

# CONTACT

## The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Issue 1-20

17.04.20

Believe it or not we haven't seen many of you for four weeks now. The weather, (with the exception of today), has been glorious and I am sure many of you have been making the most of it. This week however, we are back to the start of term and teachers have been working hard to try to set suitable activities to do at home.

Firstly, well done and give yourself a pat on the back. Everyone working at home and being together for all this time is a challenge. Just when you think you have a routine - something changes or falls apart - don't panic, it is the same for all of us. What works well one day, often doesn't the next and for no apparent reason. Personally, that is why I joined the profession, I didn't want the days to be the same!

Use it or lose it! How many times have you heard that saying? It is true though - the brain is a muscle and it forgets things if not used. It is therefore important to keep practising key things. Many of you have helped to support your children to access activities on the school learning platform. We are reviewing and adapting our tasks (bear with us, as like you, this is new territory for us too). The teachers would love to have a weekly message to say how you are getting on. Photos and short pieces of work can be attached as well.

Also emailed out with this newsletter is a simple guide to help manage expectations at home and further on in this contact are some simple suggestions to help support home learning, please take the time to read them.

Please keep in touch - most of you have been really good at sending the odd message to us but there are a few we are struggling to have contact with. Either send us an email yourself or message via yourself (or your child can) on the learning platform. In these different times we just want to know everyone is alright.

We continue to have a few children in to support key workers. They have been working hard too. Using their feet they also produced our lovely rainbow hung in the shelter.



### **Home Learning General tips: (see also Managing Expectations)**

Try and have a simple routine that works for you and your children, make it manageable and appreciate it may go wrong and need to be changed - no one is perfect and we appreciate there are challenges. We recommend 30 minutes at a time for an activity (even adults struggle to focus for longer). Alternate a more sedate activity with a more active one as well as one which is less enjoyable with one that is (we all have less favourite subjects). We do not expect activities to take a full school day - half a day maximum. The rest of the time can be activities of your choice - there are some easy suggestions below.

Enjoy learning with your children and encourage independence in their activities (this will help keep you sane).

Previous curriculum newsletters on the website provide good reference points for key points of learning in maths and English.

Some general suggestions to help complement the activities set by your class teachers :

### **Reading**

We recommend reading at least 10 minutes a day. For younger children this can be books that are slightly harder but support them and ask them to read the phonetically decodable words and the tricky words they know (you will be surprised how often they are used).

Ask questions about the text: What is she doing? How does he feel? How do you know? Where are they? (In Key Stage 2 Your inference bookmarks help to support this).

When you are out for your daily walk read the signs and posters.

### **Spellings**

All the spellings are in a booklet on the website: Learning - Classes and Curriculum

The teachers would be absolutely amazed if their children came back better spellers. This can be done in many ways - a great way is putting them into wordsearches - let them make their own (that is spelling practise) and then do the wordsearch days later. Use letters (magnetic or on bits of paper or card) to spell the words (muddle them up and repeat several times).

Play hangman - always a favourite in school.

Spot the mistake - write a lists of words or sentences and spot the errors.

Use Spelling Shed - 10 minutes a day will make a huge difference.

The logo for 'Spelling Shed' is written in a bold, yellow, rounded font with a thick black outline. The letters are slightly irregular, giving it a hand-drawn or playful appearance.

### **Writing**

Any writing is better than no writing. Younger children can copy simple sentences to help develop their letter formation and spelling. Write rhyming word lists, eg. Mat, cat, zat - discuss which are real or not, what do the words mean?

Younger children could choose a different letter of the alphabet each day to find things around the house and then write and draw them. Alliterative sentences are good too - The clever cat caught a cold.

Find a picture or character and write sentences to describe it.

Write a book review to recommend to someone else. If you have a specific interest, e.g. insects, pick one to write facts about each day to combine to make your own book.

## **Writing continued**

Keep a diary - the things you write don't necessarily have to be real. On Thursday, I went to the seaside and swam with a shark....

Write clues for treasure hunts around the house or guess what I am.

Remember to encourage your child to read for sense and check their spelling and punctuation. If spelling is a challenge just pick one or two words for them to look up and correct. Don't forget the presentation too - it is better to have less but legible and well written.

## **Maths**

Counting - everybody can practise counting whether it be forwards, backwards, in 10s, 3s, decimals (0.25 jumps), fractions .... The sky is the limit. Set up different spots in the house or garden to count in a different pattern. Play guess my number - ask questions with a yes or no answer.

Games - many board and card games support numbers skills along with developing strategies. Games like Connect 4, Monopoly and Yahtzee.

Number facts - depending on age there are always facts to learn - pairs of number to total 10, 20, 1 (ie.  $0.1 + 0.9$ ), etc

Times tables - make a game and then play it. Use a hundred square - choose a table a look at the pattern it makes - can you predict by finding the rule/pattern? Year 4 can practise with Sparx.

