



Dear Parents/Carers,

We really value all the feedback we have received about our 'Home Learning Packs' to date. We also appreciate that this is a very unusual time - a time that none of us has ever experienced before!

Our advice to parents worrying about home schooling is, first and foremost, relax - try not to stress - because it may become stressful. Your children may be scared by things they have seen or heard on TV and children won't learn much if they are stressed.

Cuddle up together and read, read, read. Take turns reading. Do a puzzle. Build a fort. Bake. Set up a tent in your living room and camp out. Build a den. Look at photos of when you were a child and talk about what life was like then. Play board games. Paint. Garden. In other words, don't fret about them forgetting everything they've learned at school - every child in the country is in the same boat and this will end.

This is a scary time, but is an opportunity to spend time together, and it may very well be a time that the children look back and remember as one of the good times in their lives.

Make sure you're relaxed and ready to do the home learning tasks - try not to get frustrated - maybe do it in the tent!

During term time, staff are all still working, so please remember that you can still contact your child's teacher by email during working hours if you have any questions or concerns and they will get back to you.

Young children are going to remember how their family felt during this time, more than anything specific about the virus. Our children are watching and learning how to respond to stress and uncertainty. Let's work together to wire them with the values of resilience, adaptability, kindness and courage.

As we're sure you'll all understand, our 'Learning Packs' to date were created at speed. We have now had time to reflect and going forward we would like to simplify them to include the following activities. This may appear to be a contradiction with the sentiments above but we're aware that many of you have requested learning so here are some suggestions and signposts to various learning activities. It's important for us to us that we're looking after all aspects of your child's development - social, emotional, physical, creative, technological and academic.

Our next topic is *Flowers and Insects*, so we have tried to set some fun and interactive tasks for this topic. This topic is a great excuse to get out into the garden too!

Maths

Measurement, Weight and mass

- <https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/free-year-1-compare-lengths-and-heights-iwb-length-and-height-activity/>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/measuring-in-cm>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=ThreeBears>

Consolidation of number facts, bonds, halves and doubles.

- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> (The children enjoy trying to beat their own score on this game)
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/caterpillar-ordering>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/helicopter-rescue>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10>

English - Reading and Writing

- Purple Mash set activity - Writing about habitats.
- To write an explanation text about the life cycle of a living thing. For example: How a frog transitions from a tadpole to a frog. The children have looked at this during forest school. (For children who find writing hard, a labelled diagram would be nice.)
- To research and find a poem they like about an insect. If they would like to record themselves reading it and send it that would be lovely, but no expectations!

Spellings

- Continue to practice the spellings sent last week. One list a week is enough.

Handwriting

You can access the on-line website <https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/log-in.html> to complete handwriting activities and to practise the cursive letter patterns.

There are two log-ins that can be used, one for a desktop computer and another for a tablet.

Desktop - username: ak0599, password: home

Tablet - username: ak0599, swipe code: L

Topic

- Purple mash set activity - Create a caterpillar.
- Purple mash set activity - Growing plants
- Purple mash set activity - Flower labelling game

Art

- Purple mash set activity - Can you draw a butterfly. (This can be done on purple mash or on paper.)
- Purple mash set activity - Create a caterpillar. (This can be done on purple mash or on paper.)

PE with Joe - www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3LPrhIOv-w

These PE sessions can be accessed at anytime on Youtube. Also, Cosmic Kids is a yoga-based exercise we use. You can videos of varying lengths on YouTube following different themes and stories, and if you just need a little energetic fun, please try Go Noodle on YouTube. A particular favourite is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Lm4rSMDOR8> .

Have fun.

It has been lovely seeing the snippets of the activities and learning you have been doing so far being emailed. If you have any queries, please feel free to email us.

Mrs Emma Neville - eneville@deanshanger.northants.sch.uk

Miss Nico Brooks - nbrooks@deanshanger.northants.sch.uk

Best wishes and stay safe.

Miss Brooks and Mrs Neville.