

## Thoresby Primary Home School Handbook

Dear all parents and carers,

Everyone at Thoresby appreciates what a strange and difficult time we are living in right now and the extra challenges that have been placed upon you for the education of your children. We want to be as supportive as we can and provide guidance on a manageable curriculum of activities that you can coordinate from your homes. Every week, we will be uploading a new weekly timetable to the Foundation Stage page on the Thoresby Website (<https://thoresbyprimaryschool.org.uk/learning/fs2/> ) You will all have busy lives so we completely understand that you may not be able to follow this timetable rigidly. The times are merely a guide and the activities are suggestions. When at school, your children are accustomed to following a timetable day in and day out, so some form of daily learning routine could help them to feel secure in the coming weeks. We hope you will find this valuable.

You will also be receiving weekly correspondence from your children's class teacher, by either phone call or email. This communication will be useful to clarify any of the activities you are less sure about and help tailor the learning to your child's personal next steps.

Below are a list of useful links that can provide free resources for you to use online or print at home. If you have not got access to a printer, some paper and pencils can help you to quickly reproduce the work sheets with help from your children.

- Twinkl: <https://www.twinkl.com>
  - For at least the next month, Twinkl are offering free access to all their premium content. Go to the following link to sign up for an account (<https://www.twinkl.com/offer>) if you do not already have one. When you are signing up, use the promotional code UKTWINKLHELPS and then you can download any of the activities we suggest from the website.
  
- Oxford OWL: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>
  - This website will be very valuable for helping you understand and support your children with learning phonics and reading. Again, it is free to sign up to and will also be a great resource for the future when school is back to its normal operation.

We at Thoresby are committed to supporting our community in any way we can. Stay safe and well.

Peter Randles, Rachael Barnett and Lucy Parkinson

## 9:00-9:15 – Wake Up, Shake Up

It is an excellent idea to start the day in an active way, especially because your children will have less access to large outdoor spaces. If you have a garden, it would be nice to go explore and play some active games outside. You can also go for a walk or a bike ride around the local area as long as you are all careful about social distancing and following the current government guidelines.

Here is a list of great Youtube channels to try out if you want to get active in your homes. Just tap on the button provided, or if you are on a computer, click on the button while holding down the **Ctrl** key.

- Jo Wickes Workouts: <https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1>
  - Jo Wickes has offered to do a daily PE lesson to be live streamed at 9:00 every morning.
  - These workouts might be a bit long for children as young as yours but they will always be new and different, at least for the near future.
  
- Cosmic Kids Yoga: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>
  - This channel is great for both exercise and mental health. There are lots of exciting themed videos that may hook your child's interest.
  - There are videos of different lengths so you might choose to do one of the longer videos or a couple of the shorter videos.
  
- Dough Disco: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K-CQrjI0uY>
  - This activity is excellent for helping your children develop their fine and gross motor muscles. These muscles are essential for writing with a pencil and using other tools carefully, such as scissors.
  - If you do not have any playdough in your house, here is an easy recipe for making your own using ingredients from the supermarket (<http://allrecipes.co.uk/recipe/50/play-dough.aspx>). Make it with your children. They will enjoy it!

You will learn which of these activities your children enjoy most and can decide together which to start your days with.

## 9:15-9:45 – Phonics and Reading

Phonics is the foundation of so much learning so it would be very valuable for you child to keep practising their letter sounds. Below, we have attached the letter mats that we use with the children at school for you to use during these activities.

If you are struggling to understanding phonics, or to relate sounds to letters, the Oxford OWL website is useful: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>

Another good resource is Alphablocks, available on BBC iPlayer

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b01cz0p1/alphablocks>)

or on Youtube ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_qs3c0ehDvZkbiEbOj6Drg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_qs3c0ehDvZkbiEbOj6Drg)).

Mix and match the following activities over the week to help them read, remember and write the letters and digraphs.

- Read that sound!
  - Point to letters on the letter mat and ask your child to tell you the letter name or the sound made by that name.
- Find that sound!
  - Suggest a letter name or sound and ask your child to point to it on the letter mat.
  - If your child is a confident speller, suggest short three or four letter words and ask them to point at each sound they hear in order.
- Write that sound!
  - Suggest a letter name or sound and ask your child to write it down on a piece of paper.
  - If your child is a confident speller, suggest short words instead of individual sounds.
- Rhyming Time!
  - Pick a word and take turns thinking of words that rhyme with that word.
- I spy!
  - Play a game of I spy using letter sounds rather than names.
  - If you child is confident, play I spy but name the sound at the end of the word instead of at the start.

Once you have recapped the phonics, read a story with your child. The Oxford OWL website is very useful for this. Simply register online and you can have access to their library of eBooks. Many of these are the books we would use in phonics or send home with the children: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee

Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk

Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp

Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

sh ch qu th or oi oy ur ir



igh y ow ou ay ai ar er ear



ee ea y ng oa oo oo air ure



## A general overview of the timetable

### 9:45-11:00 and 1:30-2:30 – Play Time

Playing is a big part of the foundation stage curriculum. As such, it is important to find time for your children to explore their own interests. If you have the time, play alongside them and help them to expand their ideas. If they have siblings, this could be a valuable time to learn together. It would be brilliant if you could keep a record of your children playing by taking photos. These photos can be uploaded to Tapestry for the teachers to see and feedback on.

### 11:00-11:30 – Let's Write!

Every week, we will send out some guidance on what to write about with your children. Some of your children will be able to write full words or sentences. Some of your children will be able to write down the initial sound in a word. Other children may need a bit more support from adults to get their ideas down on paper. All children are different!

If the explanation of these activities is unclear, ask the class teacher questions during your weekly learning phone call.

### 13:00-13:30 – Number Time

Every day it is good to practise counting and our 'Learn Its'.

- Counting: The children have been practising counting in 1s, 2s and 10s. All the children have been learning how to count forwards in these amounts and some children are even confident enough to count backwards.
- Learn Its: These are number facts that the children have been learning to recall quickly.
  - Practise doubling numbers up to  $5+5$ , or up to  $10+10$  if your children are confident.
  - Practise finding the pairs of numbers that add up to 10. We call these number bonds with the children.
  - Some days these learn its will form the focus of Number Time.

After some quick counting and 'Learn Its', there will be a suggested focus on some days. If the explanation of these activities is unclear, ask the class teacher questions during your weekly learning phone call.

## **14:30-15:00 – Topic Time**

To end every day, there will be a recommendation for different activities that will range between art, music, science, etc. These activities will be a fun opportunity for your children to explore how they can learn in their home environment.

If the explanation of these activities is unclear, ask the class teacher questions during your regular learning phone call.