



Hi everyone,

We hope everyone is continuing to stay safe and well during this difficult time. Unfortunately, we are not able to get back to normal just yet, so we have compiled another list of possible activities that you can do with your children to keep their minds and bodies active.

Before I begin to list possible ideas, I must thank those parents and carers who have emailed messages and photos to our email and hope that our responses have been useful. I would like to remind everyone of the email address that you can use to send in your child's achievements: [reception@lower-farm.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:reception@lower-farm.walsall.sch.uk), and take this opportunity to say we look forward to your messages and photos and welcome any questions that you may have regarding your child's learning and wellbeing during this time.

Firstly, as I'm sure you are aware, we cannot emphasise enough the importance of daily reading with your child. During shared reading times, your child develops phonics skills, comprehension skills and language skills while escaping into imaginary and wonderful worlds. In our last letter, I suggested that the children could write about their favourite stories and characters as a way to combine all literacy skills.

This time, I would like to challenge the children to a writing competition! When we look outside we see that Spring has definitely sprung so I would like your child to create a fact file/ poster about a favourite mini-beast, detailing what the creature likes to eat, where it lives, how it moves and what it looks like...etc. As an extra link, it would be a brilliant time to develop those creative skills by creating pictures and models of different mini-beasts and maybe even creating a mini-beast home or hotel.

As many of you will know, this year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day – a celebration to mark the end of World War 2. As I have seen, through your wonderful photos emailed to us, we have many creative families: so we would like to set a further challenge to create some VE day bunting, flags, cards, paintings etc. to decorate your homes. This could also be an opportunity to discuss with your child the importance of this day and what it represents, maybe even leading to cooking activities to recreate a 'street party' at your own home.

Daily maths activities are also of great importance. Quick recall of addition facts like doubles and subtraction facts can be done as a chant or song and many of these exist on the internet on sites like Topmarks and Crickweb. Counting in different ways: forwards in 1's and then backwards in 1's followed by counting in 2's, 5's and 10's also develops your child understanding of number. I would like to set a maths challenge: to create a board game that all the family can play. The board game must have numbered 'squares' that each player has to move forward on, there may be miss a turn squares, go back 2 spaces squares, double your dice value, or even cards with mathematical challenges.

We look forward to viewing your challenges on our email if you would like to take part, but also greatly appreciate any activities that you are doing with your child, many of which have been brilliantly creative while providing lots of opportunities for learning.

Once again, I reiterate stay safe and well, and keep active doing whatever keeps you happy and healthy.

Stay in touch and see you soon,

Your Reception staff,

Mrs Francis, Miss Morrall, Miss Bloomer and Mrs Abercrombie xx