



Hi everyone,

We are missing you all lots and lots but hope that you are keeping safe and well. We are really looking forward to seeing you all again!

We appreciate and share your disappointment that school will not be opening as normal after the Easter holidays. We hope you are all having fun completing the activities/challenges we sent you to complete at home. We would love to see any of your creations and achievements and invite you to email us at nursery@lower-farm.walsall.sch.uk. To ensure that all our wonderful children can continue to thrive in safety we would like to suggest a list of further activities that can be done at home.

Maths is incredibly important to your child's development. We would like to set you a challenge, can you count and recognise numbers 0-10 and beyond. We would like you to explore numbers and counting with an adult. You can help your child learn to count by making counting a fun part of day. Count socks as you sort them, count the drinks in your fridge, count the cars and buses going by. The more experience children have with counting, the more they will learn the meaning of numbers. You could then support your child/children to use their pincher grip to have a go at writing the numbers. This doesn't have to be just pencil and paper, you could try engaging in sensory experiences using materials such as shaving foam, sand and paint. While you are practicing writing your numbers have a go at writing your name. If you can write your first name, try your middle and surname!

Further to this, to help your child to continue to develop and maintain the physical strength to write for a sustained amount of time making creations using playdough and plasticine can be extremely useful and good fun.

To enable your child to begin to build words we encourage you to access the jolly phonics songs and alphablocks clips on the internet and engage in supporting your child/children to listen to the sounds. Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps your child/children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language. I have included some phase 1 and 2 phonic activities below.

We are all aware that the weather has been beautiful, as we are told to stay in, but if you do have access to a safe outside space then planting and exploring the outside environment can be a great source of learning for your child. We would encourage you to go on a bug hunt, find out about the different life cycles of the insects and plants and maybe if you are able to do some planting discuss the changes that occur over time. This can also be a great opportunity to encourage your child to write or illustrate a diary of a seed. Measurement activities can also be encouraged if you were to plant seed as you could make a measurement chart to track the growth of a plant.

We would like to reiterate that we miss you all and can't wait to see you all again very soon. Keep safe and well and if you are able to take part in any of the activities or challenges suggested then please send your achievements to the email stated above. 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. Sing some rhymes and songs with your child and some of our favourites in nursery are,

Five currant buns

Five little ducks went swimming one day

The Twenty Song

The dingle dangle scarecrow

Shake your sillies out.

I am sure the children will show you how to join in! These can all be accessed on you tube.

We look forward to staying in touch and if you do have any further queries then please do not hesitate to email us and we will get back to you. Furthermore, please stay active as much as you can. Going for a daily walk with your family, riding bikes and scooters and playing in the garden can help our minds as well as keep our bodies healthy.

Oh and before we leave you for a short time, any creations that your child has made, drawn or painted that they are especially proud of can be emailed too as we would love to see them. Please can you include on any email whether you are happy for the work/photo to be shared on the school website and social media. The rainbows that were made to honour the NHS at this difficult time were particularly inspirational.

All our best wishes,

Miss Davis and Miss Pomroy

Phase 1 Phonics:

Early phonics teaching in nursery and at the start of Reception focuses on developing children's listening skills. Typical activities for teaching Phase 1 phonics include **'listening' walks, playing and identifying instruments, action songs, learning rhymes and playing games like I Spy**. This phase is intended to develop children's listening, vocabulary and speaking skills. Below are some ideas you can do at home.

- I hear with my little ear (tick toc, woof woof, meow, shaker, triangle, moo, tambourine, drum, oink,) Children guess the sound.
- Miss Davis has a bag - Describe animal in the bag, children to guess what it is. Repeat with smaller groups/individual quieter children.
- Sound lotto. Nursery rhymes.
- "s" chatter bag. Items beginning with S (snake, stripy sock, silver spoon, sad, spider, stickers, starfish, sun)
- "t" chatter bag. Items beginning with t (tiger, tooth brush, train, table, tree, tube)
- Join children in their play to extend their talk and enrich their vocabulary.
- Explore with children the sounds different animals make, including imaginary ones such as dragons.
- Using ribbons to make large swirling movements to develop physical skills necessary for writing.
- Experiment with the sounds different objects make.
- Listening walk. Keep quiet, have ears and eyes ready. Talk about the different sounds they can hear.
- Drum outdoors. Using small sticks explore the indoor or outdoor area by tapping.
- Match the instrument. Use two identical sets of instruments. Hide one set. Can children identify which one is played behind a screen.
- Playing instruments quietly, loudly, 3 times, 5 times etc...
- Clap, march, stamp to a beat.

- Action songs
- Nursery rhymes
- Phase 1 sound flash cards

Phase 2 Phonics:

In Phase 2, children begin to learn the sounds that letters make (phonemes). Below are some ideas you can do at home.

- 'I spy' Show your child the letter sound (write it on paper). Describe the object if they cannot guess it. Repeat the sound lots of times.
- What objects start with the letter sound 'd' (this could be any letter). What objects start with the sound? Can you write a 'd' sound? Can you write a list of what you find? Can you sound out each letter of the word to write it?
- Explore your local environment safely to see what letters you can find. Look at signs, road markings, car names and buildings. What sounds do you recognise, what sound does your name start with? What words can you see?
- Can you write the initial sound of your name? Use paint, pastels and any other exciting materials you have at home.
- Phase 2 sound flash cards