



Sandford St. Martin's

P R I M A R Y S C H O O L

Wednesday 22nd April 2020

Dear Saplings children, Parents and Carers

Welcome 'back' everyone!

Hi everyone and welcome back to our somewhat strange start to a new term! We hope you all had a restful Easter break and managed to switch off and just spend some time enjoying being together and making the most of the sunshine?

We thought that as we've all now had a couple of weeks to get used to this new way of learning, sort of, and as we're not quite sure how long it will last, that it would be helpful to explain a little of our thinking about what this first half term will look like in terms of learning for the children. You will have received an altered version of our Summer Term plan with this letter developed to ensure coverage but to make it manageable at home. With this in mind we have taken our usual plan and stripped it back to the things that will be most useful for the children but still with some fun ideas for you to explore at home. Our weekly Dojo uploads will reflect these ideas and skills whilst hopefully preparing the children for their next stage of learning.

We usually spend much of our time this term polishing skills that the children have learnt or still need to embed ready for Year 1. Our **Phonics sessions** and learning will continue in the same way and can we just say how grateful we are to your continued effort in this area. It's vital that the children continue to learn the new pieces of alphabetic code in order to help them develop their reading and writing skills and you are doing a fantastic job with some very tricky sounds! There will certainly be a revision period when the children return to school but to keep moving forward with this is essential.

Whilst still on the subject of Phonics can we ask you to practise, practise, practise any **independent writing** that you can with the children. This will be one of the main areas they will need to master in order to hit end of year targets. We will post regular writing ideas but the more that you can give them practise of writing independently, the more confident they will feel as they return to school. It's not only their Phonic skills that are needed in writing but also handwriting skills and this is a massive area for development for us in the Summer Term. We will be posting regular handwriting ideas, breaking the letters into letter families that support the children's development of the fine motor and muscle memory skills needed to form letters correctly. Let's all try to make our handwriting as neat as we can over the next few weeks!

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Our **Maths learning** will also continue as started, we will focus on a **Number of the Day** which will in turn support many numeracy skills including counting, addition and subtraction. We will also revisit shape, measure, capacity and money. We will be looking at the relationships between numbers using number bonds to help us.

We will also be adding some **Topic based learning ideas** which will cover some of the intended outcomes for this term. We hope these activities will be fun and exciting for the children and be able to be done outside or inside if it's easier.

We also just wanted to say a little about expectations and coping with the amount of information we are all receiving at the moment through school and many other areas. We post lots of ideas but expect you to work in a way that is manageable for you at home, so if this means working a day behind or not completing every activity, that's fine. We understand that some days are better than others and some days are just about being together and playing outside!

This is why we've tried to give you ideas about the main skills necessary in order to reach expected standards at the end of Reception Year and these are in a very simple nutshell -

1. Read simple sentences using phonic strategies whilst beginning to develop fluency.
2. Write and spell simple phonetic and common exception (tricky) words.
3. Write simple sentences independently using correct punctuation.
4. Be able to write letters that are correctly formed and of similar size.
5. Be able to add and subtract numbers.
6. To know and recognise numbers to 20 and beyond.

Six simple skills that if you can do nothing else, keep practising these things and that will be fantastic. We'll all be teachers by the end of this!

We know that we are all juggling and balancing lots of different things at the moment but we hope that this will relieve any worries or concerns you have about what school looks like for the next few weeks. We hope that, like us, despite all of the worry and uncertainty you are finding times to actually enjoy being together and wearing the two hats of parent/teacher with varying degrees of success each day! We're all in this together and we will continue to do all that we can to ensure the children have the best memories and receive the best possible learning in their first year of school

Many thanks

Mrs Abrahams and Mrs Matthews

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