



# ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND

## (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### Reception Newsletter 5

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a rather unusual half term! Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, the school will continue to remain closed to prevent further spread of the virus. I hope you are all managing to stay fit and well during this time, as well as enjoying time together as a family.

This half term our topic is 'Our Wonderful World'. To support you further at home, I have created our usual topic web full of the exciting learning which would have been taking in Reception. This may inspire and support you in your learning journey at home with your child. However, I am very aware that parents are not teachers and the most important thing, at the moment, is ensuring that everyone is happy and healthy. Please use the topic web and the new home learning pack to support the children as you see best.

In Reception we will explore a range of places/settings. We will use the text, 'Handa's Surprise' and 'The Gruffalo' to explore and compare different places. You can listen to the stories using the following links;

The Gruffalo - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8sUPpPc8Ws>

Handa's Surprise - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocnRQi89nK8>

We had planned on using these texts to explore the contrasting settings; Africa for Handa's Surprise and Britain/woodland for The Gruffalo. The home school learning pack will provide activities/ideas to explore this further.

It is important, where possible, to continue to read with your child. I understand now that children have had their school reading books for several weeks. Oxford Owls are offering parents free accounts to access books online. You can create an account and access books at <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/>. Once on the site, please select books for ages 4-5. The following book titles are suitable for Reception children to read;

Big, Bad Bug	The Big Carrot	Tiger's Family
Code	A Dog's Day	An Odd Bug
Ant and the Baby	Quiz	Leek Hotpot
Silver Foil Rocket	The Birthday Cake	Toads in the Road
Turnip is Missing	What's the weather like today?	Dragon Training
Goal!	No Tricks Gran	Painting the loft
The Play Park	The Race	

These books vary in difficulty so please explore them with your child in order to pick a book they are able to have a go at reading. Children now also have all the phase 2 and 3 sounds in their phonic packs. Please use these to continue to practice recognising the sounds and building words with them.

Physical activity can be difficult to accomplish whilst needing to stay at home, however there is a range of online activities which you could use to exercise with your child. The Body Coach, Joe Wicks, is holding a live 30 minute PE lesson each weekday morning at 9am. You can watch this live on his YouTube channel. The website [www.gonoodle.com](http://www.gonoodle.com) also offers a range of fun physical movement videos. If you would like something calmer, Cosmic Kids Yoga offers a range of simple yoga videos for children, linked to stories. Again, these are available at <https://www.cosmickids.com/> or on YouTube.

Doing school work at home can be difficult, however here are some simple ideas to help support your child further at home, you could encourage your child to use both a knife and fork at mealtimes, make their own lunch, explore their garden whilst looking for different animals, practice using a mouse for a computer and having the responsibility of tidying an area of the house each day.

All of the weblinks will also be accessible via the home learning pack on the website under class news, Reception, where I have also added more activities for you to try at home.

I hope these ideas are helpful! If you have any questions, worries or concerns, please do contact me by email, my address is: [katie.wilkinson@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:katie.wilkinson@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk).

I look forward to seeing the exciting things you do. If you can, please upload photos of your activities to Tapestry, twitter or email me directly. I do love to see all the exciting things the children have been up to.

Stay Safe!

Yours sincerely

Miss Wilkinson