



Ideas for Home Learning for Nursery

Week beginning: 30.03.20

Structure of the Day

How much work should we be doing each day?

We know that different families are going to be in very different situations. For some, ideas for activities to do at home will be very welcome. Some children find it a lot easier to work at home than others.

We do not want the ideas here to create additional strain in what may already be difficult circumstances for some families. What follows is therefore just a guide. The idea is not to replicate a school day for the children.

So the answer to the question “how much should we be doing each day” will vary from family to family and child to child.

Some basic principles are:

- Keep it varied – shorter periods doing a range of different activities with breaks in between help the children focus; so swap between activities
- Keep it fun – if your child is losing focus or enthusiasm, switch to a different subject or have a break
- A bit of structure can help – pick start and finish times that work for your child and work for you
- But be adaptable and realistic – there is no point creating stress and conflict; better to do less and it be a positive experience that feels successful than more and it feel like a chore
- Praise your child’s efforts
- Don’t over-correct work that children have done – better to praise what is right and pick one or two examples of mistakes that your child can learn from. Pointing out everything that is wrong demoralises and demotivates and gets in the way of learning instead of helping it.
- If children develop a particular interest in a project or topic and want to dedicate their time to that rather than other suggestions for work, then let them follow their interest.

What should we be trying to achieve?

We are really aiming for:

- Children to have the opportunity to practice and consolidate existing skills and knowledge
- Children to be able to explore new ideas, build confidence in themselves as learners and develop their interests

How do we do this?

Overleaf are various ideas of activities you can do with your child. It is not a checklist to be ticked off. You don’t have to do it all. The following is a suggested outline, but please do what works for your child. We would suggest doing:

- three to four activities a week
- reading together, perhaps at bed time (or any time of day!)
- some mathematics each week; this could include very simple inclusion of maths in every day routines e.g. counting food and other objects or actions like counting number of stairs, singing number songs or playing a maths game online
- some mark-making activity each week
- some of the other activities that the teacher has suggested
- also, if you are struggling to get out of the house and get some exercise, you can do one of the “Five a Day” Fitness activities at home – log in details overleaf (please do not forward to parents who are not at St Matthew’s).

We will be sending this document out with updates on a weekly basis except during school holiday periods. Some sections will be updated each week, others (for example the “Possible Projects”) will change when the context for learning changes.

Ideas for Activities

In our weekly 'Ideas for Home Learning' document we will usually include a theme for the week's learning. Along with suggestions for activities, videos and online resources we will add some question prompts to help you discuss them with your child. However, please remember that the most important thing for Nursery children to do is play!

Reading



Regular reading each day is one of the most important things that children can be doing at home. You can read all kinds of different books and texts with your children, for example picture books, comic books, magazines, non-fiction books and even catalogues. Try to read a variety of different things throughout the week. You could also listen to audiobooks. Use Oxford Owl to get access to eBooks to read online: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

Mathematics



The best way of helping Nursery children develop their knowledge and understanding of maths is to include as much mathematical language in your everyday life. You can do this by counting your child's buttons as you do them up, counting out the number of blueberries they have as a snack, or counting the number of stairs as you go up or down. We also encourage singing lots of number songs or playing a maths game online like those on <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/>

Maths Activities for this week:

- * Although we do not start formal addition and subtraction in Nursery it is important for children to develop an understanding of these concepts. Children need opportunities to see small numbers within a larger collection. 'Number talks' allow children to discuss what they see. For instance you could draw simple ladybirds with different numbers of spots: "On this ladybird there are 5 spots altogether. I can see 4 and 1, I can see 3 and 2, and I can see 1 and 1 and 1 and 1 and 1."
- * Use 'loose parts' to explore numbers. Loose parts can be just about anything, we use corks, bottle tops, buttons, shells, dried beans, sticks, stones etc. Give your child an amount of something e.g. 6 or 10 (make sure it is within a range they feel confident with) and encourage them to explore making different arrangements with their number. Talk about the different arrangements you can see within the whole e.g. "You have 10 altogether but I can see 6 and 4."



This week's theme is: Spring (continued)

- * Talk about what your child already knows about spring. If you tried any of our activities last week recall what you did and what you found out. What is your favourite thing about the spring time? Mrs Martin-Hawkins loves seeing daffodils everywhere and hearing the birds sing!



- * Make a spring card for someone you love. If you have an egg box and paint at home you could use one section of the egg box to be the centre of a daffodil. Cut out some petals from card or paper, stick the egg box section in the middle and paint the whole thing yellow. Then you can stick your daffodil on a folded piece of paper or card and write a message inside. Encourage your child to write their name or have a go at copying some of the letters to sign it.
- * Have a go at making pitta pizzas: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/pitta-pizzas-0> Let your child spread the tomato puree independently with a spoon or a knife. You could support your child to cut the tomatoes independently too and talk about how to use a knife safely. (You can replace the toppings in this recipe with anything you have at home – ham, any kind of cheese, sweet corn, peppers, mushrooms, onions etc.)
- * Try making your own natural playdough and adding fresh herbs to it for a lovely fresh sensory experience. You could follow this recipe: <https://theimaginationtree.com/natural-herbal-playdough/>

Song of the Week: The Sun Has Got His Hat On

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=So4KG40vf-o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTZcADVbTuc> – Mr Tumble version (shorter) with signing



Online Learning Materials:

- * Watch CBeebies Numberblocks Days of Spring song: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/numberblocks-days-of-spring-song> to practise counting.
- * Have a go at some of Woodland Trust's spring outdoor activities in your garden or in a green space outdoors (make sure you stay away from others) <http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activitymenu/?cat=spring>
- * Listen to Peter Rabbit 'A Tale Of The Start Of Spring' on CBeebies radio: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio/peter-rabbit-tale-of-spring>
- * Join in with PE with Joe The Body Coach live at 9am every morning! A great way to start the day by moving your body and staying fit: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>

Five a Day Fitness Activities

5-a-day Fitness is a collection of online 5-minute follow-along fun fitness routines with an array of different themes, from Pirates to Superheroes, and Pop to Jive. Resources can easily be used at any time, in most spaces, and without any physical equipment.

Cross-curricular language learning resources are available in French, Spanish and Welsh, and can also be easily used at home. These language videos have MFL voice-overs and optional on-screen Key Word translations, thereby improving language reading and listening skills.



The Time-2-Chill resources are 2-minute follow-along routines concentrating on relaxation, imagination, co-ordination and mindfulness, a great way to assist well-being.

There's no preparation required, simply log in, select a video routine, join in, have fun, get fit and learn at home!

IMPORTANT: *THESE LOGIN DETAILS ARE TO BE USED BY PARENT/CARERS AND PUPILS FROM YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL ONLY. *DO NOT SHARE THESE LOGIN DETAILS WITHIN ANYONE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME/IMMEDIATE FAMILY.

The home access username and password for parents/carers and pupils of St Matthew's is:

USERNAME: 5-a-dayAtHome

PASSWORD: AtHome123