

Hello parents and carers of Kestrel class, I hope you are all safe and well. After leaving my survey up for a couple of weeks I felt that the maximum engagement had probably been met so I have chosen at this point to take it down and respond in accordance with the most common themes and concerns that surfaced. Firstly, I thank you all for your very kind comments, there is such a wonderful sense of community at this school and your support is so welcomed. I am hoping that with the links below I can provide a little bit of something for everyone to consider and maybe even find useful.

If you are happy to carry on as you are with the White Rose Maths and Hamilton English then please do so, but there is no judgement if this isn't working for your child or for your family as every child and family is different. I hope that you can find something useful here and feel free to share with others if you feel they may benefit also. If you are in need of any resources for your child(ren)'s learning (pens, pencils, writing books), please do email the school so we can provide these for your child.

Maths

A lot of you really liked the White Rose Maths as the short videos and follow along activities on the worksheets were a resource that many of your children are able to complete either fully independently or with a little support and guidance that you felt able to give by watching the videos with your child. That is fantastic to hear and teachers in other year groups have had similar feedback so as a school we are subscribed and will continue to supply the worksheets and answers.

A few of you felt that your child could benefit from a further challenge after this or that you were finding it hard to get your child to engage at all and were looking for an alternative resource. As a teacher, when I plan lessons I am constantly looking out for activities that offer pupils an opportunity to reason and problem solve as they are very accessible but you can add further levels of challenge through questioning and adding in 'what if..?' scenarios amongst other things. I will list below some websites with resources that can be used to engage, extend or challenge or offer an alternative for you from the daily White Rose Maths tasks if you wish.

Maths Resources:

<http://bedtimemath.org/fun-math-at-home/> - A variety of maths activities, some more resource heavy than others but very practical activities. Great for engaging those who struggle with written tasks, a range of focuses from mental maths to shape recognition and beyond. They helpfully give times as well so you can choose from shorter to more lengthy activities. We often browse this website for inspiration when we are delivering 1:1 or small group interventions. A lot of the games are easily adaptable.

<https://urbrainy.com/maths/year-5-age-9-10/reasoning-and-problem-solving> - Free to a point, some great worksheets with ideas for higher level thinking in order to reason and problem solve. Definitely more of a challenge and require lots of thinking. Not so much a light touch but more of an exploration, if your child finishes these quickly, they aren't getting the most

out of them, if that's the case I often challenge children to find me other ways of solving so that they are connecting with the pattern spotting and other reasoning skills that will really help them to make the mathematical connections.

<https://nrich.maths.org/8921> - A favourite website among teachers that are aiming for mastery. Lots of opportunities for hands on learning through investigation with concrete resources. Encourages children to look at things in different ways. I often challenge children to explain how they found the answer or how you could find the answer rather than put the emphasis on just giving a correct answer. The key questions this website gives with the activities are very useful.

<https://nrich.maths.org/9078> - If your child has an ILP (you'll know if they do), this is aimed at lower key stage 2 and focuses on the skills a child needs in maths. A great place to start if they are having problems engaging or if working independently is not their strong point as this will give them the skills they need to be able to work mathematically.

<https://nsmathshub.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/ks2-reasoning-and-problem-solving-questions-white-rose-maths-hub-twitter-march-2016.pdf> - These sorts of challenges are brilliant for extending childrens reasoning and problem solving skills. Again, I must stress that this is not about finding the answer and should instead be about the journey. How could you find the answer? What method are you going to try? Where could you start? What makes it challenging? Could you draw a picture, model or diagram to help you? What do you know already? What do you need to find out? If you can solve it, would there have been an easier way to solve it? Etc. Use these as a starting point. You could even apply the 'Be a mathematician' skills from the previous website to help you.

<https://uk.ixl.com/math/year-5> - This is a fantastic website if you wanted to review maths objectives with your child. With each objective the website offers a mini skills check that you can use to check understanding. Feel free to browse in different year groups if you want more of a challenge or are looking for consolidation from previous year groups. Be mindful of course that your child hasn't had a typical year 5 experience so we haven't yet covered all of the objectives, or had a typical end of year period of consolidation so be patient with them.

<https://www.mathsbox.org.uk/index1.php> - lots of little games, starters and practise questions. Some interesting bits for reasoning and problem solving that provide a nice challenge.

<https://sciencetoymaker.org/> - Okay so not necessarily a maths one but lots of opportunities to combine maths and science with pattern spotting, measuring, comparing etc. All skills that crossover into many different subjects and if you're struggling to engage in maths specifically, these fun projects give an opportunity to let your child experience maths in a different context.

