

Dear Beech Class Parents

There are so many home learning resources out there, some of which are good and some of which are not so good. I have tried to trawl through many of them to find some more that might work for you. I do not want you to feel overwhelmed and you don't need to do any of the ideas below, but they are there if you want more ideas. I know the pressure of trying to work from home and teach my 2 children.

Don't forget the first thing is to look after the Mental Health of you and your whole family. Home Learning can and should fit around your family and what else you have to do in a day. Do not put yourself under more pressure or worry when looking at the items below. Just do what works for you. Don't forget, one of the best things you can do together is read books to your child (<https://www.cameverlands.org.uk/10-benefits-of-reading/>).

I have added more games to the Y1 maths homework: Active Learn Primary. Let me know if you can't remember your log in.

This is how we are running our mornings

When they first get up, A&M have 20 mins each on the iPad while we get ready for the day. They usually choose to go on Teach Your Monster to Read as they love it. If they don't choose to play it, I encourage them to do it for 5 mins.

We do about 90 minutes of learning each morning. This is what we do each day:

- We start off our home learning by doing a maze in maze books we have (great for improving pencil control) – 10 mins
- They each do 1 or 2 pages in the handwriting booklets I gave out last week and colour in the pictures (colouring is a great pencil control skill and does help improve writing) – 15 mins
- Either English: writing words or sentences using the pictures, sound mat and tricky word mat given out last week
Or Maths: number games, counting, adding, telling the time, patterns, shapes etc – 20 mins
- 1 session of Maths Factor on the iPad <https://www.themathsfactor.com/> (this is getting too hard for Mia as it is really for Y1 and above, but we keep moving her back onto easier sessions when she can't manage it) – 15 mins
- Reading Eggs <https://readingeggs.co.uk/> (we have the month's free trial at the moment) – 30 mins as they don't ever want to stop!

At other times of the day we tend to do some kind of exercise either in the garden or using YouTube. We usually do 'making' projects in the afternoons and at the weekend as well as other investigative things. We have tried some of the items listed below, but don't do any of them regularly.

Oak National Academy (Government backed)

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/schedule/#schedule>

This provides great lessons that are divided into year groups. Each day there is an English and Maths lesson along with other subjects. The daily lessons are worth a watch and may work well for your family. My family will only be watching a few each week as I want them to play and be active rather than watching yet more screens.

Letter and Sounds for Home and School (Government Approved)

<https://www.wandleenglishhub.org.uk/lettersandsounds>

Great phonics lessons, just like we would do at school. There are 3 levels depending on your child's ability. New lessons are uploaded each day. They might work for your family and take the pressure off you especially if you are unsure how to help with reading and phonics

BBC Bitesize Daily (TV) and BBC Bitesize Online (website)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zjpqqp3/year-1-and-p2-lessons/1>

Aimed at Y1 up.

Daily lesson on the Red Button on your TV – good but for age 5-7 so even a bit hard for many Y1s
Online – 3 lessons a day (English, Maths and other) again aimed at 5-7 so possibly too hard. These definitely need an adult to help guide the child through the lesson.

Out of the Ark songs

<https://www.outoftheark.co.uk/ootam-at-home/>

Free 'educational' songs to learn and enjoy each day – worth a look

Harold's Daily Diary

<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/harolds-daily-diary>

A lovely resource with a daily blog from Harold the Giraffe containing wellbeing type activities.

Twinkl's Home Learning Hub

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

A daily timetable of suitable activities to keep your child and you busy.

Good if you have plenty of paper and ink in your printer and want a whole school day of activities provided for you each day.

<https://nrich.maths.org/>

A selection of maths activities if you need more ideas

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

Daily online maths activities for each year group.

However you are choosing to do your home learning, do keep sending me updates. Do e-mail me if you have any questions or need help with anything. Don't forget the list above is just for parents who want more ideas. Don't change what you are doing if it is working for you.

Best wishes and stay safe & happy

Helen Leather

You don't always have to do stuff. Or achieve stuff. You don't have to spend your time wisely and productively. You don't have to be doing Tai Chi and DIY and artisan bread-making. Sometimes you can just be and feel things and get through and survive and that is more than enough.