Dear Parents,

Home Activities - 2

Firstly, I hope you are all keeping well and coping in these challenging and worrying circumstances. I thought another letter might be useful to give you some more ideas for activities to do with your children while the current restrictions remain in place and while we are not able to return to school.

**Topic:** Our topic for this half term is based around growing plants and the story of “Jack and the Beanstalk”.

_Growing something:_ If you can, please try to get hold of some seeds to grow (for example cress, sunflower, beans) and look up or read the instructions for successfully growing them. Keep a record of how your plant grows over the next few days / weeks (see writing task below).

_“Jack and the Beanstalk”:_ The BBC website has some fantastic resources based on this story. Please start with the story itself which is told in 14 short video clips – link here: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/ks1-english-jack-and-the-beanstalk/zff42sg

Then there are a set of 7 lovely songs to learn related to the story – link here: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03g6hcd/episodes/player (The lyrics for these 7 songs are available on the Class 2 page of the School Website. We will sing the songs when we all get back to school – if your child has already practised it should sound great!)

Maths:

_Specific maths activities / lessons:_ Class 2 have been using planning and activities this year based on the excellent “White Rose Maths” resources. They have created a Home Learning area https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/ . This shows you what your child is expected to be learning and would be a great way to get a starting point for some maths each day. Do not feel that you need to print off all the activities – many of them are best done practically, with
lots of talk to describe what is happening (your child should be used to doing this as we do it frequently at school).

General counting work – aural: Continue to help your child practise counting up and down in 1s and 10s from any number up to 100. Your child brought home a 100 square which can be used to support this, but the aim is to be able to count up and down confidently, and to know the numbers that come before and after any given number without this resource. Challenge - if this is easy for your child, challenge him or her to count on and back in other numbers as well (eg. start at 17 and count on / back in 2s, 3s, 4s or even 7s).

Reading:
Please make sure that you continue to hear your child read as often as possible and take time to talk about their books. I know that normal routines get disrupted, but there is no substitute for practice. (See note below about “Oxford Owl” for access to more books on-line.) Sharing books and taking time to talk about them is also very important – this should include fiction, non-fiction and poetry if possible (once again, the “Oxford Owl” could be used here if you run out of books of your own to share).

Writing:
Specific writing challenges:
Make a diary of something you have grown – this could include pictures of how your plant looked as it grew.
When you have listened to the story of “Jack and the Beanstalk” have a go at some writing based on it – this could be a description of the castle where the giant lived, writing about what Jack might do with the riches he brought back, or even a retelling of the whole story.

General writing support activities: If your child would like to write about something else they are interested in at home that would be great. Always focus on writing needing to make sense, and remind your child that each sentence will need a capital letter, neat writing, “sounded out” (phonetic) spelling, “finger spaces” (between words) and a full stop (or sometimes other punctuation). (Year 2s can also check their red handwriting / spelling books and practise spelling and writing all of the words there from this year.)
Suggested websites to support learning using ICT:

**Education City** – **Well done!** I can see that some of you have completed all the homework activities I set, and lots of you have done most of them. More homework activities will be set, but as you complete these (or if you are unable to access them – some of them will not work on tablets), feel free to go to “Subjects” and explore all the activities on offer in Maths, English and Science. Your child may have completed lots of them at school or home previously but many are worth repeating. I also recommend regular short sessions using “Play Live” in Maths to help your child improve their fluency with small numbers. Start with activities aimed at your child’s year group but feel free to explore the years above and below as appropriate.

**Mathletics** – **Well done again!** It is clear that many of you have been doing lots of “Mathletics” and have completed your set activities. Your child will continue to be able to access all the activities he or she has already completed (this is well worth doing to practice and to improve). New activities will be assigned in blocks over the next few weeks. When all the assigned activities are complete, your child is also able to access the games area which is great for encouraging swift recall of number facts.

“**Oxford Owl**” – there is a note on the Class 2 page of the School Website giving a link to this resource which I highly recommend. If you have not already done so, please do register to give your child (and you) access to a wide range of books at many different levels.

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**Highly recommended for phonics support:**
- [http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) - free phonics games
- [www.phonicsbloom.com](http://www.phonicsbloom.com) – more free phonics games

**Good sites to explore and find fun stuff:**
- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/) - loads of great activities – explore!
- [http://www.crickweb.co.uk/](http://www.crickweb.co.uk/) - some good fun and educational activities

**This is an interesting site with fun maths challenges to do with your child:**
- [https://nrich.maths.org/primary](https://nrich.maths.org/primary)

Best wishes to you and your families at this difficult time. Keep safe.  **Mr Spencer**