



Hi everyone,

We hope everyone is continuing to stay happy and healthy during this difficult time. From June 1<sup>st</sup> we are welcoming back children to Reception and look forward to teaching the children whose parents have requested places at school. However, for those parents who feel that they want their children to remain at home, we would like to provide them with access to the learning that will be happening in school.

We always start our day recalling our sounds and tricky words from phase 2 and 3. We will be revising the children's ability to read, write and begin to build words and simple sentences using these letters and tricky words. Activities can be accessed through websites like 'Phonics play' and 'Twinkl' to achieve these activities.

Daily reading with your child is a very important aspect of phonics in order to develop their ability to build words, as well as gaining comprehension skills. Each week, as we always have done, we will be focusing, on a range of stories that can enhance your child's understanding and vocabulary. All activities planned provide the children with an opportunity for each child to access them at their own level: through shared reading, discussion, drawing, labelling and even whole story retelling. We would also like to emphasise the importance of role play when retelling stories which can be greatly rewarding and fun.

The stories chosen, are as follows:

- 'I don't want to wash my hands,' by Tony Ross
- 'Goldilocks and the three bears'
- 'Little Red Riding Hood'
- 'Jack and the Beanstalk'

For each of the stories we will be aiming to:

- Build comprehension skills (asking, what happened in the story, why, how, discussing the characters feelings/actions etc)
- Story sequencing (modelling story language such as 'once upon a time...', 'next...', 'then...', 'they lived happily ever after...')
- Draw a picture from the story, maybe you could make a poster, or draw a story map
- Label your picture with key words, phrases or simple sentences, or you could even re-write the story in your own words. Encourage children to use the story language (mentioned above) in their writing.
- Encourage your child to use descriptive language in their writing too.

Maths Challenges will also be done on a daily basis:

- number order and sequence by ordering numbers to 20 (this range can be adjusted depending on the current understanding of your child).
- counting out objects to represent the correct numeral
- finding 1 more and 1 less than a given number - this can be further extended for children by focusing upon 2 more or 2 less.
- Sharing an amount of objects between 2 people/teddies etc. – again this can be extended to sharing between more people if you feel your child is ready.
- Doubling a given number
- For all of the above activities, please encourage your child to record their numbers and answers, this can be with pictures or numbers.

Other Challenges:

- Design and make a new chair for baby bear – encourage your child to test it and evaluate their success: this activity will develop the children’s critical thinking skills
- Look at different environments and to consider how they vary from each other - sort woodland and ocean animals in to their natural habitats – extend this further to jungle animals and arctic animals if possible. Online and book research can help with this activity and children can draw and make their own animal habitats, which we would love to see!
- Make a healthy picnic to take to Grandma in ‘Little Red Riding Hood’. Discuss different types of foods and sort out healthy and unhealthy foods. Children can either draw or make their healthy meals.
- Design, make or even plant their own beanstalk and to discuss how they think the plant will change and grow – measure growth, write a diary, or look at life cycle of a bean.

I would like to remind parents that they can email their child’s achievements to [reception@lower-farm.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:reception@lower-farm.walsall.sch.uk), and we look forward to seeing what you have been getting up to. I also take this opportunity to thank those who have already sent in their wonderful comments, pictures and photos, some of which have been forwarded to Mrs O’Donovan to post on our website, if permission has been granted. In addition, this email can also be used to ask teachers vital questions about your child’s learning and development and we will endeavour to get back to you on a daily basis.

We look forward to seeing some of you back in the classroom from June 1<sup>st</sup> and understand and respect the wishes of those who would prefer to continue accessing learning opportunities from home. In addition, I would like to add that all activities are provided are solely information for parents and to provide possible learning opportunities, while meeting the needs of your children, and are to be accessed on a voluntary basis.

Thank you so much for your continued support. Please continue to keep safe and well and more importantly active and happy.

Keep smiling...

Your dedicated teachers,

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

We hope you find these websites helpful:

[www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com)

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

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

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

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