

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and taking good care of yourselves during this challenging time. I have suggested setting up a routine which I have been following (casually) at home with my own children. What has worked well for us is having a nice activity to look forward to in the afternoon. My children have lots of unopened craft and Lego sets that they like to do so this is often a choice, or sometimes it's to watch a favourite film.

What doesn't work as well is giving them too much 'work' to do, we know our own children and we know if completing work is the right thing to do. Some children enjoy work and find it a good distraction they might also like the routine, others might find it an added stress which can just lead to more anxieties.

I have found keeping to a routine good for myself and the rest of my family but allow yourself a rest and opportunities to have fun within this routine. Reflect and move things around or add extra of activities you and your children enjoy and do less of the activities you don't enjoy.

In terms of work I will add ideas linked to the type of learning they would be doing in school which could be adapted to home learning if you wanted to. Please do not feel that you have to do any of these activities they are just ideas and resources that you might find helpful.

In English we have been focusing on using **full stops**, and **capital letters correctly**. We have also been learning to **write a recount based on real experiences**. Once a week we have been writing up our cooking lesson. Our recount focus has been writing in **past tense and using time connectives (Then, Next, After, Finally)**.

For example; Make cheese on toast with your child and then ask them to write up how they made it afterwards. Or even better you could ask them to follow instructions to make cheese on toast and then ask them to write it up afterwards.

In Maths our focus is **money** and **addition and subtraction**. You could play a game of Monopoly, or a role play activity of a shop keeper and ask your child to calculate the price and change.

I have also added some worksheets and a step by step guide to making cheese on toast, which encourages independence. You may like to use these at home or look at them for reference. I personally do not own a printer so I have been writing out sums and using the worksheets for ideas with my children or choosing practical learning, which is more fun anyway.

Hope this has been helpful.

Mrs Lainson

