

Dear parents and children,

We hope you are all keeping well and safe at home. We appreciate that home learning can be difficult to navigate so we have put together some websites/ ideas which will hopefully make this a little easier for you.

Reading

Please read as much as possible! This can range from comic strips to novels. As well as this, it will be really useful if you could ask your children questions about the text they are reading. Some example questions can be found here:

- **Vocabulary:** What does _____ word mean? What word means the opposite? Do you know any other words that have a similar meaning?
- **Retrieval:** Find the part in the text where... find the three things that the dog found... who is the main character....? *How do you know? Show me the part in the text that tells you this.*
- **Inference:** What/ how/ when do you think..... *what makes you think that?*
- **Sequencing:** Order the events in the story... what was the first and last thing that... did?
- **Prediction:** What do you think the character will do next? **Why do you think this?** From the front cover what do you think this book will be about?

The two links below offer free reading scheme books online, which can be particularly useful with children who are still learning to read through a reading scheme. To access Oxford Owl you will need to create an individual log in, however, the books themselves are free. As well as Biff, Chip and Kipper books there are a range of non-fiction titles too.

Oxford Owl: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/>

The Big Cats books can be accessed through the username and password given below. You must click on TEACHER and then enter the details. You then need to scroll down until you see the Big Cat tab.

Big Cat: <https://connect.collins.co.uk/school/teacherlogin.aspx>

USERNAME: **parent@deanwood.medway.sch.uk** Password: **P@55word**

In order to help you easily navigate the reading scheme, the progression colours are listed below:

Year R – pink, red, yellow, blue and green

Year 1 – orange, turquoise, purple and gold

Year 2 – gold, white, lime, brown and silver Colour progression continued: silver, burgundy

The colours listed above in Year groups are a rough guide. Please start with the colour that your child currently reads in school. If your child is reading fluently and confidently feel free to move them to the next colour. **However**, do not move them onto the next colour book band **until your child can read 90% of the book fluently and can confidently answer questions without re-reading the text.** This ensures that children are understanding what they are reading.

- Audible also has access to many stories: <https://www.audible.co.uk>
- www.readingeggs.co.uk

In addition to this, Medway libraries have a free online catalogue of eBooks, eMagazines and eAudiobooks. You can find these using this link: <https://medway.overdrive.com/> and <http://www.rbdigital.com/medway/>.

With a Medway Libraries card number and PIN, you and your family can access all the above for free. To join the library and gain instant online access, please sign up here:

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200181/libraries/53/join_the_library/1

When Medway Libraries re-open, please collect your physical card. If you already have an account, but have forgotten your PIN, please click here: <https://medway.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/PGM/WPAC/CCOPT/RPWD/1>

Phonics

Phonics is a crucial step to helping your child learn how to read. Your child will progress through different phases when learning to read.

Websites which reinforce/ teach phonics are listed below:

<https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Username: **march20**

Password: **home**

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=phonics>

These websites will ask you to select a 'phase' before you can begin any games. Below is a rough guide to help you identify which phase your child is working in.

Year R – Phase 2 (Terms 1/2), Phase 3 (Terms 2 - 4), Phase 4 (Term 5) and Term 6 is a revision of all the sounds ensuring that they are confident in reading and blending. Please choose the correct phase for your child. If you are finding your child is struggling to read the words in a particular phase go back to the phase before.

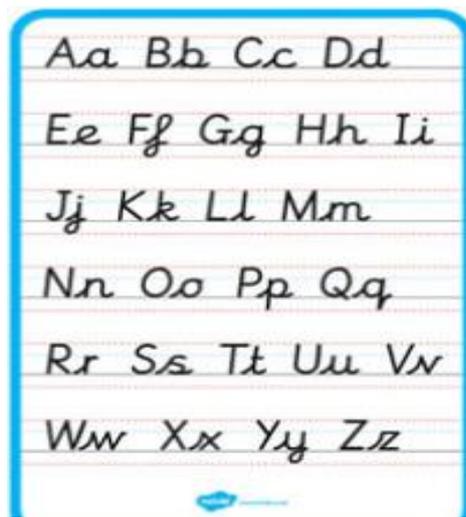
Year 1 – Phase 5

Year 2 – Phase 6 (for the children that did not meet the phonics check requirement in Year 1, it is strongly recommended that they play phase 4/5 games in addition to phase 6)

Please note that the focus is on blending the sounds together to read a whole word – opposed to sounding out the individual sounds.

