a rocket launch, count down from 10 to 1 and don't forget to shout blast off!
- Can you make a space rocket control panel?



RE

This term we would have been looking at '**what we can learn from Old Testament stories?**' particularly focusing on the themes of 'promises' and the value of 'trust'.

We would be learning how the Old Testament is in the beginning of the Bible and how it is special to both Christian and Jewish people.

Every Monday I'll send you an Old Testament story we would have looked at.

This week would have been

Noah's ark (a lovely way to remind children that the rainbow, our current symbol of hope, thanks and unity) appears in this bible story as God's promise to the world after the flood.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JZHxki9BB4>

Lots of Noah inspired activities here

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=noah>

Further suggestions.

- Can you talk about promises? What do the children think they are? What promises have they seen? What promises have they made.
- Can they pair animals and count them in twos?
- Can they make a rainbow? What different materials could they use?
- Can they make a boat like Noah? What would they choose to make it with?

I know this is a lot to take in. Please remember most of it is designed to support you through the term. Again, it is up to you how much or how little you do. Everyone's safety and well-being is absolutely paramount at the moment. Please take care and don't forget to use the email address if you have any questions and queries. I'll be in touch again on Monday.

Thank you again for your support- you're doing a brilliant job!

Mrs Pilcher

Devas teacher.

A note for the children

Hope you are all well and haven't eaten too many Easter eggs! I have included a picture of Nelly who has finally had a trim. Not that she was very happy about it, as you can see by her face. She's not a fan of bath and trim time!

Mrs Adams and Mrs Venus were keen to write you letters, they will come through via email today, so hopefully your Mummies and Daddys will pass them on to you. I'll write to you again soon!

Love Mrs Pilcher



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