

Hello all parents and home schooling adults!

We totally understand that this is a worrying time and that, with all the will in the world, it may be difficult and somewhat overwhelming to be faced with teaching your children at home as well as all the other work and family commitments you may have. Maintaining the same school structure that the children have at Godinton is not possible and is not our goal. However, as we continue on this journey of home and online learning we are conscious that our children need to practice and consolidate the skills and knowledge they have learnt so far. We are here to help support you with activities and suggestions that will help your child to maintain their learning in the areas of phonics and mathematics particularly. Please remember that all children learn at different rates and have preferences for different activities and varying skills!

Phonics for reading and writing

Recall:

If possible recall learnt phonemes and tricky words from phase 2 and 3 several times a week: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> choose the phase 2 or 3 and click on 'flashcards speed trial'. There are links on the school website for correct pronunciation of all phonemes.

On the same site play 'tricky word trucks' choosing phase 2 or 3 words. If your child is confident at these then continue on to phase 4.

Practice and Apply:

Any single phonemes from phase 2 or digraphs from phase 3 (phonemes that are made from 2 letters such as sh/ai/ee) that your child may be less confident with, play some of the games such as 'Dragon's den', 'picnic on Pluto' or 'buried treasure'. This requires the child to segment the sounds to blend and read the words and decide if they are real words or 'alien' words and sort them accordingly. When playing phase 3 digraphs, encourage your child to spot the digraph first, then sound out the word. For example when reading rain, spot the 'ai' first and then segment r/ai/n and blend saying rain. Otherwise they will segment r/a/i/n and will be incorrect when trying to blend.

There are many websites that will help you apply and practice segmenting and blending with phase 2 and 3 phonemes such as <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/> , <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/> , <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com> .

Letter Formation Practice Sheet

a b c d e f g h i

j k l m n o p q r

s t u v w x y z

It is important to practice letter formation as often as you can and it helps to say the phonemes as they are written. You can use whiteboards, paper, paintbrushes and water on the patio... Practice saying the phonemes for your child to write. Do this with digraphs too.

Finally, the skill of segmenting the sounds in words and blending them to read and write also needs to be practiced as regularly as possible, and requires the child to be able to 'hear and say' the sounds in words, know their grapheme (shape) and be able to form the grapheme correctly.

Practice saying simple **CVC** words such as cat, hen, pot, ship, moon, and asking your child to write them. You will get ideas for words to choose from playing the phase 2 and 3 games. Let them have access to the phase 2 or 3 sound mat that has been sent home previously if they are unsure of the shape of the letters. Can they recognise the letters they need? If not just help them! Some children are able to hear many sounds in longer words (for example may hear and write catpilu for caterpillar) and others may only hear and write the initial sound.

Some children are ready to write lists, captions for pictures or sentences. Every week in school we ask the children to complete busy time activities on their whiteboards where we show a picture and ask them to write what they see, it could be one word, a list of words or a sentence or we put up a letter and ask them to write words that begin with that letter. There are all sorts of writing prompts on [twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) and other phonic websites for inspiration.

Mathematics

We follow a Maths Mastery curriculum using resources from Power maths, Mathletics and White Rose. We will continue to set Mathletics activities on the Unexpected Adventure Trails but don't forget, your child can always play the games and repeat any activities already set for additional practice and consolidation of skills.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/early-years/>

Please make use of the above website that has daily activities supporting the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for Maths Mastery. You can dip into the year 1 area if you feel your child is exceeding in some areas but the key to Mastery is to have a really secure knowledge base and skill set, ability to explain answers and show thinking using smaller numbers and equations first. Although there are daily activities, please do not feel you have to do them, choose the ones that are manageable and you know will engage your child.

Areas to focus on will be added to the Adventure Trails but feel free to choose any age related addition, subtraction, counting, ordering and comparing activities that you like on any of the websites you have found. We use www.ictgames.co.uk , <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting> , <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/topics/numeracy>, <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html> but there are many more. Numberblocks are popular too.

Top tip.... Keep maths and phonic activities **short** and **active** where possible to help your child stay engaged. Contact us via yearRparent@godinton.kent.sch.uk if you have any questions or queries. There is no expectation for you to record, take photos or pass anything on to us during this time – just enjoy taking part in activities together.

Many thanks from all in the EYFS team!