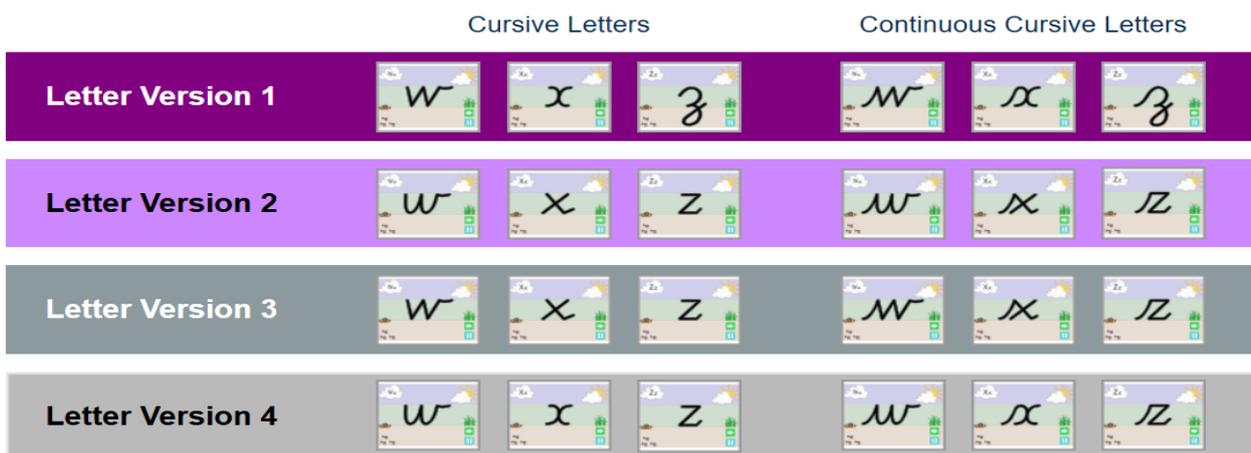
Handwriting and Spelling

- **Please practice your handwriting daily.** Most of you in EYFS and KS1 will have your homework / GPaS books with you that you are able to use. If you do not have a handwriting book (with the special lines) you can use normal lined paper. Make sure the letters are the right size and height. Below is an example of the cursive script that we use. Please note that letters are written using one fluid movement and we do not 'loop' the letters g, j or y.
- **Practise reading and writing your high frequency words/spelling words** (these should be in your homework books but you can also access them on the Home Learning Section of the school website).
- In addition to letters, you could practice writing your high frequency words neatly in your handwriting books too.



A website which we use regularly in school is <https://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/handwriting-teaching-manuals.html>

We use **letter version 3, continuous cursive letters**. All of the lowercase letters have the lead in and are more ‘square shaped.’



<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/writingRepeater/> This is also a good website. You can choose the handwriting paper and model the letter you would like your child to practice.

General skills

- Fastening and unfastening buttons.
- Zip up/ button a coat/ shirt.
- Tying shoe laces and putting shoes on the right feet.
- Turning clothes the right way around when getting dressed.
- Cutting up food and eating using cutlery.
- Holding and using pencils / scissors correctly.
- Opening (biscuit, crisp, yoghurt) packets and peeling fruit.
- Putting lids back on containers (e.g gluesticks) when they are finished.
- Using sellotape and twisting gluesticks correctly.

For an additional list of free resources (ranging from authors reading stories to free dance classes) please open the document titled - **Online Resources Guide for Schools and Families** which is also in the Home learning section.

Exciting News

Deanwood are now on Twitter. Please follow us for more home learning ideas by visiting www.twitter.com and searching for **@Deanwood_Sch**. You will also be able to see some of the wonderful work we are continuing to do with the children in school.

We look forward to tweeting you there!

Keep safe and stay indoors!

All the staff at Deanwood school ☺

