



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

"Let faith be your shield"

Scotforth St Paul's Primary and Nursery School
Scotforth Road
Lancaster
LA1 4SE
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04/05/2020

Dear parents,

You are all doing a wonderful job caring for your children at home. I have seen photos and had emails from almost everyone telling me what they have been up to. I will print these out and put them in children's folders.

The next pack has been planned to last for 3 weeks. This would take us up to May half term. Our topic continues to be growth and change. If we had been at Nursery we would have talked about the names of parts of a plant and its roots. I have put in a picture of a plant for you to cut up and ask your child to put back together.

I have also put some more scissor skills activities in. Children can cut out the farm animals and then use sticks, wooden bricks Duplo etc. to make fences to keep the animals apart. You could watch some farm animals online at www.folly-farm.co.uk. On www.countrytrust.org.uk you can watch animals including lambs and piglets being born. The younger children at school are going to go on bug hunts and do a bird watch. We would love to hear what you have spotted.

I have included some pictures from around school to talk about. Some of them are areas of the school and some are parts of Nursery but taken from an unusual angle.

Mrs Todd Bryce has been making the challenges that have been coming home online and in the packs. Please do as many or as few as you want to.

I have enclosed a blank jigsaw for children to draw anything they like. The challenge is for them to break it up and get it back together.

For children starting school please could you complete the getting undressed/dressed challenge. This is to support children who will be getting changed for PE in Reception. Have a go at buttons, zips and tying a knot too.

Have a go at activities that practice using a knife and fork. Children could cut up bananas or playdough. We are working on holding the food still with the fork whilst sawing and pressing with the knife. Start with soft foods.

I have put a piece of chalk in the pack-please could you help your child draw a hopscotch path. They can then practice a hop and a jump along it. Older children could try and write the numbers on the squares whilst younger children could draw dots or the number block shapes. We would be getting more familiar with the story of "Jack and the beanstalk." What about putting sprouting carrots and potatoes on a layer of tissue and water it to see what will happen.





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We would have been hearing the following stories

"Oliver's vegetables"

"Jasper's beanstalk"

"The enormous turnip" and singing "Mary, Mary, quite contrary." You will be able to find all of these on Youtube.

The final story is "The tiny seed" by Eric Carle. It tells the stories of seeds blown by the wind and what happens when they land in different places. This leads into lots of talk about what seeds need to grow.

I am very aware that the government advice is to talk, play and move. I have put what they have said below because I think it is good advice.

How to help young children learn at home

You can help your child to learn through the little things you do with them, for example:

- everyday conversations
- make-believe play
- games with numbers or letters
- reading together
- involving them in the things you are doing, such as household chores, and talking with them about it

Find ideas for new things you can try at [Hungry Little Minds](#).

You do not need to set separate time or plan complicated activities dedicated to learning. These activities can be incorporated into everyday life and play.

You know your child best. Avoid forcing them into lengthy planned activities if they naturally respond better to a mix of shorter activities. This can stop them getting bored or frustrated and keep them active, interested and learning through things they enjoy.

Keeping a routine

Do not worry about trying to keep to the full routine that your child had in nursery or with their childcare provider. But children will feel more comfortable with a predictable routine, so try to make sure they:

- get up and go to bed at the same time each day
- have regular meal times
- turn off any electronic devices, including the TV, at least an hour before bedtime





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Keeping active

Young children should be active for at least 3 hours a day in total

It is also good to get some fresh air every day. If you do not have a garden and are taking children outside to exercise, make sure you follow the [rules on social distancing](#).

While inside, there are plenty of things you can do to keep children active, such as:

- playing hide-and-seek
- seeing who can do the most star jumps
- making an obstacle course
- playing music and having a dance-off

Television and using digital devices

There are lots of ways to [help your child to learn](#) such as reading together and make-believe play. You can also use what children have watched on television or the internet to help their learning. Talk with them about what they are watching or use their favourite TV characters in other games and activities.

Digital devices such as a laptop, desktop, tablet or smartphone can help some children learn. If your child does use them, try downloading some [apps that will help them learn](#).

Set age-appropriate parental controls on any devices young children are using and supervise their use of websites and apps. See [advice on keeping them safe online](#).

Try sharing things your child makes with your friends and family online and encourage others to do the same. Your child might enjoy seeing things they have made on the screen or seeing what other children have done.

You can also visit [Hungry Little Minds](#) for ideas of activities to do together without using a device.

Socialising while social distancing

Spending time with other children is important for your child's development, but at the moment it is important they stay at home.

It will help them if everyone in the home talks with them through the day, responding to them and being led by the things they are interested in.

Visit [Hungry Little Minds](#) for more information about talking with your child.

If you can, try a video call with other children. Younger children may not have a conversation as you would, but they can share activities or show each other things they have made or like.





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Try a call with other people that your child knows, such as grandparents.

Sit and do the call with them to help. Not all children will like it, so try again another time or have a call with family members while you are sitting down and eating a meal.

Try sitting with your child and looking at pictures of their friends or family. Talk about them and the things you have done together.

I bet you've found lots of interesting things online. I have been looking at BBC tiny little people and Disney dance along at "This girl can." I am wary of suggesting a lot of the current apps being advertised as they are free for now but they want all of your personal details. If you come across anything your child enjoys let me know and I will email it to the other parents.

Feel free to email me or ring school if you would like any more support.

Ruth Atkinson

