**Junior Language Class**

**Greenmount National School**

**Hi Callie, Daniel, Ibrahim, John, Julia, Paddy and Sam,**

How is everyone? Are you being very good for your mammies and daddies? Remember to be kind to your brothers and sisters and play nicely together. I can’t wait until we can all be back in school together again. Miss you.

**To the mammies and daddies,**

I hope you’re all doing well in this strange time. I understand that working from home, parenting and teaching are three different jobs and it’s impossible to do all three at the same time. I do not expect you to home school your child but you might like some suggestions as to how to keep them busy.

I’ve put up a support pack in a previous post which has nice suggestions for a daily timetable. It includes plenty of time for fun and snacks with a few educational activities interspersed. The pack also has resources to make a visual timetable. A normal school day is full of fun and active learning with short tabletop activities in between. Remember, children learn most through doing so completing household chores, gardening, baking, practising life skills such as tying shoelaces, playing games, painting, singing, exploring nature and learning to get on with your siblings is all part of your child’s essential learning.

I know Cliona has given you a pack of work to do so keep working away on that. Feel free to pick and choose from the following activities. Remember, these are only suggestions. Do what works best for you and your family. No house should be trying to replicate the school day. Every school is in the same boat and we will all assess where all the children are when we get back to school and build from there.

Please feel free to contact me at aoconnor@greenmount.ie

**Stay safe,**

**Aine.**

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| **English – Oral Language**  |
| Our themes for the next few weeks are: The Farm, Places, Easter, Occupations, Animals and their Homes, SummerWhen exploring a theme in school, everything we do in school is based around the theme. For example, using The Farm theme: we would look up all related words on google images. Draw pictures of the farm/ animals. Read lots of farm books. Make mini books about the farm. Bring it into maths activities and use animals for counting. Watch videos on youtube about milk production. Construct a farm using lego/blocks. Make animal puppets. Put on a puppet show. Role play farm scenarios. Draw a map of the farm. Cut out any pictures you can find about the farm, glue them into a scrapbook and have a chat about them. Some more oral language ideas:* Play I Spy
* Play Would You Rather
* Think of rhyming words
* Put on a puppet show
* Set up a shop/restaurant/office/school
* Make up a story
* Learn about an animal
* Read a book and discuss it after. Ask your child the who, where, when, what and why questions.
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| **English – Reading** |
| These are the sounds we have covered so far this year:s, a, t, i, p, n, c, k, e, h, r, m, g, o, u, l, b, w* Write letters onto paper and cut out to make your own flashcards.
* Say the sound
* Sing the sound song (these can all be found on youtube under Jolly Phonics songs)
* Find the sound in a book
* Trace the sound
* Write the sound
* Think of words that begin/ end with the sound.
* Draw and colour pictures that begin with the sound.
* Look up the letter on the starfall website
* Use letter cards to make word families i.e. cat, mat, hat, fat, pat, sat…
* Read and write the word families that you have made with your letter cards (Words ending with -in, -et, -ut, -an, -en, -ot, -un, -it, -ug, -ig, -ill, -ing)
* Read a book every day (epic, oxfordowl and audible are online libraries which are free at the moment if you are running out of books)
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| **English - Writing** |
| * Practice letter formation by joining dot to dots, tracing letters, free writing on blank paper, in sand, rice trays, using paint and chalk, markers, pens and pencils.
* Rainbow writing (use as many overlapping colours as you can to write a letter)
* Use chalk/pencils/colouring pencils/playdough/paint/finger paints/pen to form letters
* Practice writing your name/ the names of your family
* Practice your letter formation (lowercase letters)
* Make your own book with pictures
* Practice writing your numbers.
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| **Maths** |
| * Say the number word sequence while marching/clapping/ jumping
* Put the numbers in the correct
* Flash the numbers in a random order for your child to say.
* Count claps. (count everything i.e. forks in the drawer/ toys on a shelf/ doors in the house)
* Match the numbers to a domino pattern.
* Flash up the domino pattern for your child to guess the number.
* Make lego towers for each number
* Drop an object (such as a dinky) into a box. Child guesses how many they heard. Then check the dinkies to see if they were right.
* Make a numberline, cover a number. What number is covered?
* Throw a dice. How much? (can extend this to two dice if you feel your child is able)
* Counting in twos: You count 1,2. Child counts 3,4. You count 5,6…
* Counting in threes
* Next number word forwards: You say 3,4,5. Child says next number word forward
* Number after: You say a number. Child says the number after.
* Next number word backwards: You say 6,5,4. Child says next number word backwards
* Number before: you say a number. Child says the number before
* Find something longer/shorter than your arm
* Find your heaviest/lightest toy
* Go on a shape hunt (2-d shapes and 3-d shapes)
* Play shop with money
* Water play – what container holds the most/least? How many cups of water fill the watering can?
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| **P.E.** |
| * Playground Games: Play Chase, Stuck in the Mud, Hide and Seek, What Time is it Mr. Wolf?, Simon Says, Donkey
* Try to hit a target by kicking or throwing a ball.
* Set up a sock toss
* Hold an egg and spoon race.
* Play balloon tennis with balloons and your hands over a homemade partition.
* Make an obstacle course in your garden or by using furniture in your house (Time yourself when completing it. Can you get faster each time?)
* How fast can you do: 10 Star jumps, 10 frog hops…
* Races: crawling, hopping, belly slides, jumping,
* Keep the balloon in the air
* Indoor bowling
* Make indoor hopscotch
* Have a dance off
* Try Yoga and Mindfulness (See Home Activities blogpost)
* Balancing on stepping stones
* Online exercise classes for kids:
* 10at10
* Joe Wicks Body Coach
* Cosmic Kids Yoga
* Gonoodle.com
* The Learning Station on Youtube
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| **Art** |
| * Make a puppet (possibly with an old sock) and put on a puppet show
* Draw/paint the shapes in the clouds
* Sketch a picture from a photo
* Junk art: gather recycle materials and see what you can create
* Design a new cover for your favourite book.
* Try drawing with your feet
* Create a costume
* The Glucksman Art Gallery in Cork is sharing daily creative activities and tutorials on their website.
* Practice your drawing. Art for Kids Hub on youtube is great for this.
* Make paper airplanes
* Try salt painting
* Make suncatchers
* Make sponge stamps
* Make a cereal box aquarium
* Make scratch art
* Make your own bookmark
* Paint pet rocks
* Make paper boats
* Finger paint
* Make friendship bracelets
* Make a bird feeder
* Make paper bag/old sock puppets
* Make handprint art
* Make a scrapbook
* Decorate t-shirts
* Paint leaves – paint with leaves and sticks
* Build a cardboard castle
* Make tissue box monsters
* Stamp with celery
* Draw a self portrait
* Make superhero costumes
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| **S.E.S.E. (Social Environmental and Scientific Education):** |
| * Line up all your toys in order of colour/size/weight/waterproof or not/material
* Make a nature diary – look out your window each day and draw what you can see. Draw the weather. How many birds/animals? Any new flowers?
* Make/draw a list of all the things that use electricity in each room of your house
* Draw maps – of your room/house/garden/journey to the shop
* Pick all the weeds in the garden.
* Plant seeds
* Take a ‘macro’ shot (close up) picture of something in your garden and get your family yo guess what it is.
* Try to identify birds from their birdsong
* Dry flowers and leaves between pages of books.
* Dublin Zoo have set up a webcam where you can watch the animals. Feeding time is usually around 2.30pm every day.

