

Welcome to Week Two

Welcome back to the virtual reception classroom! Thank you for your fantastic engagement last week. We loved seeing the children's work and pictures and even watching some of the fabulous videos that were sent though. We have some very talented storytellers at Swansfield Park Primary. It was also great to receive lots of positive feedback from parents. However, if you have suggestions for improving our offer, we'll gladly listen to those and try our best to meet everyone's needs where we can.

For now, we thought it would be helpful to give a little bit of information about the road map we'll be following to get us through this lockdown period.

The format of our home learning this week is very similar to last week. We'll focus on a story and base most of our activity around that. Through this, we hope that the children will get used to their new way of working and as a family, you can begin to establish a routine that works for you. Then in the week beginning Monday 18th January, you'll notice a little bit of a change. The main difference is that we'll be getting back to our usual routine of phonics teaching and we'll begin the topic work that we would have been teaching in the classroom during this half term. In addition, after two weeks of focusing on the shape, space and measures element of our mathematical development curriculum strand, we'll return to a focus upon number skill, more specifically, addition.

We've added a set 1 sounds video this week as well. It would be helpful to watch this video each day so that those sounds that we spent so long learning last term don't become rusty!

In addition, can we suggest that you look regularly at the red words walls too. They are attached to this week's work. Remember, these are tricky words that can't be sounded out, they just have to be learnt. You might like to print these out or simply get a red pen and make your own version!

Counting each day is also highly recommended. In the classroom, we count forwards and backwards within 20 each day. This helps our place value understanding and builds numerical fluency.

If we can give you one final suggestion, it is to use Bug Club for reading on a regular basis. All children should have plenty of reading material available to them on this platform. If you need your child's log in details, get in touch and we can re-send these to you - it's no problem at all! Remember that your child should read each title a few times. In the 1st read through, you may need to give quite a bit of support. However, when you come back to the same book the next day, you should find that your child begins to read with a growing independence. Then, the next time you visit the same book, you might find that your child can read it fluently. Repetition is essential when building reading skill.

So, here's hoping that week two is a positive one. We look forward to hearing from you all. Do remember to be kind to yourselves. We appreciate that all of the tasks may not get done each day. You will be juggling more than just this reception class home-learning in your busy days and we really do understand that! Do remember that particularly with some of the more creative tasks, you may just need to explain what needs to be done and then leave your child to get on with it. Building independence is an essential skill in itself!

Sending you our very best wishes,

Mrs Grimes and Mrs Horne-Smith