



# Scotforth St Paul's C of E Primary & Nursery School

"Let faith be your shield"

Scotforth St Paul's Primary and Nursery School  
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Dear Year Two Parents,

I really wish this was my usual 'welcome back to the third and final term in year two' letter but sadly it is not. I hope you are all well and are managing to keep smiling through these very strange times. I am certainly missing all of the children and am sure you are with me when I say I wish we were all 'back to normal'. Please give your children a big hug from me (even the children who don't usually volunteer hugs that easily!) and tell them I am missing them terribly.

Below I have listed some activities to keep the children thinking and learning whilst at home with you. I am aware that some of the children are finding this time more difficult than others and my best advice is to do as much or as little as they need, whilst keeping them safe, happy and feeling loved. I really hope in years to come the children will look back at this time with mostly happy memories as a time spent together with you having fun and learning lots. Playing games, building dens, cooking and baking, creating lego/junk models, singing, dancing, drawing and colouring, exploring both the real and the virtual world, watching far too many films and TV shows, and just chatting and having a laugh and a joke with you are all incredibly valuable pursuits that we must not underestimate so relax and enjoy this time if you can and most of all try to have FUN! It is with all this in mind that I am suggesting you complete the following tasks.....

## Reading

Please continue to read as much as possible at home. Read, read, read, read, read!!! Books are a fantastic way to escape from the madness surrounding us every day and if this isn't a good enough reason to hone this skill, I really do not know what is!!

I know it has proven to be quite challenging, finding books at your child's reading level but I have now managed to find a couple of great websites that are giving free access to their range of books. The first of which is Collins. You can find this by googling "connect.collins.co.uk". Once on their home page please click on the teacher section and log in using:

Username: [parents@harpercollins.co.uk](mailto:parents@harpercollins.co.uk)

Password: Parents20!

From here click on the 'Big Cat' section where you will find a whole range of books at different reading levels. Some of you will be able to jump straight to your child's reading colour as they have already read all of boxes 1-16. For everyone else, the green level is probably a good place to start. Feel free to move up to orange if the green level is too easy or back to blue if your child is struggling with more than around 20% of the words in the text. One final thing about using Collins, the website will automatically read the book to the children when you click on the page at the bottom of the screen. Press the pause button to stop this to enable your child to practise their reading first please. Listening to the computer reading afterwards is also useful and can be used if your child is struggling with a particular word or phrase.

The other great website for reading is [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk). You will need to set yourself up with a free account for this one though. It is easy to do, doesn't need bank details and only takes a few minutes. To access the free ebooks, you need to go to the 'Books' tab at the top of the screen and select 'ebook library', then 'ebooks for age 6-7', then simply click the book that takes your fancy and off you go.

Another very useful reading task would be to practise reading the High Frequency and Common Exception word lists sent home last time. Why not challenge your child to read a column (or more) of these as quickly as they possibly can and then set them the task of beating their time?





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## Phonics/ Spelling

In addition to daily reading, it would be a great idea to continue to develop your child's phonic and spelling skills. [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) are currently offering free access to their website using the username: march20 and password: home. This site is full of fabulous games and ideas to boost your child's confidence and to ensure they are as secure as they should be. The easiest way to access these is by clicking on the tab 'resources', then selecting either phase 5 or phase 6. Lots of games will then appear, many of which are great fun and all are simple to use independently. In class children were in two groups for phonics this year. Please can my group start with the phase 5 games and Mrs Cocker's team can start with phase 6. Within phase 6 there is also a link to [www.spellingplay.co.uk](http://www.spellingplay.co.uk) This is slightly more complicated to use so the children will need your help to find the games on here but it is worth the effort as phase 6 ultimately aims to teach your child the spelling rules. [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) also has free spelling and phonics games that you might like to try. These are found under the '5-7 years' tab, then clicking 'words and spelling' in the category box. Please also keep revisiting the High Frequency and Common Exception word lists sent previously. The aim is to spell as many as possible by the end of the year.

## Handwriting

In your packs you will find several handwriting sheets. Please do not complete these all in one sitting. For the majority of children, these are introducing joined letters for the first time and I urge you to start handwriting sessions at home with some warm up exercises first. These can be found at <https://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/handwriting-warm-up-exercises.html> and a great way to develop the hand and arm strength necessary for neat handwriting.

## Other literacy tasks

I have included three reading comprehension tasks in your packs for your child to complete. Please encourage the children to write their answers in a full sentence using words from the question to help. Included is also a settings description sheet for your child to practise writing in full sentences using adjectives to describe. This is from <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/> where you will find many more of these and other literacy activities if you want them during lockdown. Twinkl remains free during lockdown so sign up for a free account with your own email and password and enter CVDTWINKLHELPS in the code box.

Before the holiday I sent home a Flat Stanley story for you to read together. I am hoping you have had chance to do this by now as I'd like to start our project together. In this week's pack, you will find an outline of Flat Stanley for your child to colour and cut out carefully. Once complete, I would like the children to have some fun with Stanley and am asking them to make a scrap book full of pictures, notes and stories about what Stanley has been up to. If possible, Stanley could accompany you on your daily exercise and I would love to see pictures of him out and about. When the novelty starts to wear off around your own home, I would like the children to send Stanley off to another family member or friend in a different house. Please explain that they too have to entertain Stanley and if they are happy to, send photographs back to share Stanley's adventures. I would be thrilled to see these pictures and stories on the FOSSY facebook page or via email and am sure the other children would also love to see them too. Good luck Stanley and enjoy the freedom!!

