

January 2021

Dear Parents,

As you are aware the schools are moving to online learning for the next three weeks and although it is not what any of us wish for, it is where we are. It is important that the progress made since September is maintained and built upon. During this this time, I will be sending home work each day for the children to complete through Aladdin. In order to help this new process make sense, I have typed below an outline of the basic structure which we will try to follow over the next three weeks.

With our learning being online, I will be using a range of different online resources along with books and worksheets, as you well know, the internet is not always the safest place for children and it strongly recommended that children should not have access to the internet without supervision, for their own safety. All of the links I will be sending are child friendly, however watch out for ads and suggested videos on YouTube.

Fortunately, the Raz Plus reading scheme has been put in place in our school and it is vital that reading be practised every day. There is a facility on Raz Plus to record your child reading which I would encourage you to do each school day. If you cannot access the Raz Plus please contact me at the email below and I will try to sort it.

Each week I will hold two zoom calls for the children. These zoom calls will be short and are not mandatory, they are just for fun and so that the children can tell me their news or ask me any questions they may have about the work. I hope to see as many from the class as possible and I'm sure the children will be delighted to see their classmates. Protocols for Zoom meetings will be outlined in the letter from Mr Dunphy. Our scheduled zoom calls are for 11am Tuesdays and 2pm Thursdays and the link to the zooms will be in the Homework box.

Each day I will be writing a shorthand version of the homework, eg. "Handwriting – Letter c". The information below will explain all of the activities in further detail. Outside of this, using jigsaws, Lego, painting, drawing, colouring, playing with siblings, being outside and being read to are all important aspects of a holistic education.

The Aladdin homework page has the option for you to send completed work back to me as a photo or pdf. This is optional; however, it is a great way to keep regular contact between home and school and it also allows me to give positive feedback on work done which enhances the progress of young children.

If you have any questions or enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [seniorinfants2.urlingfordns@gmail.com](mailto:seniorinfants2.urlingfordns@gmail.com) .

Hoping all are safe and well,

Ms. Dunphy

## **English**

### **Small handwriting copy with red and blue lines.**

Use the copy to practise letter formation. One letter each day with about 6 – 8 letters per line. Please ensure that the letter is written as closely as possible to the example. For guidance on how to write each letter, here is a handy website game where your child can watch how each letter is formed - <http://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/skyWriter/index.html>

### **A4 Writing Booklet**

In with the books sent home, a booklet with writing paper and a space to draw at the top. This will be used for a daily sentence activity.

I will give a word to be put into a short sentence each day eg “cat”. The sentence can be written out for your child and they can copy it carefully into their copy. A suitable sentence might be “The cat is in the car.”

When the page is full, after 2/3 days they can draw a picture at the top of the page to go with one or all of the sentences.

### **Jolly Phonics**

2 or 3 words will be prescribed for each day. Get your child to sound out the word, say the word and put it into a sentence. (No need to write it down unless your child wishes to.)

### **Tricky Words Bag**

Tricky words are a very important part of reading and writing at this stage, as they cannot be sounded out, repetitively reading them and learning to recognise them is vital. In the tricky word bag sent home (or inside the Busy at Maths Home book if not in bag), each day the child should pick out 1-3 words, read them and orally put them into a sentence. I have put some new words into the bag so don't worry if your child does not recognise them all just yet!

### **Reading**

Reading is very important, especially reading aloud, and it is necessary to keep practising it with Raz Plus. There is a huge range of books available to your child and he/she can choose a book to read each day.

There is a facility to record your child reading which will then be forwarded to me. When he/ she has opened a book, click on the microphone icon and then press the 'record' button and start reading. When they are finished the book and clicked on “Done” the recording will automatically be forwarded to me. If possible, I would love to hear the children read as much as often as possible, I can then reward the children with stars through Raz Plus so they can customise their characters.

## **Maths;**

Busy at Maths. When your child has to do a page in the book there is a corresponding interactive page online. The following link will lead you to it. To get to the appropriate page change the number '50' in the link to the page number required.

<http://data.cjfallon.ie/resources/19602/activity-50/index.html>

## **Activity Booklet**

With the books sent home, an activity booklet was included, this booklet contains different SESE activities and topics which can be revised and covered over the next few weeks. These topics can go outside of just completing the worksheet, if possible, you could talk through the sheet and the topic with your child.

Also in the booklet is different literacy and numeracy worksheets which we will be working through also. I understand that there is a lot of work in this booklet so do not worry if you do not get it all done!

Certain days I will be assigning different specific pages from the booklet. The page number given will correspond to a written page number at the bottom of each page of the booklet.

## **Movement Breaks**

During the school day, after every subject covered, we take a movement break. This break can be from following a dance to going for a run and everything in between. I suggest incorporating movement breaks into your child's day where possible. Every day I will include a video for a movement break which you can use if you wish.

## **Gaeilge**

As a number of people had difficulty accessing Bua na Cainte during the last Lockdown we have decided to leave the teaching of Irish for the three weeks of January. If remote learning continues after that time, we will review how best to teach Irish.