



Hello everyone.

Firstly can we say that we are all missing you and your lovely children so much! We hope you are all keeping safe and well. If you have any questions or worries please contact us at [firstfarmers@lower-farm.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:firstfarmers@lower-farm.walsall.sch.uk)

We appreciate and share your disappointment that school will not be opening as normal after the Easter holidays. To ensure that all our children continue to thrive in safety we have compiled a list of further activities that can be done at home.

Our theme this half term is 'Caring For Living Things'. Our story is 'Jack and the Beanstalk' (you can access various versions of this story on youtube). If you have the book at home even better. Please keep reading to your child, any books, daily if possible as this is so important for your child's development of speech and language. Lots of interactions and talking 1-1 is essential.

We are all very aware that the weather has been beautiful, as we are told to stay in, but if you have access to a safe outside space then planting and exploring the environment can be a great way of learning for your child. We would encourage you to go on a bug hunt, look at different plants and flowers and talk about the season of Spring. Encourage your child to mark make using any type of tools eg. pencils, crayons, chalks, paints. Those children who are nearly ready to start nursery should be encouraged to use the three finger grasp. To develop and maintain the physical strength for fine motor skills, using playdough and plasticine can be extremely useful and good fun.

Some rhymes and songs we had planned to listen and do the actions to are -

If you're happy and you know it.

Walking in the jungle.

3 blind mice.

Shake your sillies out.

Our other favourites are Baby Shark, Sleeping bunnies, 5 little monkeys and our Hello Hello song. I am sure the children will show you how to join in! These can all be accessed on you tube.

Sharing and turn taking games are important. Sharing sweets, taking turns to throw a ball, shake a dice or build a tower. All these skills are invaluable for when your child starts nursery. Also, it is a good time to get your child in their big boy/girl pants ready for Nursery too. Leave nappies off and a potty/toilet at hand!

We have included a list of our phonic activities that we work through during the whole school year. Please don't think you have to do all of these, just pick ones you have the resources for and ones you can do safely.

Finally, we would like to say that these are all ideas to keep your child active and are not compulsory. Enjoy this time you have together, keep active on their scooters, running and dancing. Have lots of cuddles and 1-1 time as they don't stay little for long! Be happy!

Remember you can email us anytime and we will get back to you. (see email address above)

Please feel free to send us any drawings, mark making or photos as we would love to see them. When emailing us these, please let us know if you give your permission to put these on the school website and social media accounts. We look forward to hearing from you.

All our love from your teachers,

Mrs Thomas, Mrs Riley, Mrs Brownhill and Miss Ward

**Phonics activities** – I hear with my little ear (tick toc, woof woof, meow, shaker, triangle, moo, tambourine, drum, oink,) Children guess the sound.

**Phonics activities** – Mrs Thomas has a bag – Describe animal in the bag, children to guess what it is. Repeat with smaller groups/individual quieter children.

**Phonics activities** –\_Sound lotto. Nursery rhymes.

**Phonics activity** – “s” chatter bag. Items beginning with S (snake, stripy sock, silver spoon, sad, spider, stickers, starfish, sun)

**Phonics activity** – “t” chatter bag. Items beginning with t ( tiger, tooth brush, train, table, tree, tube)

**Phonics activity** – Baby chatter bag – (baby doll, potty, baby brush, nappy, nappy bag, wipes, bottle, baby clothes.)

**Phonics activity** – Join children in their play to extend their talk and enrich their vocabulary.

**Phonics activity** – Explore with children the sounds different animals make, including imaginary ones such as dragons.

**Phonics activity** – Role play area to encourage children to use a range of purposes.

**Phonics activity** – Using ribbons to make large swirling movements to develop physical skills necessary for writing.

**Phonics activity** – Experiment with the sounds different objects make.

**Phonics activity** – Listening walk. Keep quiet, have ears and eyes ready. Talk about the different sounds they can hear.

**Phonics activity** – Drum outdoors. Using small sticks explore the indoor or outdoor area by tapping.

**Phonics activity** – Children play in a band. Encourage children to listen to each other.

**Phonics activity** – Match the instrument. Use two identical sets of instruments. Hide one set. Can children identify which one is played behind a screen.

**Phonics activity** – Playing instruments quietly, loudly, 3 times, 5 times etc...

**Phonics activity** – Clap, march, stamp to a beat.

**Phonics activity** – Action songs

**Phonics activity** – Nursery rhymes

**Phonics activity** – Phase 1 sound flash cards