English:

Similar themes in English, some of you really like the tasks and recognise the opportunities for consolidation (a funny anecdote from one parent about putting relative clauses into their case studies for work after learning alongside their child - thank you for that!), lots of popularity again in terms of children being able to complete them independently and liking that many year groups are using Hamilton so gives continuity between siblings.

English resources:

<https://uk.ixl.com/ela/year-5> - As with the maths from IXL, they also have English skills to check your knowledge against. There's a fairly extensive list of skills but I would say that in my experience, they tend to have a very useful 'learn with an example' tool that is great for a review and to give some context.

<https://bravewriter.com/program/brave-writer-lifestyle/friday-freewrite/freewriting-the-key-that-unlocks-the-words> - I think that nowadays the opportunity to just write for the joy of writing is an activity that is often overlooked. This article offers a wonderful perspective and actually a much better description of how to get started with free-writing than I possibly could. For many children, just writing is a huge challenge that fills them with anxiety. Free-writing is a process that helps children to think creatively and become more free-thinking writers, helping to build confidence, stamina and independence that is then transferred into other subjects. I would perhaps add to this article by saying that actually, within our cohort children are at a range of places with this. Some would start from scratch, just jotting down thoughts whereas others would easily be able to pick up a pen and write for 10 minutes. I have said to a couple of parents that actually for their child (and perhaps yours if this sounds appropriate), it would be better for them to have half an hour of free-writing with a prompt word, picture or theme (ancient Greeks for example) and then to leave that piece of writing for a period of time - perhaps even a day - and to then revisit it, focussing only then on things like spelling, grammar and upskilling through the editing process.

An article I have shared about free-writing is this one:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/the-creative-life/201708/the-magic-freewriting> which actually offers a more teacher-focused assessment and opinion of free-writing but offers an interesting perspective that's a nice read if you are into blog pieces.

If you do take up freewriting as an alternative to the English tasks you may decide that actually when your child is editing they need guidance on what to look for. For this can I suggest this website: <https://www.mrmichaelmccloskey.com/upskill-my-writing.html>. Also, this is something we use in English lessons:

Am I finished with my English?

1. Have I used a range of punctuation?
2. Have I used capital letters and full stops for every sentence?
3. Is my writing cursive?
4. Have I used a range of nouns?
5. Have I used a range of adjectives? Have I used the power of 3?
6. Is my writing laid out in paragraphs? Or in a way that is appropriate to the genre?
7. Have I used a thesaurus to search for interesting synonyms?

8. Have I used language that creates mood?
9. Have I used a range of verbs and adverbs to make my writing more interesting?
10. Have I used commas to break up sentences.
11. Have I used a range of sentence lengths?
12. Have I included dashes, commas or parentheses to add more information?
13. Have I read through my work and used a coloured pen to improve and upskill?
14. Have I checked the 3 peaks to make sure I have completed my work correctly?
15. Have I fulfilled my English target?

Not all of those will be appropriate or relevant but it is something that the children are familiar with and they know that they should focus on one at a time and might aim to check 3 numbers or 5 or all of them depending on what is appropriate to their work and their individual targets for writing.

<https://www.planbee.com/uks2-home-learning-pack-english> - some lovely activities on here that help to develop dictionary and thesaurus skills. Both of which can be found online but if you have a hard copy - more the better! Also some great free-writing prompts and word/sentence building games which are brilliant for year 5.

<https://www.olstrose.bham.sch.uk/english-daily-challenges/> - If your child has an ILP, this could be a great option for you. A combination of short reading comprehensions and writing challenges to practise reading and writing if stamina and focus are something you are finding challenging.

<https://primaryleap.co.uk/primary-resources/year-5/literacy> - This is a website I often dip in and out of. There is a real variety of worksheets and tasks and it is great for short tasks that refresh skills around spelling rules, writing devices and reading comprehensions. A range of challenge levels suitable for all whether looking for a challenge or for a short task or to brush up on a skill.

[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0088/6797/1123/files/ChatterPack - Building_vocabulary.pdf?242](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0088/6797/1123/files/ChatterPack_-_Building_vocabulary.pdf?242) - If you're interested in learning about vocabulary and how to increase / improve your child's vocabulary, this is an interesting article that offers an interesting perspective.

<https://www.kidztype.com/> - a website with fun games for children to practise typing. A skill that many find difficult on a chromebook or laptop as they are so used to touch screens now but nevertheless a skill that will serve them in years to come, especially leading up to high school.