



# The Winchester School



## Family Learning Newsletter (Foundation Stage 2) – April 2025

Area of learning	Focus	Home activities/How can you help your child at home	Useful website
<b>Prime Area Communication and Language</b>	<p><b>Listening and attention</b> Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.</p> <p><b>Understanding</b> Hold conversation when engaged in back-and forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.</p> <p><b>Speaking</b> Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to engage in a fun role-play where they can pretend to be polar explorers, birds building a nest, or astronauts traveling to the moon and stars.</p> <p>Polar Adventure: Dress up in warm clothes and pretend to explore the Arctic. Talk about polar bears, how they survive in the cold, and what they eat. Ask questions like, "How does a polar bear stay warm?" or "What would you do if you saw one?"</p> <p>Birds and Nests: Use cushions, blankets, and twigs to build a cozy nest. Pretend to be birds taking care of their eggs and feeding their chicks. Ask, "How do birds keep their babies safe?" or "What materials can we use to build a nest?"</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to express themselves by asking questions that require more than a simple "yes" or "no" answer. For example: "What was the best part of your day?" "How did that make you feel?" "Can you tell me more about that?"</p> <p>During dinner time or any family gathering, encourage your child to share a personal story or experience. It can be something that happened recently or a memory from the past. Talk to your child about using the past tense when describing what happened. For example, "Last summer, I went to the beach with my family." Encourage them to use conjunctions, such as "and," "but," or "because," to connect their ideas and make their sentences more complex.</p>	<p><a href="#">Listening skills</a></p>



	<p><b>Managing Self:</b> Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.</p>	<p>breaking it down into simple shapes and lines. <b>Talk</b> about each stage as they follow along and copy the steps onto their paper. Offer gentle guidance and praise to help them develop accuracy and control.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to follow a healthy daily routine, including going to bed on time and eating nutritious foods. Get your child involved in simple meal preparation activities, such as washing fruits or spreading peanut butter on bread, to help them learn the importance of healthy eating.</p>	<p><a href="#">Personal Hygiene</a></p>
<p><b>Specific Area Literacy</b></p>	<p><b>Reading</b> Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound blending.</p> <p>Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.</p> <p><b>Stories</b> Curious Polar bear Be brave Little Penguin by Giles Andrea Wings by Otter</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.</p>	<p><b>Share</b> and talk about words related to the arctic, snow, and habitats.</p> <p>Discuss why animals and birds have special features that help them survive in freezing temperatures. <b>Encourage</b> your child to read books about birds and arctic animals, helping them sound out new words. <b>Share</b> and read simple sentences, using phrases from the stories to expand your child's vocabulary and reinforce their phonic knowledge.</p> <p><b>Talk</b> about the sentences in the story, helping your child sound out words and recognise common exception words like "the," "and," and "was." Make it personal by adding pictures and words they can easily read. <b>Encourage</b> your child to read aloud, and enjoy the story together, celebrating their progress and building their confidence.</p> <p><b>Talk</b> about the different animals e.g. polar bear, penguins and birds etc. <b>Encourage</b> your child to recall the sequence of the story on their emphasising the vocabulary words as first, then, next and lastly.</p> <p><b>Share</b> with your child how to label their drawings by saying the word slowly and focusing on each sound.</p> <p><b>Talk</b> about how to write simple sentences using high-frequency words, like "The cat is big" or "The car is red." <b>Encourage</b> them to practice by creating sentence strips with simple phrases and ask them to arrange them to form</p>	

