Dear Parents / Guardians

The following is intended as a list of helpful suggestions to occupy your child in meaningful educational work during the school closures. If you wish to complete some schoolwork with your child, these activities are a good place to start. As always, reading aloud with your child, encouraging them to engage in creative play and outdoor play cannot be overvalued. Please do not feel obligated to complete all of this use, as again it is intended to help, not to put added pressure on families at this stressful time.

**Fine Motor Control**

* Play dough
* Threading
* Cutting
* Hanging clothes on clothes pegs
* Constructing using lego or other small building blocks.

As the children are not yet reading, many websites and online activities will be too difficult for them. However I have prepared a list of suitable activities below that the children will be able to engage with.

**English:**

**Stories and Songs:** These are lovely to watch / listen to and discuss with your children.

* [www.learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org](about:blank)
* Starfall.com has some very nice motion songs
* [https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z6vv4wx/resources/1](about:blank)
* [https://www.everyschool.co.uk/english-key-stage-1-stories.html](about:blank) (has a very nice story maker section which would allow for some creativity)
* [https://www.worldbookday.com/storytime-online/](about:blank) (has clips of celebrities reading well known children’s storybooks)

**Phonics:** (The children have learned the following letter sounds: s, a, t, i, p, n, c, k, e and h. As they do have not learned all letter sounds yet, and so letter activities online can be too challenging, however the following links should be suitable).

* **Teach my monster to read**. The computer version is free, but there is a charge for the app. However the app may be more user friendly as using the mousepad is a bit of a challenge for little fingers.
* [http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-2-initial-sound-game-1.html](about:blank) This initial sound game is a simple memory matching game, where the children match the letters to the picture with the same initial sound
* [https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/BuriedTreasure2.html](about:blank) Buried treasure game: In this game the children read words and put them in the bin if they are nonsense words, or in the treasure chest if they are real words. Choosing the option Phase 2, followed by Set 1 (s a t p) + n will ensure that children do not meet unknown letters.
* [https://www.ictgames.com/phonicsPop/index.html](about:blank) Phonics pop game. In this game the children listen to the sound and pop the bubble holding the letter that makes the sound. Choosing set 1 will ensure the children will only meet sounds they know, however set 2 only contains 2 new sounds and they might meet the challenge well.
* [www.ixl.com](about:blank) has a wide range of appropriate activities, however there is a membership charge.
* [https://www.starfall.com/h/](about:blank)The ABC section has some simple activities to support the letters learned.

**Handwriting:**

The children are familiar with the following letters, but have not as yet studied their formation in depth. S,a, t, i, p, n, c, k, e and h. The children will be learning pre-cursive letters. If you are unfamiliar with these, please see the work in the folder for an idea of what each pre-cursive letter looks like. The children will enjoy any sensory or tactile opportunity to form the letters. Some ideas using materials that you may have at home include:

* Spreading shaving foam in a tray and writing the letter using the index finger. You may like to add food colouring.
* Writing the letter using the index finger in a tray of sand or salt.
* Forming the letter using different materials such as playdough, buttons, counters, string, cooked spaghetti, lentils…etc.
* [http://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/skyWriter/index.html](about:blank) If the children are practicing letter formation at home this website repeatedly demonstrates the correct letter formation to assist them while they are practicing. However, the children will be learning the pre-cursive formation of the letter k. This is the only one that does not match up with the website.

**Maths:**

Please keep in mind that the children work on the numbers 0 – 5 in Junior Infants, but many of your children be well able to apply their skills to the numbers 0 – 10. It is quite difficult to find games that are limited to the numbers 0 – 5 online, so some of these use the numbers 1 – 10 which many children will enjoy, but some will find too much of a challenge.

* [https://www.topmarks.co.uk/](about:blank) (choose learning games from along the top banner, followed by the 5-7 year old category). Some suitable types of games include:
* Counting
* Ordering
* Sequencing numbers
* Shapes
* Problem solving games (this may need parental guidance and support throughout, but are really worthwhile)
* [https://ie.mathgames.com/](about:blank) Click on Grades, followed by JI. Huge range of appropriate activities listed here.
* [https://www.abcya.com/grades/k/numbers](about:blank)
  + - Counting Fish
    - Connect the dots
    - Birthday candle count
* [http://ictgames.com/](about:blank) Follow the maths games link to find the following activities
  + - Whack a mole