

Literacy Activities

Week Beginning Monday 22nd February 2021

In ALL WRITTEN TASKS;

- Please reinforce with your child the importance of starting EVERY sentence with a capital letter. If children don't know what some capital letters look like, please get them to refer to the [alphabet chart](#) provided.
- Please INSIST that your child ends EVERY sentence with the appropriate punctuation (either a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark).
- Please INSIST on correct spelling of 'tricky words' (children are allowed and should be encouraged to use the word mat provided - [Phase 2 to 5 tricky words](#)).
- Please encourage your child to use Phonics for spelling (see the [Phonics Sound Mat](#) provided).
- In class, we have already worked on conjunctions (and, but, so, because, when, if, so, although, even though). These words make children's sentences longer and more interesting to read. Please encourage your child to include some.
- We have also worked on adjectives. These also make sentences much more interesting. Please encourage your child to include adjectives wherever they can. E.g. instead of just writing 'the box', children could write, 'the big blue box with small shiny handles'.
- Finally, we have worked on verbs and adverbs. Verbs tell us what was happening and adverbs tell us how it was happening. E.g. instead of simply writing, 'the elephant was walking', children could write, 'the elephant was walking slowly and steadily'.

Activities
Monday 22 nd February
We have now finished our Roald Dahl topic and we are starting a new topic about plastic. We will be reading a new book called ' One Plastic Bag ' which is a true story about a woman in an African village, who recognises the damage that plastic is doing to her community and decides to do something about it.

We will be working towards our final piece (our **Phase 3 Big Write**), which is going to be a leaflet explaining the problems with plastic.

The spelling and grammar features covered in **Phase 2** will be more words with suffixes (adding -ness, -ful, -ed and -ing to the end of words), past tense verbs and different types of sentences (statements, questions, exclamations and commands). Children will be encouraged to include these spelling and grammar features in their final pieces of writing.

But first, we will cover **Phase 1**. In this phase we will be reading the book and finding out about both the good things about plastic (why it is such a useful material), and the bad things about plastic (the harm that it does to our planet and wildlife). We will be looking at some solutions to the problem (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle).

Learning Objective: I recognise some of the reasons why plastic is a useful material.

Success Criteria:

- I investigate objects that are made from plastic.
- I can talk about why these objects are fit for purpose.
- I am starting to see some of the problems associated with plastic.

Provide your child with some plastic objects to look at and talk about. It might be interesting to compare a plastic bag with a plastic bottle and then with something completely solid, like a toy. This will demonstrate how plastic can be very versatile because it can be made in very thin sheets that can be scrunched or folded, or made slightly stronger (bottle) but still 'squashable', or how it can be made completely solid and rigid and how it can be made into any shape.

When we do this activity at school, these are the materials we provide and the questions that we ask children to discuss:

Plastic bottles

- Does it leak?
- Can you drink from it easily?
- Can it be made in different sizes / colours?
- Is it strong enough for the job?
- How do you think it was made?

Carrier bag

- Does it hold?
- Does it break easily?
- Is it easy to carry?
- Is it heavy or light?
- Can it be made in different colours / sizes?

Drinking straws

- Do they look nice?
- How do they work?
- Are they fun to use? Do they need to be plastic?

Toys

- Are they strong?
- Are they easy to clean?
- Do they look good?
- Are they fun?

After this investigation, children should be starting to see why plastic is so widely used. It is cheap to make and can be made into almost anything! It can be made to be flimsy and disposable, or pretty solid and almost indestructible. It can even be used outdoors without being damaged too much by the weather. It can be fairly easy to clean and safe to use around food or young children.

Children could make a 'spider diagram' by writing 'Plastic is Fantastic' in the middle of their page, and writing all of the positive things about plastic around the title in the middle.

Now, have a look at the following website. Children should start to see that plastic isn't always such a good thing and they should start to see some of the problems it causes in the environment.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/42810179>

Explain to children how plastic is a relatively new material. About 60 years ago most things were not made from plastic. What do they think toys, bags and bottles might have been made from in the past?

