



Elements Primary School



Friday 24th April 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly can I thank all of those who have sent us messages, cards and gifts of appreciation this week. During these unprecedented times it has meant so much to us and given us a much needed boost. Thank you.

I know many of you have been finding keeping your children engaged and motivated to learn during these strange and sunny times a challenge. Please do not let this become a difficult or stressful part of your day. There is a full range of activities on the classroom for the children to complete but they can do other things too or instead. Please just share these with us via their classwork profile.

We are very happy to chat to you or your child if this would help with any issues you may be having. We continue to be amazed at the fantastic work being completed and thank you all for your continued efforts.

Thank you too for all those who have been so reasonable and considerate in your communications with school. It makes all the difference when emails and messages are of a pleasant and friendly tone.

During lockdown I do hope you are all managing to find some time to look after your own well being. Who knew staying at home could be so stressful? If you are struggling with your mental health, emotions, anger management or general well being please get in touch and we will signpost you to some support. We are in this together.

Please look after each other and stay safe.

Miss S Horsbrough

Executive Principal

STAYING IN TOUCH

We have a number of communication points available during this period of lockdown. Different staff are monitoring these and so it is very helpful if you could try to communicate via the appropriate channel for different queries or concerns.

For queries regarding chromebooks and Google Classroom - info@elementsprimaryschool.co.uk

For comments to other children in their class - children to add comments to the class stream

For all other queries and questions please use - office@elementsprimaryschool.co.uk

For emergency calls during school hours (when school is closed) - 07375391970

Please do not post questions and concerns on the classroom or Facebook as this will delay our chance to respond and may be directed to the wrong person.

Writing on Google Classroom

Some parents have asked about, what appear to be, spelling errors in writing examples being used by teachers on the classroom. We completely understand that this looks odd and so wanted to share some information which hopefully helps to explain the reasoning for this.

When teaching early writing children are encouraged to write using the sounds they know.

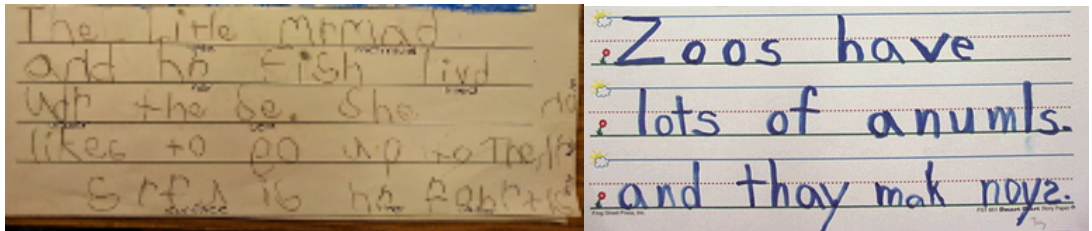
Words that can be sounded out using these sounds are known to the children as 'green' words, for example **c-a-t** is spelt exactly as it sounds.

Where a word cannot be phonetically sounded out it is known to the children as a 'red' word, for example s-o-m-e. At this particular stage of writing children need to communicate using their phonic knowledge and therefore to write words as they sound. This is what the teachers will demonstrate and is a technique the children are used to seeing. Therefore **s-o-m-e** will often be spelt as s-u-m

Not all the children have been taught all the spelling patterns and sounds that they need for more complex 'red' words yet and to demonstrate writing using these words makes the sounding out process for children more confusing.

We hope this helps.

Here are some examples although not from children in our school.



Workbooks

Whilst it is fantastic to hear that our children are completing their workbooks we are sorry if this is causing any issues at home. We ordered these books specifically for learning at home and so do not have a large supply. If your child has completed their book please email school and we will do our best to get another one out to you. Obviously we are following guidance surrounding visits and social distancing and this may mean it takes longer to get these to you as so few staff are on site. Please bear with us as we do this.

In the meantime, please do use whatever notebooks you may have to hand at home. Thank you for your understanding.



Jumpers for September

As a few parents have been asking, we wanted to update you on next year's jumpers for Year 2. The colour is a darker green and looks really beautiful. As with Year 1 every child will receive a jumper in their new year group colour free of charge. Those children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding will receive two.

Jumpers for Year 2 are currently in production and will be available to buy after May half term. Year 1 jumpers are available on the suppliers website now.



Reading Books

As the lockdown was about to start we ordered additional reading books to scan and send out to our children. As of yet we have had no deliveries of post to school and so none of the books we ordered have arrived. We apologise for the delay.

Please be assured we are doing everything we can to resolve this.

We are aware that children are completing the reading books we have sent home and there have been requests to swap for the next one. The challenges we have are:

1. We have very few reading books left in school because they were shared out among the children already.
2. Unless absolutely necessary school will not be open to allow any books to be returned.

Alternatively get your children reading any other books they have access to. If you are particular that they read the scheme books these can be ordered from Amazon but we would not recommend spending money unnecessarily.

Please email the office and we will endeavour to get a scanned copy of your child's reading book to you as soon as possible.



Free School Meals

Those of you who are eligible for Free School Meals should now have received an email with supermarket vouchers. If you have not received this and think you are eligible please email office@elementsprimaryschool.co.uk

These are not to be confused with Universal free school meals which children receive of in Reception or Year 1)

If you are unsure or if you are struggling for food please get in touch with us.



Awards and Prizes!

You will see on the Google Classroom that when children submit work there are marks to be awarded for each task.

We will be monitoring these marks and those children who have earned the most points each week will be allocated a ticket to go in to prize draw.

A draw will be made weekly giving everyone a chance to win a prize.

Anyone who has been entered into the draw will also be put into a cumulative pot which we will draw winners from at the end of this period.

Therefore children who gain enough points to be entered into the weekly draw will automatically be entered into the cumulative draw even if they haven't won during the week.

There will be lots of prizes on offer!



[Useful Links for Parents for further activities to complete at home](#)

CBeebies Storytime App

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/cbeebies-storytime-app>

This is a fantastic app for young children. Children can choose stories to add to their library and then either choose to read them or have them read to them. Throughout the story, children are asked to interact and there are three questions at the end to check the children's understanding of the story.

Scholastic

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome/grades-1-2.html>

Scholastic are offering 15 days free content. Children can watch a story, read a book and complete tasks and games linked to the books.

Scratch Junior

<https://www.scratchjr.org/>

An app that children can use to program their own interactive stories and games.

GoNoodle

<https://www.gonoodle.com/for-families/>

GoNoodle is great for when you need children to get moving about. It includes dance, movement and mindfulness activities for children.

Instagram

There are lots of play accounts on instagram with ideas for play activities that can be set up using things you might have in the house.

[@the_play_at_home_mummas](#) - run by **Mrs Winstanley** and her ex-colleague (Early Years Teachers and parents to 4 children under 6!)

[@play.hooray](#) - run by a teacher-turned Play Coach and mother

[@fiveminutemum](#) - run by an experienced Teaching Assistant and mother

Twinkl Parents

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>

Twinkl are offering free Home Learning Packs and resources for parents during school closures.

White Rose Maths Hub

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

Free access to 5 new Maths Lessons for each year group.

Classroom Secrets

<https://kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk/>

Free resources and games for children to practise Maths and Phonics for Early Years and Reading, Phonics, Grammar, History and Maths for Y1+.

Oxford Owl

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-school/oxford-owl-ebook-collection>

Oxford Owl have a free ebook library for everyone to access. Sign up for a free account and you will have access to 100s of books. Each one comes with activities to check children's understanding and you can choose to read them or have them read to you.

Audible

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Audible is offering free streaming of children's books for the duration of the school closures.