Money - this is something children don't get to handle much anymore. Set up a shop or price list, order you lunch having a set amount to spend, work out the change. Can you make an amount with a set number of coins?

Measures - great for exploring at home.

Length and height - measure in millimetres or centimetres depending on age. Non-standard measures could also be used like hand spans and feet.

Mass - weighing items, comparing weights, ordering things from lightest to heaviest. Have a daily competition of who can find an item closest to a chosen mass, e.g. 25g. Cook together.

Capacity - use a measuring jug to measure out given amounts of water, set challenges to guess the amount - measure (closest wins). How many cups to fill the jug?

Time - telling the time is a really useful skill to have that children often find tricky. Both digital and analogue times as well as how many minutes until...

Shape

Find 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes around the house/garden or out on your walk about. Pick a different shape to focus on each day.

## **Art**

Observational drawing - Choose a household object to draw in detail or one part of it. Can someone guess the object from your drawing?

Cutting and sticking from magazines, newspaper, packaging, wrapping paper to create a collage of scene or character etc.

Model making using items usually heading for the recycling box to work on fixing/joining skills

Plaiting, twisting and/or finger knitting with wool or string or thin strips of fabric using found items from nature to create patterns or pictures on a patio, path or lawn (inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy)

### Some more shared jokes

I used to be addicted to soap..... but I am clean now!

What do you give to a sick lemon?

What do librarians take fishing?

What birds spend all of time on their knees?

What is an owls favourite subject at school?

Lemon aid.

Bookworms

Birds of prey

Owlgebra



What's the difference between a golfer and a skydiver?

A golfer goes "whack darn" and a skydiver goes "darn whack".

Why do fish live in salt water?

Because pepper makes them sneeze.

Why is Peter Pan always flying?

Because he never lands.

What do you get when you put a vest on a alligator?

An investigator.

What is a ghost favourite plant?

BamBOO

What keeps rock stars cool?

Their fans!

Did you know that the first French fries weren't cooked in France they were cooked in Greece!

Why does no one laugh at pizza jokes?

Because they are so cheesy!

Why do we tell actors to break a leg?

Because every play has a cast.

Why did the cow cross the road?

To go to the MOOVies.

What is a cows favourite time of day?

The moorning!

Why did the bike fall over?

It was too tired!

What do you call a sheep covered in chocolate?

A chocolate Baa!

Why do writers feel cold?

They are always surrounded by drafts.

Why did the teddybear not have any dessert?

Because he was stuffed!

What did the traffic light say to the car?

Don't look I am changing.

## Julia Donaldson Stories

Like many authors Julia Donaldson is reading many of her books, use the link below to access. (It is via Facebook).

<https://www.facebook.com/ScholasticUK/videos/1871002403031970/>



### Libraries are closed but you can still borrow books

Although all libraries are now temporarily closed, that doesn't mean that you can't enjoy a good book! The Devon Libraries Digital Library lets you stream loads of free eBooks, eAudioBooks, eMagazines and much more.

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/catalogue>

## My Reading Challenge

I have decided I am going to read a book written by an author for each letter of the alphabet. These book suggestions are from the children via the learning platform. So far I have read five books so there are twenty one letters to go. Please give me some good ideas, so far I have really enjoyed them all. (Parents—if you haven't read Wonder, I would really recommend it).

Cressida Cowell	How to train your dragon
Eva Ibbotsom	Journey to the river sea
R J Palacio	Wonder
Liz Pichon	The brilliant world of Tom Gates (read this before I realised it was another P)
Jill Tomlinson	The otter who wanted to know

## Whimple 500 Word Story Writing Competition

Richard and Julia Green are launching a short story writing competition in line with BBC Radio 2 500 words. This initiative is a response to the current situation and a challenge for both young and not so young alike to keep creative juices flowing!

There will be three categories:

**Category A - Under 10 (on 01/09/2020)**

**Category B - Under 14 (on 01/09/2020)**

**Category C - Over 14 (on 01/09/2020) - including adult entries**

Learning pack and judging criteria can be found on the BBC 500 Word 2020 website. This will particularly provide brilliant resources for younger entrants.



There will be an impartial judging panel (already booked).

**Closing Date:** Thursday 30th April 2020

**Email entries** (in pdf form) stating Name and Category to: [jrgreen729@gmail.com](mailto:jrgreen729@gmail.com)

Any further questions ring Julia on 07779139251 or Richard 07546029667

It is hoped to collate all entries at some stage and publish a book - possibly to raise money for the Village Hall Charity.

Finally....there will be prizes in each Category ..... we are open to donations!



# Don't forget

We are all human but in no way are we the same. We all have things that make us individual and unique. There is a story behind each and everyone of us, a reason why we are the way we are. Think about that before you judge anyone!

**To be a good parent,  
you need to take  
care of yourself so that  
you can have the  
physical and *emotional*  
*energy* to take  
care of your family.**

✕

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GH

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