	<p><b>Jolly Phonics –</b>  Recap of letter sounds  s, a, t, p, i, n,  c, k, e, h, r, m, d,  g, o, u, l, f, b,  ai, j, oa, ie, ee, or and z  Phase 2 (an, as, at, if, in, is, it, off, of,  on, can, dad, had, back, and, get, big,  him, his, not, got, up, mum, a, the, to,  l, no, go, into)  Phase 3 High Frequency Words (be,  we, me, she, he, you, are, her, was, all,  they, my, will, now, them, down, see,  too, look, then, with, this, for, that)</p>	<p>complete sentences. <b>Share</b> fun writing opportunities, like making "get well soon" cards for children who are sick. <b>Encourage</b> your child to keep trying, reminding them that their writing doesn't have to be perfect—celebrate their efforts as they practice!</p> <p><b>Share</b> and talk about rhyming words with your child. <b>Encourage</b> them to identify words that sound the same at the end, like "cat" and "hat" or "dog" and "log." Help them create their own rhyming pairs. Then, talk about alliteration—words that start with the same sound, like "big blue ball" or "silly snakes." <b>Encourage</b> your child to make up fun alliterative phrases. Finally, encourage your child to write simple sentences using rhyming words or alliteration. For example, "The big ball bounced." Praise their creativity and effort as they explore sounds and language!</p>	<p><a href="#">rhyming words</a></p>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p>	<p><b>Numerical Patterns</b>  Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.</p> <p><b>Measure</b>  Beginning to experience measuring time with timers.</p>	<p><b>Share</b> with your child that five fingers on each hand make a total of ten fingers or that two rows of three eggs in a box make six eggs altogether.</p> <p><b>Talk</b> about how they can make up their own story problems for others to solve, using counters as visual aids. Keep the counters within easy reach on a table. <b>Share</b> with your child how to position a whiteboard and write the symbols for double number sentences. <b>Talk</b> about doubling, like if one car has 4 wheels, how many wheels will 2 cars have?</p> <p><b>Share</b> and explore doubling with everyday objects, helping your child notice patterns in numbers, including evens, odds, and doubling facts.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to measure time with timers to help them understand the passing of time. This can be done through various fun and interactive activities that involve</p>	<p><a href="#">Doubling</a></p>

		the use of the timers, such as Timer Challenge- <b>Provide</b> your child with a sand timer and challenge them to complete a task before the timer goes off. For example, see how many blocks they can stack, or how many times they can jump.	
<b>Understanding the World</b>	<p><b>People and communities</b> Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.</p> <p><b>The Natural world</b> Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.</p> <p><b>Technology</b> Completes a simple program on electronic devices.</p>	<p><b>Encourage</b> your child to see the ways in which their cultures and beliefs are similar, sharing and discussing practices, resources, celebrations and experiences. <b>Share</b> stories that reflect the diversity of children’s experiences. <b>Encourage</b> your child to see the ways in which their cultures and beliefs are similar, sharing and discussing practices, resources, celebrations and experiences. <b>Share</b> stories that reflect the diversity of children’s experiences.</p> <p>Collect and share pictures of animals, and birds. Look for more information about them. <b>Talk</b> about the animals and make a picture booklet. <b>Encourage</b> your child to talk about polar animals and birds, and how they can survive the harsh weather. How birds build nests and what materials do they collect to build a nest.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> them to engage in completing simple programs on devices, such as solving addition and subtraction sums on an iPad or matching phonetic words with corresponding pictures.</p>	
<b>Expressive Art and Design</b>	<p><b>Creating with materials:</b> Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.</p> <p><b>Being Imaginative and Expressive</b> Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.</p>	<p>Go on a nature walk gather things like twigs, leaves of different colours, shapes, stones, bark, branch etc. <b>Encourage</b> your child to create something from all that was collected and talk and share ideas. E.g. make a photo frame with branches tied up, make a butterfly, make a bouquet of flowers or nest with leaves etc.</p> <p><b>Encourage</b> your child to narrate their own story using their skills and explore concepts and ideas through their representations.</p>	

**Coming Up Events**

Spring Break

24th March -6th April, 2025

Term 3 begins

Monday, 7th April 2025

Lingo Fest and Art Exhibition

21st – 25th April, 2025

Earth Day

22nd April, 2025

World book day

23rd April, 2025

