Dear Parents here is some information about your child’s home learning activities and an outline of this week’s tasks. You can choose when to complete these with your child.

LITERACY

*The instructions below can be applied to your child’s weekly sounds and high frequency words. You do not have to complete all of the activities each week, they are just suggested activities to help you have fun learning the sounds and words together.*

Each week we will outline the Jolly Phonics sounds to be introduced. Search on [www.jollylearning.co.uk](http://www.jollylearning.co.uk/) and select resource bank at the top of the page and search for the required sound (be sure to select 'British English' for the sounds). Children should focus on the correct pronunciation and letter formation of these sounds. To support this, you and your child could practice making/forming the sound using a variety of materials e.g. playdough, shaving foam, chalk or paintbrushes and water on the ground outside. You could look for pictures of words that begin with or contain these sounds in books and magazines or your child could draw them. You might like to make a collage for each sound.

Each week we will outline the high frequency words to be introduced. Practice writing the words with various colours or even make them with playdough or magnetic letters. You could go on a word hunt by writing the words on post its and sticking them around your house for your child to find and read aloud. Another great fun activity is to write the words on the ground outside with chalk (or on paper plates if you are inside); encourage your child to try to hit the words with a ball or beanbag and say the word out loud as they score.

Children can try to build and write their own sentences using the words that they already know. To support the children further, create a sentence with your child using their words (e.g.  'I have an apple' or 'I am a little girl'), write it on a strip of paper, cut it up into words, jumble them and let the children unjumble the words and recreate the sentence. They could practice writing it underneath. As they become more confident they can have a go at writing the sentences by themselves, remembering capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. When we are writing in school we work on stretching words and listening for the sounds at the start, in the middle and at the end of the word. Please encourage your child to do this at home as well. If they get stuck on a word please don’t spell it for them, instead say the word slowly and encourage them to listen to the individual sounds. This may result in some words being spelt incorrectly (eg ‘ilind’ for ‘island’ or ‘botl’ for ‘bottle’) but means that your child will be applying their phonics knowledge.

In addition to the new words we introduce each week you can keep practicing the first 50 Reading Building Blocks words inside your child’s yellow reading record book. Our aim would be to recognise as many as possible by the end of the year.

We will be using Oxford Owl [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/) to support children's learning in reading. Follow your Seesaw instructions for this. Your child will be allocated one book per week. It is also important to take the time to explore and enjoys books together based on your child’s own interests. Have a story time session each afternoon and of course share a relaxing bedtime story. Over the coming weeks we may suggest activities that you can carry out based on a favourite book.

Your child’s handwriting workbook has also been sent home. Each week complete the allocated page using a sharp pencil. Try to ensure that your child holds the pencil with appropriate pencil grip.

NUMERACY

Mental maths activities: sing a selection of number songs/counting songs we use each day such as '12345 Once I caught a Fish alive', 'One Man Went to Mow', 'This Old Man', '5 Littles Ducks', days of the week. Practice counting forwards and backwards and counting from different numbers each time (this is really tricky, especially when counting backwards. Practice makes perfect!)

Lots of numeracy concepts can also be reinforced through daily household activities, for example:

* setting the table, matching sets and counting the numbers of objects needed.
* looking for patterns while matching odd socks.
* investigating weight and measurement by cooking or baking with your child.
* exploring the concept of time by discussing the order of daily events (using language like before, after, next, yesterday, today, tomorrow etc) and even creating a timetable for your home learning activities.

In class we have been learning how to add. You can develop this skill using practical resources (toys) and practice the concept of starting with 2 sets, combining the sets together and touch counting to find how many altogether (e.g. begin with 2 sets - a set of 4 green cars and a set of 2 red cars, join them altogether in one big pile/an organised line and slowly touch count how many altogether. Children have recently been introduced to the written concept of addition (sums). Each week your child will also have work to complete in their numeracy workbook.

You can continue to revise the concept of number by touch counting objects readily available at home (dolls, lego, cars, socks or hairbands). Practice making sets of numbers 1-10 and labelling them, focusing on correct number formation.

WORLD AROUND US

Each week we will provide with a suggested activity relating to our topic and seasonal work. Our current topic is Growing.

PE

It is important for children to stay active during this time as they are used to lots of physical activity in school. We would recommend that while the weather permits it, and if you have access to an outside space, that children spend some time playing outdoors each day. If this is not possible then there are workout activities available online. For example, on Youtube, you can avail of ‘Joe Wicks workouts for children’ and he will also be broadcasting live PE sessions in the coming weeks. The Cosmic Kids Yoga channel on Youtube also has lots of fun movement videos aimed at children.

PLAY

Play is an integral part of the P1 day and we would encourage you to continue this at home as it is just as important as completing curriculum based tasks. Try to keep literacy and numeracy activities as fun and active as possible and take time each day to play and have fun with your child.

We hope that you can use these activities and slot them into a daily learning timetable for your child. We have included a sample timetable below as a suggestion of how you might like to organise your day but you do not have to use this.

OTHER SUPPORT MATERIALS

In school we use the following apps, they are really useful and will support your child's learning at home.

'Teach your Monster to Read' (Free)

'Jolly Phonics Letter Sounds' (£4.99 -we use this in school)

'Hairy Letters' (£2.99)

Please find below some useful links that can be accessed from home. These include learning games and activities that we use in school. For UK sites select 'Foundation Stage' or 'Year 1', for US sites select 'pre-K'.

[www.gonoodle.com](http://www.gonoodle.com/)

[www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/)

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com/)

[www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/)

[www.jollylearning.co.uk](http://www.jollylearning.co.uk/)

[www.bbc.co.uk/learnin/coursesearch/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learnin/coursesearch/)

[www.pawprintbadges.co.uk](http://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk/)

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio)

<https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>

[www.tts-group.co.uk](http://www.tts-group.co.uk/)

[https://theimaginationtree.com](https://theimaginationtree.com/)

Best Wishes

Mrs Clarkin, Mrs Mc Erlean and Mrs McNeice

Home activities for week beginning 23rd March

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| **Literacy** | Phonics: Introduce ‘x’ and ‘ch’ using some of the suggested activities and complete the activities allocated on Education City.  High Frequency Words: ‘an’ and ‘little’  Reading: See Guided Reading books allocated through SeeSaw  Handwriting: ‘i’  Additional activities to support this week’s literacy will be allocated on SeeSaw. |
| **Numeracy** | Mental Maths: Practise counting forwards and backwards to 15  Continue to practice adding by combining 2 sets of objects. You could each take 5 beanbags (or rolled up socks) and throw them into a hoop or circle drawn on the ground; you could then count up how many goals you scored ‘altogether’.  Complete the numeracy workbook page and activity allocated on SeeSaw.  Time: Discuss the differences between day and night, the sky, activities we commonly do, where we go during the day and night, clothes we wear etc. Draw pictures of day and night-time activities. |
| **World Around Us** | Go on a walk in your garden. Look out for the signs of Spring. Do you have any new buds growing or even some daffodils? Paint some of the signs of spring.  Look at the parts of a plant. Can you find the stem? Does it have a flower? Where are the roots. Draw a picture and label it. |