

Hi all! Hope you are well. I'm afraid this will be the last blog I write before the summer holidays, so I've included a few extra ideas to keep you going until the 15th July (when the school bubbles are closing). I hope the blogs have been useful to help you on your home-learning journey.

## **English**

I've included an extra reading activity, an extra writing activity and a couple of extra challenges in case you need them to keep you going over the next two weeks - please don't worry if you don't get through them all! There will also be activities left over in some of the packs if you need anything over the summer.

### **1a. Reading Activity One:**

For your reading activity this week, we're going to look at some **poetry**, so you'll need your **Poetry Pack**.

Have a look at the poems called '**Catch a Little Rhyme**' and '**Leap Like a Leopard**'.

Can you spot any rhyming words in these poems? Do they appear in a pattern?

Choose the poem you like the best and have a go at answering the questions about it (you could either tell a grown up the answers or write them down). If you want to, you can answer the questions for the other poem as well.

### **1b. Reading Activity Two:**

If you'd like to look at some more poetry, you'll need your **Poetry Pack** again.

The next two poems are called '**I Wonder**' and '**Ice Lolly**'.

Can you spot any rhyming words in these poems? Do they appear in a pattern?

Choose the poem you like the best and have a go at answering the questions about it (you could either tell a grown up the answers or write them down). If you want to, you can answer the questions for the other poem as well.

## **2. Grammar:**

This week, we're going to be looking at apostrophes.

Apostrophes can have one of two jobs.

### **Job 1: Apostrophes can show Contraction**

**Contraction** is when we **shorten** a word or group of words by missing some letters.

We usually use an apostrophe to show the place of the missing letters.

For example, **do not = don't**

Here's a video to help explain it.

[BBC Bitesize - How to use apostrophes in contractions](#)

Find the short text **Heavy Baskets** in your **Grammar Pack**. As you read it, see if you can see any words with apostrophes in them. What have these words been shortened from?

Now have a go at the sheet '**I can use an apostrophe for contraction.**'

### **Job 2: Apostrophes can show Possession**

**Possession** means that something **belongs** to somebody or someone. We use apostrophes to show this.

For example, **Mr Johnson's car** means **the car that belongs to Mr Johnson**. We add an **apostrophe** and an **s** to show this ('**s**).

Find the short text called '**Dad's Invention**' in your **Grammar Pack**. How many apostrophes that show possession can you find?

Now have a go at the sheet '**I can use the apostrophe for possession.**' There's a second sheet if you'd like a bit more practice.

*Note for parents: Children may not grasp this straight away and often add apostrophes whenever a word ends in s. Regular reminders are the best way to help them learn the rule. To help with this, there is another sheet at the back of the spelling pack that you can use at any time if you'd like to.*

## **3. Handwriting:**

I'd like you to complete **Units 17 to 20** in your **Handwriting Pack**.

**Unit 17: Horizontal joins to s (ws) \*New join**

**Unit 18: Diagonal joins from 's' to ascender (sh)** \*New join

**Unit 19: Diagonal joins from 's', no ascender (si, su, se, sp, sm)** \*New join

**Unit 20: Horizontal joins from 'r' to an anticlockwise letter (rs)** \*New join

As well as practising in your booklet, don't forget there are lots of ways of other ways (some of them messy) to practise joining letters correctly.

#### 4. Spelling:

This week, we're going to remind ourselves of:

The /**or**/ sound spelt with an '**a**' before **l** or **ll**. (Main focus)

When an '**a**' comes before '**l**' or '**ll**', it often makes an /**or**/ sound. For example, **wall**, **call**, **always**, **walk** and **talk**.

The fifth page in your spelling pack (it is numbered as 47) asks you to try to sort out some muddled up letters. See if you can do it.

*These spelling rules are also in the activity but aren't the main focus:*

*Adding **-ed** to single-syllable words ending in one consonant with one vowel before it. (Double the consonant)*

*Adding **-ing** to single-syllable words ending in one consonant with one vowel before it. (Double the consonant)*

*Common exception words (otherwise known as red words).*

You can also practise these spellings using Spell Blast

Spell Blast can be found on **School360 > Resources > J2e > Spell Blast**

You can find this word list by clicking '**Have a practice**' and choosing the '**Shared**' tab. The list is called '**al, all and alk**'.

#### 5a. Writing Activity One:

One of the poems that you read earlier, **Leap Like a Leopard**, uses something called similes to describe how different animals move. A simile is when we compare one thing with another. For example, '**She was as brave as a lion**' or '**He ran like a cheetah**'.

Usually, we use the words '**as...as**' or '**like**' to compare.

**Can you write a poem that uses similes?** Think of what you'd like your poem to be about and then think about it's features. Now try to compare those features to other things. You might have to rearrange your lines so they sound good. If you could make it rhyme, that would be amazing!

There are some examples on the blog to give you some ideas.

#### 5b. Writing Activity Two:

You could also have a go at creating a shape poem. A shape poem is a poem that is shaped like the thing it describes. There are some examples on the blog to give you some ideas.

#### Extra Challenge

Last week was the last Akimbo and the Elephants activity. I hope you enjoy the next two Akimbo stories (if you haven't already). This week, I'm going to suggest a couple of ideas that you could use for *any* story that you've read (including the Akimbo ones, if you'd like to).

##### **Idea 1: Low Tech TV**

You could use this to retell a story or make your own cartoon. [Full instructions here.](#)

##### **Idea 2: Book Report in a Bag**

Choose a book, read it, decorate a bag with a scene from the book and place at least 5 items in the bag that represent something from the book. Paper bags work best!

##### **Idea 3: T-Shirt Book Review/Report**

You could use this to retell a story or make your own cartoon. [Full instructions here.](#)

All of these ideas have photos on the blog to give you some ideas.