January 2021 P2 Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well and managed to have an enjoyable break over the festive period. We are so disappointed that we are not able to welcome everyone back to school and are instead returning to online learning during this latest lockdown. We are aware that this situation will be placing families under strain and additional pressure and we are here to support you all as best we can. To this end, we have included a **suggested timetable** and a **list of useful web links** with this newsletter. We will also be holding a **weekly “Google Meet”** with the class and will send out a **“Life Skills’ Grid”** via Google Class which has various age and stage related tasks on it for children to practice and complete when time allows. As before, we would stress that the best approach to online learning is to do what fits in best with your circumstances at home, with an emphasis on trying to keep the core literacy and numeracy skills ticking over, ready for our eventual return to school. I apologise if this newsletter reads a little like “War and Peace” but it does contain lots of important and helpful information.

Mathematics

Children will be set work via Google Class as appropriate to their level of knowledge and understanding of numeracy and other mathematical concepts. Most pupils will be continuing with subtraction within 20 whilst exploring larger numbers through assigned mental numeracy tasks. Practical mathematics tasks will also be set once a week.

Literacy

Children will be assigned work via Google class as appropriate to their pace of progression through the Jolly Phonics sounds and grammar scheme. **For those who are writing independently**, we are going to try a daily writing approach instead of one big piece of extended writing per week, as this was the area most parents/ carers found challenging during the last lockdown with pupils not always keen to engage with an extended writing task. This should mean pupils are only writing a sentence or two each day, thus keeping their sentence writing skills ticking over, without turning writing into a battle ground at home. For those that enjoy writing and already like writing stories and making books in their spare time, we would very much encourage them to continue with this, but we would not be directly assigning/ assessing these sorts of tasks for the moment.

Reading will be set 1x weekly and we will also have a class novel, title to be confirmed! We are not able to set reading more regularly than this because we could, potentially, run out of books on Oxford Owl very quickly if we are in lockdown for any length of time. This is because there are only a limited number of titles at each level/ stage available on Oxford Owl. If you feel your child needs more practice, by all means help them to select a book from Oxford Owl at the same stage/ book banded colour that they are currently reading at, but be aware that they may have to revisit that book if we assign it at a later date.

There is also a variety of titles to choose from at www.getepic.com and these can be filtered by reading age/ level/ audiobooks. We would also encourage you to share stories together that you already have in the home, as often as you can. Remember, there is much more to reading and reading skills than being able to read the Biff, Chip and Kipper series. It is important to encourage your child to read letters and print that they see out and about on walks, in other books, on workbook pages, in magazines, on board games, for example, to help them become proficient readers.

Topic/ Other Curricular Areas

Our topic this term will continue to be Weather and Weather Forecasters as we were only about halfway through our topic when schools broke up for the Christmas holidays. We will set tasks linked to this topic during the week but will also be setting tasks covering other curricular areas such as health and wellbeing, art, science and French. Mrs Storey will be assigning an RME task very Tuesday via our Google Class since this is the area of the curriculum she would normally be delivering to the class when she works with them.

Google Meet

We will meet as a class once a week, initially just as a check-in to see how everyone is getting on and to give the children a chance to see one another and have a chat, as this is so important for their health and wellbeing. To avoid difficulties over timings for parents who have more than one child in the school, we will be holding our Google Meet during our allocated PE times. We will also alternate between Mrs Bryson and Mrs Cameron so for week 2, the Google Meet will be on 18.1.21 at 10.50am and for week 3, the Google Meet will be on 29.1.21 at 9.45am. **There will be no Google Meet in week 1 (week beginning 11.1.21) to give parents/ carers time to submit consent forms for their child to participate in this.**

Other Information

Please make sure that your child can log into Glow to access their Google classroom. Please also check that they can access Epic reading (class code is wav9748) and Oxford Owl (class login is p2bc and the password is LoveBooks) and are able to log into Education City and Sumdog using their unique passwords which were sent out via Google Class. Please let us know via our Glow email addresses if you are having any difficulties and we will try to assist you. Our details are

[gw16brysonsusan@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw16brysonsusan@glow.sch.uk)

[scameron004@aberdeenschools.org.uk](mailto:scameron004@aberdeenschools.org.uk)

All class work will be set on Google Class and feedback and/or marking of work will be done via Google class or through Glow email, depending on how the work has been submitted. Please remember, other parents and pupils are not able to see any work that your child submits to Google class unless you post it to the main class page feed.

As before, there will be three assigned tasks every day, how long they take to complete will vary from child to child and depend upon the degree of support that is required/ available to help them complete the task. If your child completes tasks more quickly then there is a wealth of additional activities and websites available (detailed below but not exhaustive of course). Also, if a particular task requires longer to complete then please remember the other activities are merely suggestions.

