

Dear parents,

I hope you and your families have had an enjoyable and restful Easter break, and haven't consumed too much chocolate! As of this week, I will be continuing to set your children weekly homeschool work. This work will largely be revision of work that we have already covered, along with a few tasks covering the areas of the curriculum that we would be learning during term 5. Below, I have outlined the areas of each subject that we would have been covering if we were in school. Please try and record any homeschool work that you and your children are doing in their homeschool books - this could be in the way of photographs too (any video footage you record can be emailed to me, if you wish).

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Literacy

Spellings

Along with this document, will be the list of spellings that your children would be learning this term. These spelling sheets also contain the 'spelling rule' for the groups of spellings - try and teach your children these rules, and test them on these as well as the spellings themselves (the children are used to me asking them about the 'spelling rules' so will know what you mean.).

As before, any spelling stories or games are a great way of engaging your children in their spellings. In class we would always do a spelling test on Friday morning's to test their ability to retain those spellings - children should also be encourage to use these spelling within their work.

Reading

As always, I encourage all children to read everyday, and might suggest you build this into part of a daily routine (reading at the same time every day - after breakfast or before lunch etc...).

Normally we would have a class book that I would read the children, and focus literacy work on. For our class book this term I will set every child the same book from BugClub, this way you can read it with your children and the whole class will be reading from the same book.

Writing

The writing focus for term's 5 and 6 would have been to build on using ambitious work choices and looking at areas of the children's writing that needed improving, and areas of their writing that could be stretched. I would therefore advise you to try different styles of writing and incorporate a variety of different spellings, as listed below.

- Instructions - Why not build something and write a set of instructions detailing how you made it, so others can also build it - really focus on detail and making your instructions clear! This could also be a recipe!
- Descriptive - By applying the grammar that we have already looked at this year (modifying adjectives, expanded noun phrase, fronted adverbial) write a detailed and descriptive text. This could be incorporated in a story, or a separate piece of work.
- Poem - So far this year we have looked at how poets use rhyme, rhythm, and grammar to change the meaning of a poem. You could write a poem, and then modify your poem to change its meaning or to improve it.
- Informative - Write an informative piece of work. Why not combine this work with history or Geography, and write a mini-project?
- Report - Last term the children wrote fantastic non-chronological reports. Why not try your hand at writing a chronological report, or writing a science report (do an experiment, and write a report of what you did, and what you found out).
- Newspaper article - You could write a newspaper article about something exciting that you've done over Easter... include titles, subtitles/headings, and photographs.

Maths

I will continue to set MyMaths homework from this week onwards. We would be moving onto measurement of weights if we were in school. For this first week back, I would suggest recapping measurement of money with your children, and from next week introduce them to weights. You can engage them by using kitchen scales to measure different weights, compare weights, estimate (including which items they think are heavier), and measure different weights for recipes etc... if your children need to be stretched, you could test their conceptual understanding of weight, i.e. what's heavier, a kilogram of bricks, or a kilogram of feathers...

History

For term's 5 and 6 we would be learning all about the Roman Empire and its effect on Britain.

For this term, get your children to research Julius Caesar and the building of the Roman Empire. If you're feeling crafty you could research what a typical Roman soldier looked like, and make their shields or weapons - or if you have the resources at home, why not try to re-create a soldier's entire uniform, great for fancy dress!

Science

This term we would be moving onto States of Matter! There's loads that you can do with this topic! The states of matter are solid, liquid, and gas - why not try and find some fun and interactive experiments involving the different states of matter!

Water/ice/steam is great to show the different states because your children can witness first-hand how H₂O changes state! Get the children to hold an ice cube in their hands to melt, the liquid water can then be dripped into a kettle, the kettle can then be boiled, and by holding a plate over the top you can carefully collect the steam. Please note, there are other materials that you can use (including chocolate) to demonstrate something similar - although I'd advise not using your kettle for these materials.

Art

Collage art! The Romans were well known for their intricate collages and tapestries. Why not create your own! You can either use fabric, paint, colour pencils, or if you're feeling super creative you can melt some baked sweets!

Research historic Roman art!

French

Being on Lockdown unfortunately means we have been unable to see and play with our friends, so why not write to a friend in French, explaining what you've been up to over your Easter holiday!

If you wish to send these letters to each other, please do not leave your house to see them, instead email me your letter, and I can forward it onto them!