Tuesday 23rd February

Learning Objective: I can describe some of the problems associated with plastic.

Success Criteria:

- I find out new information from pictures and videos.
- I write down some of the things I have learned.

Remind children of the website we looked at yesterday. Perhaps watch the video again and ask your child to start making a list of reasons why plastic is bad for the planet.

You can watch the following video too;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=73sGgmZoMBQ>

However, you might want to watch this yourself before showing it to your child. It features images of feminine hygiene products. We have shown this video in school before and children have never asked about them, but if you feel this is something you would rather your child doesn't see, that is absolutely fine. If a child did ask, I would most likely brush it aside and say something like, 'oh they are like special bandages', or 'I'm not sure what they are', or something like that. You don't want to get side tracked and start having a conversation about something that is irrelevant to the theme of the lesson!

We have also provided some images of the problems caused by plastic, with some questions for you to discuss with your child. Images number 2 and 5 show wildlife that has been harmed by plastic. Again, if you feel that your child would be upset by these images, then perhaps don't show them. However, these images are intended to provoke an emotional response, as it makes children really care about the issue.

As you watch the videos and discuss the images with your child, keep adding to the list they started at the beginning of the activity. By the end of the activity, they should have a number of reasons why plastic really isn't so fantastic after all.

Wednesday 24th February

This is a piece of work that we would like to see.

Please take a photograph of your child's completed writing and e-mail it to: Y2@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

Learning Objective: I can write my opinion and justify it.

Success Criteria:

- I can listen to new information and discuss different points of view.
- I can record my own opinion and give reasons for it.

This video shows how plastic is made and recycled.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfJDie6aU0k>

This video shows the journey of three plastic bottles. One goes into landfill, one goes into the ocean and the third one is recycled.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6xINyWPpB8

Refer your child back to the spider diagram they made on Monday and the list they made yesterday. This is to remind them of all of the reasons why plastic is a good and useful material and also the reasons why plastic is bad for our planet.

Children should now complete a piece of writing with the title 'Should We Use Plastic?'

They might not have an opinion one way or the other. They might write some sentences about why plastic is good and about why plastic is bad. They might make some suggestions, such as using less plastic to begin with, or re-using or recycling the plastic we do use. They are aiming for a short paragraph, perhaps 5 or 6 sentences (although they might choose to write more).

Please remember to send in completed pieces of writing to:

Y2@elystjohns.cambs.sch.uk

Thursday 25th February

Learning Objective: I can discuss ways to re-use or recycle.

Success Criteria:

- I listen carefully as the story is read.
- I understand the problem faced by the main character.
- I take part in a recycling activity.

Today, we are going to take a look at the book we are using for this literacy topic - 'One Plastic Bag'.

Watch the video of the story being told;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6p04Zph04>

Talk about the setting and characters. Do they live in the UK? How do you know? Try pausing the video at the point where the main character discovers the problem (approximately 5 minutes and 20 seconds into the video). Ask your child what she could do and discuss various options for re-using or recycling.

After watching the video, talk about what you could make out of plastic bags, and if you have some at home, have a go at making some things. At school we have a go at cutting plastic bags into long strips and weaving them to make a place mat. Sometimes children have made items like bracelets or even belts. Some children have made plastic bags into parts of toys, such as a parachute for a small figure or even a kite!

Friday 26th February

Learning Objective: I understand that plastic affects my local environment as well as the rest of the world.

Success Criteria:

- I search for signs of plastic in my local environment.
- I can talk about the impact of the plastic I see in my local environment.

Go out for a local walk, or even a drive in your car. Can your child see any plastic rubbish in places where it should not be? They might see rubbish at the side of the road or on the pavement or even stuck in the branches of a tree. Talk about how the rubbish got to be there in the first place. Perhaps people have dropped it out of their car window? How might this affect us? Does it look nice or ugly? Might any wildlife be hurt? What should people do with their rubbish?

In addition to this activity, our Reading Comprehension Task this week has a focus on Plastic and the Environment. Have a go at completing it with your child.