Investigations:* (The Dad Lab and Ryan’s World on Youtube has lovely experiments that your child can try out)
* Do your toys float or sink?
* What happens when you mix – oil and water? Food colouring and water? Baking soda and vinegar/orange juice?
* How do you make ice? What happens when you leave ice outside?
* Try out the skittle experiment
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| **Life skills:** |
| * Learn to tie your shoelace
* change your clothes
* wash your hands
* brush your hair
* wash your face
* brush your teeth
* go for a shower
* shampoo your own hair
* help make lunch
* use a knife and fork
* bake a cake
* make your bed
* fold your clothes
* pair your socks
* sort clothes for the washing machine
* tidy your bedroom
* blow your nose
* use mouthwash
* floss between your teeth
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| **Fine Motor skills** |
| * Cutting
* Gluing
* Playdough
* Colouring
* draw with chalk/pencils/biros/markers
* rainbow writing (practice writing your letters using as many colours overlapping as you can)
* thread cheerios on pasta
* make a jigsaw
* lego challenges (see Home Activities blogpost)
* play marbles
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| **Fun activities** |
| * Make a scavenger hunt (see home Activities blogpost)
* 30 Day Lego Challenge (see Home Activities blogpost)
* Make a maze (Time yourself)
* Hide treasure and make a treasure map
* Play board games (Aldi have great educational Orchard Toys games)
* Make a tower of playing cards
* Hold a photo session. Photograph your family/toys/pets…
* Build a reading den
* Design and play a homemade boardgame
* Write a song
* Play a card game like Snap, Memory Match, Go Fish.
* Blow bubbles
* Make a cardboard racetrack for your cars
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