Monday 23rd March 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well and please tell your child how much we all miss them in school. Within your packs I have compiled a number of numeracy and literacy resources related to our learning in Primary 3 for you to explore with your children which I hope you will find useful. There is also a list of websites which you may find of use and if you sign up for twinkl you can get a month of unlimited free access using the code CVDTWINKLHELPS. Twinkl has a number of interactive and printable activities for all subjects and has sections dedicated to home learning for KS1 children during the school closure. Within your packs I have also sent home all of the children’s previous learning materials including their exercise and writing books. The additional workbooks that I have included are a consolidation of the work we have covered thus far in Primary 3 and some areas that we had yet to fully cover such as tens and units. Please do not feel obliged to complete every piece of work. It is only intended as a guide to what we would have been doing under normal circumstances and it is not to be returned to school at any point in the future.

Unfortunately I have not been able to send home reading books at this time as they have been packed to facilitate our school move so I would encourage you to continue to share a story each night with your child using picture and story books that you may have at home. Oxford Owl has also provided free access to parents on their website and they have a wide range of age appropriate books readily available for your child to read. I would encourage children to continue to practice writing as much as possible about a wide range of topics and to practice their spellings and spelling sentences as usual. I have also sent home homework packs to continue to complete if you so wish.

In addition to numeracy and literacy activities I would also encourage you to continue to explore our World Around Us topic of

‘Weather’ with your child and you can document anything you do in your child’s TWAU yellow book. Our upcoming topic would have been ‘countries’ so maybe you wish to explore this further with your child by investigating different countries and cultures each week, exploring where our country is in relation to others, languages that are spoken, time differences, weather and geographical elements belonging to each country, i.e. rivers, mountains etc.

In relation to the work that we have sent home here is a brief breakdown of how we would have covered this in school:

Literacy

In the red literacy folders you will find the Jolly Grammar 1 work, two pages of which we had completed each week related to the spelling unit most of the children were currently covering. We had five weeks left to complete in this and you may finish this over the next five weeks, two pages per week if you wish.

On a Monday we usually completed our weekend news and sentence exercises based on our new spellings. On a Tuesday we completed our Jolly Grammar activities, on a Wednesday we completed work related to the specific sound we were learning that week or writing activities, on a Thursday we completed a comprehension activity and Friday was our checkup day. I have included revision booklets for Jolly Phonics and Grammar activities. I have re-issued Jolly Phonics sounds booklets and children should continue to practice saying the sound for each letter and listening to an adult say the sound and practice writing the letter and pupils should continue to practice reading and writing all 72 Tricky words.

Numeracy

In Numeracy we usually complete a New Wave mental maths activity each day (see purple folder). We had been working on the Number bonds to 20 (blue folder) and as such, you could continue to work on these number bonds/stories with your child. On these pages you will notice that your child had been using Cuisenaire rods, you do not need to complete this section. We were also in the midst of completing the blue Heinemann booklet which includes revision of number bonds which could be finished if you wish. I have also included a measures, data handling and money booklet to use for revision. We had just begun to work on place value and partitioning of number and I have included a booklet to revise this. In school we have used the language of ‘tens and units’ but I have also explained that ‘units’ is the same as ‘ones’ which are mentioned in the booklet.

Aside from academic work it is important to teach your child other fundamental skills such as tying laces, making their beds, learning to cook/bake, knit, sew and learning to skip. Time should also be devoted each day to continuing to promote fine motor skills through fun activities such as drawing, painting, building lego etc and to allow children to partake in relaxing activities of their choice, i.e. reading, singing, yoga.

To keep children fit and active through all of this, Joe Wicks is providing daily PE sessions on his youtube channel at 9am each morning which will hopefully be fun and entertaining for the children and provide a good, healthy start to their day.

If you have any questions or queries you can contact me via the school email info@braidsideintegratedps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk.

In conclusion, I would like to say a very heartfelt thankyou for all of the support and the warm welcome that you have extended to me over the past couple of months since joining Braidside. It was very difficult to have to end our P3 time together so suddenly but I look forward to seeing those little smiles again sometime in the not too distant future. It has been an absolute privilege to have taught your child and I wish you all the very best of health and wellbeing in the coming weeks. Take care,

Mrs. E Horan.