Example Timetable

Here is an example of a timetable which you may find useful as a guide to structuring your child’s day. Please don’t feel that you must present each day like this, it is just an example based on how we would timetable a typical day in the classroom, with additional links and follow-up activities suggested to fill each session. Feel free to take ideas from it or adapt it to suit you and your child’s needs and circumstances. If you require further links and ideas to help keep your child occupied, please see the attached sheet which contains an extensive list of useful links.

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| 9.00-10.30am  Literacy | * Get focused and ready for learning! E.g. Warm up your fingers for writing by doing Dough Disco (your child will need playdough to take part in this) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrBsNhwxzgc> or take part in PE with Joe Wicks on YouTube. * Complete today’s assigned literacy task/s. * Read a book aloud from Oxford Owl at <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> (Books may be set by the class teacher or you could help your child to choose a book to read of the same level/ book banded colour that they are currently reading at.) * Practise your literacy skills on Education City at <https://www.educationcity.com/> or watch Geraldine the giraffe practise this week’s spelling sound on YouTube. * Complete a fine motor skills task to help improve your pencil grip/ handwriting. This could include completing a puzzle or jigsaw. * Play a game that you have in the home with a literacy focus e.g. scrabble. |
| 10.30-10.50am | Break |
| 10.50-12.20pm  Maths | * Do a warm-up task to get your brain back in gear! E.g. Shake your Sillies Out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03zqJQJRLN0> * Complete a mental maths task. (This may be an assigned task, or you could choose a focus from the mental maths suggestion grid that was sent out via Google Class last Term.) * Complete today’s assigned Maths task/s. * Practise your numeracy skills on Sumdog <https://www.sumdog.com/sc/> or Topmarks <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> * Play a game that you have in the home with a numeracy focus e.g. snakes and ladders. |
| 12.20-1.20pm | Lunch |
| 1.20-3.20pm  Other Curricular Area | * Complete today’s assigned task related to another area of the curriculum (e.g. health and wellbeing, topic or art.) * Watch and discuss the weather forecast each day at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather> or learn more about the weather and climate at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/geography-ks1--ks2-climate/zjdthbk> * Conduct some research about “Weather” using tigtag jr or tigtag (both found on the Glow launch pad page) * Listen to a story linked to your topic or one that you have selected purely for enjoyment at [www.getepic.com](http://www.getepic.com) * Choose a task to complete or practise from the life skills’ grid (this will be sent out via Google Class.) * Get creative and do some drawing/ colouring or crafting using collage materials you have in the house. * Relax and unwind by doing a short Cosmic Kids yoga session at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga> * Do some learning outside if the weather allows, for example see ideas at <https://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources/> or <https://www.theschoolrun.com/diy-forest-school-activities> |

List of useful links

Outdoor learning ideas

<https://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources/>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/diy-forest-school-activities>

Cosmic Kids sessions

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>

[www.getepic.com](http://www.getepic.com)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/geography-ks1--ks2-climate/zjdthbk>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<https://www.sumdog.com/sc/>

Shake your sillies out at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03zqJQJRLN0>

<https://www.educationcity.com/>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Join in with Dough Disco at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrBsNhwxzgc>

Cook together with ideas from

<https://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/meals/school-meals-lunchtime-recipe-ideas/>

Online safety at home, ideas for all stages

<https://mailchi.mp/edb2d1ae96b7/online-safety-at-home-from-thinkuknow-19-05-20?e=d3677007b5>

Relax Kids

<https://fishermoss.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Relax-Kids.docx>

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/authors>

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/features/home-where-art-creative-curriculum-kids>

Log on to Glow, access sharepoint and find lots of helpful outdoor learning ideas posted by Ms Sang

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/5257921/OutdoorLearning/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Spelling activities

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MTQyNjMxODgzNDAw/m/MjA3NzQ4NzI2Nzk5/details>

<https://code.org/minecraft>

Lego ideas

<https://thatbricklife.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/LEGO30daysofplay.pdf>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr>

Photography challenges

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MTQyNjMxODgzNDAw/m/MjA3NzQxNjAyNzA2/details>

COVID resource pack for parents

<https://fishermoss.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Resource-pack-For-Parents-003.pdf>

<https://fishermoss.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Library-1.pdf>

<https://fishermoss.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Library-2.pdf>

Get ideas from Active Schools

<https://fishermoss.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Active-Schools.pdf>

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools)

[www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

Online resources and games for all stages and curricular areas

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

tigtag jr and tigtag – log on to Glow and find the tigtag tiles to watch clips and access science based information.

**Please note, this list is not exhaustive, and we may post further, more specific links alongside assigned activities where they from part of that day’s core task.**