



19.03.20

Dear Parents of Bitterns,

As we enter a time of unprecedented school closure, we have been making preparations to help you support your children's learning as they remain at home for an extended period. Coming home with your child today is a folder of home learning resources (with an attached letter.) Please also keep an eye on Bitterns class page on the school website where we will be uploading a list of useful websites and activities that you can do together at home to support the Foundation subjects. Please check our class page for an update after the Easter Holidays.

Encourage your child to read and write all their Phonics sounds, especially Phase 5 sounds (those tricky split digraphs!) When the children are writing please remember the cursive style – all Bitterns can do this beautifully. The Year 1 Phonics Screening check will now not be going ahead this June, but please continue to focus on your child's Phonics sounds as much as you can so that they are ready for Year Two.

Even just a few minutes spent reading every day will help your children maintain the amazing skills they have developed already this year – never underestimate the value of story time! See how many words your child can independently read on a page, then enjoy the rest of the story together. Remember, if your child is stuck on a word they can hunt for one of our Phonics sounds in the word first and see if that helps them work out the rest of the word. Each child will bring home some reading books to share with you and you can continue to track and log their progress in the red home/school communication book.

The children can also sound out and write a daily sentence about anything they like. Bitterns write the long date (Thursday 19th March) on all their work in school, so please encourage them to keep up this habit. We have been reading 'The Lorax' by Dr Seuss this past week and it would be amazing if you could ask your children questions about the story so far. Coming home with your child there will be some suggestions of activities you can do together linked to this story. There is also a film of the book that they could watch and the book is available on Kindle if you have access.

Daily Doodle Maths will support their numeracy, and I have attached their log in, just as a reminder. The login details are the same for all of the Doodle Apps (Doodle Maths, Doodle Spell, Doodle English and Doodle Tables). In Bitterns we use Doodle Spell and Doodle Maths but if they wish to try Doodle Tables please start with the 2 times tables and only move on to others (5's and 10's) when they are secure and fluent. Passwords will be in the folder.

Jack Hartmann on YouTube sings the 'Count to 100 song' which also encourages the children to get moving. You could use it as a wake and shake activity in the morning. Please also have a go at saying the days and months in order, as well as talking about what day it is. Recently, we have been looking at reading o'clock times so it would be really helpful if you could point out when the clock reaches each hour and asking your child to read the time. What will the time be in one hour if it is 11 now? What about in two hours time? What was the time one hour ago?

Below are some useful websites that we use in class that you could use at home and more will follow on the class page for the Foundation subjects;

1. ictgames <https://www.ictgames.com/>
2. TopMarks <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>
3. NRICH has some great open ended mathematical investigations <https://nrich.maths.org/>
4. Phonics Play (Normally requires a subscription but they are offering free access using the following details; **Username: march20 Password: home**)
5. Twinkl is an amazing resource bank, and is currently offering free access to parents. Please see <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/how-to-utilise-twinkl-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown-a-guide-for-parents> It has many cursive handwriting/tracing sheets which support what we are doing in school, as well as a wealth of cutting/sticking/sorting/matching ideas that are perfect for reception children. Please have a browse and follow your child's interests.
6. Oxford Owl has e-book versions of many of the reading books we have in our classroom <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

Junior Monopoly is fabulous for maths skills and any dice games requiring attention, perseverance and turn-taking also teaches valuable life skills, as well as simple adding/subtracting. The children could also have a go at making their own board games for others in their family to play and could write down the rules and instructions too!

During the school closure I will use Bitterns class page on the school website as a regular form of contact and will be assigning challenges on the Doodle Apps and Active Learn so please check both of these regularly too. The school also subscribes to Espresso and the children can access this using the following details; **Username – student 23616 Password – coding**

We will be thinking of all our families and our community and we can't wait to see you all again soon. If you need anything further please email; head@salhouse.norfolk.sch.org.uk

Thanks for all your support.
Miss Layton and Mrs Fawkes