**Reception home learning week commencing 4th May 2020**

Good morning Reception and parents!

I am back working from home this week after a week at Scissett Middle School. It was a very different week, but really good to be back “teaching” face to face. It brought home to me that children need their social connections and are thinking about their friends, teachers and schools. We are a big part of each others’ lives and so I would like to take the opportunity to say that I am very proud of you all for continuing to work hard, be happy and to create new opportunities for learning while we are not at school.

At the moment we are all at different stages – some are happily following the remote learning ideas I send out, some are doing their own thing and following their own interests, and some have put “sit down learning” on hold to focus on wellbeing and emotional stability or to fit in with other commitments. All of these choices are valid and I am here to support you in any way you feel you would like me to.

**Phonics**

There will be some more phonics videos added to the Youtube channel soon – keep up the great work! It is lovely to see your writing. Well done!

**Literacy**

As the feedback from the Talk For Writing booklets has been good, I am providing another unit for you to work through. This one is about a Labrador called Max, who goes on an adventure… Read or listen to the story and then work through the activities. Don’t forget to send me your work!

**Understanding the World**

This week we will learn about butterflies! The caterpillars that I’ve been looking after have now hatched out of their chrysalides as beautiful butterflies! They are stretching their wings, preparing for their release. Do you remember last year when we went out on the field to release the butterflies? I managed to catch one hatching – here is the link to watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHwxm_K4Wyo>

What do you know about butterflies already? Can you name any species of butterfly? The ones in the video are Painted Lady butterflies. They are found in countries all over the world and can fly thousands of miles for food! Do you know any interesting butterfly facts?

Here are some websites you could look at to find out about butterflies:

<https://candidegardening.com/GB/stories/02bb663b-8bbe-409a-8ea5-5fc8ff168c8e>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/07/butterfly-identification/>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/other-garden-wildlife/insects-and-other-invertebrates/butterflies/>

<https://www.scienceforkidsclub.com/butterfly-facts.html>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/insects/butterfly-life-cycle/>

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/identify-a-butterfly>

You could find out some facts about butterflies and their life cycle and present them in a poster or fact file. Draw or paint a picture of your favourite species and write some facts about each one.

Observe the butterflies carefully when drawing or painting your pictures. Look at the colours and markings and see if you can copy them. Butterflies have a symmetrical pattern on their wings – can you create a symmetrical pattern for your own butterfly pictures?

**History**

This week sees the 75th anniversary of VE Day – the day when World War 2 officially ended in Europe. Read the information on the powerpoint to find out about the war. Colour your own Union Jack flag. Some people are having a party to celebrate VE Day – obviously remembering social distancing! Will you be celebrating with your family? Think about the soldiers who fought in the war. How do you think they felt when it was over? You could design a medal to reward them for their bravery. Is there anyone in your family who remembers the war? You could ask them some questions, and share their answers.

I hope you have a lovely week. Stay safe and keep listening to your grown ups. I would love to see any of your work as you complete it, or any pictures you draw, or any photos of what you get up to.

Miss Hutton x