## Maths

In school we have been using the Maths No Problem scheme and I have sent the children's workbook home with their pack. MNP have now set up an online parent support package to enable you to teach your children following the scheme. To do this, you will need to follow the instructions in the email that I have had sent to you. I am hoping this is fairly self-explanatory as I cannot see exactly what is included using my teacher login. Please get in touch if you need help with this and I will do my best to help.





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Another fabulous resource, which is already set up and ready to use, is

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/year-2/> Here you will find a video, with a voiceover that explains the maths involved, and an accompanying worksheet to practise this new learning. Those of you on FOSSY facebook, will know that I have recommended these resources on there so you may already be aware of them. There are two weeks worth of lessons about fractions from before the Easter holiday and the next series of lessons will focus on length. White Rose Maths also published fun challenges over the holiday break which you might want to take a look at. All can be found through their website or by clicking the links on Facebook. There are numerous other websites with maths games and activities on them that you could use with your child during this time but it is something of a minefield locating them. My personal favourite has to be <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years> This site has a whole host of games covering different aspects of maths and many of them are tablet/ipad friendly.

In your pack, I have included a blank 100 square. Please ask your child to start at 1 and write all of the numbers in order. This will clearly show whether or not your child is confident with the counting sequence to 100. It will also highlight whether or not they can form all of their digits properly. If they find either of these difficult, please spend time practising these skills before repeating this activity.

One final maths idea included in your packs is a pack of playing cards and a booklet of activities. I have many happy memories of hours spent playing card games with my family as a child and am sure your children will love to play these games too. If you're really competitive, you could play for matchsticks or pennies like I did, but beware if you have a brother in your house, mine was a terrible cheat!! ☺

## Other areas of the curriculum

I thought the easiest way to set other work for your child might be through a theme so I've chosen 'Animals' as our first theme. I am going to list lots of activities for you to try with your child and am happy for you to complete as many or as few as you see fit.

- Create an animal alphabet. List as many animals as you can for each letter. Can you think of one for every single letter, I wonder?
- Can you sort animals in different ways? Use picture cards (<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t-t-19730-animal-groups-sorting-cards-photos>) or toy animals if you have them and sort them into different groups. You might like to sort by type, a particular skill such as ability to fly, by colour, size, etc. This will inevitably lead to a lot of very important scientific discussion!
- Visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z6882hv> for an explanation of different animal types, including mammals, amphibians, birds, etc.
- You might then like to use this site to explore carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. Where do humans fit in these groups? Are all humans omnivores? Why/why not? Can your child make a three column table in their exercise book with labelled pictures in each column?
- Move on to explore life cycles. Again there is a nice clip on the bbc bitesize site explaining the lifecycle of a butterfly. I have also included a couple of sheets in your pack to explore lifecycles further.
- Draw and label a human life cycle. Can you annotate it with facts about humans at these different stages of life. For example, 'a baby only drinks milk' or 'adults can take care of themselves'.
- Think about animal babies. Which animals have live babies and which have eggs? Can the children sort animals according to this criterion?
- There are lots of fabulous nature programmes out there. Who doesn't love David Attenborough? Why not sit back and enjoy some of them together with a bucket of popcorn or an ice cream.
- Focus on where animals live. Visit [http://resources.hwb.wales.gov.uk/VTC/animal\\_homes/eng/Introduction/default.htm](http://resources.hwb.wales.gov.uk/VTC/animal_homes/eng/Introduction/default.htm) for lots more information about this. Choose a continent and design a poster to show which animals can be found





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- Recap what an animal needs (we learnt about this in class for humans - air, water, food and shelter). Compile a list of questions to find out about how to look after a pet and then interview someone who has that pet to find the answers.
- Design a leaflet to show someone how to look after a particular pet.
- Get crafty and make animals using recyclable materials, lego, plasticine or anything else you can lay your hands on.
- Look at animals in various artwork and try to replicate this. I googled 'artists inspired by art' and thousands of images appeared.
- Print a picture of your favourite animal and cut out a small section of it. Can your child draw the rest of it? And colour it?
- Create animal masks.



- Focus on nocturnal animals. Do the children know what this word means? Can they name nocturnal animals? Find out more at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zsshfg8> or try the game at <https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/nocturnal/index.html> Discuss the traits that these animals have developed further such as larger eyes and ears, or glowing body parts. Why have these animals evolved in this way?
- For more animal inspired artwork visit <https://www.greenkidcrafts.com/6-nocturnal-animal-crafts/>

There are many, many more animal inspired activities that your child might like to do so please feel free to get creative and do whatever they fancy learning about. I would love to see what you/they come up with so please keep posting pictures on FOSSY Facebook or email me at [l.crook@scotforth-st-pauls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:l.crook@scotforth-st-pauls.lancs.sch.uk)

One final thing (you will be relieved to read!), Mrs Ventress has included some learning for the children to complete at home. Please see the separate letter within your packs for more information.

As always, please just do your best. The children do not need to do absolutely everything listed here as I am sure you are completing lots of other fun and exciting things too. The most important thing is to keep smiling, be happy and stay safe.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon

Mrs Cross

P.S. Don't forget Purple Mash has a lot of fun activities too. Usernames and passwords are on your packs for speedy access.

