

Maths

I have set up a new Folens Online account for this period of school closures. To access this, go to www.folensonline.ie . Click *Sign in* and use the following details: msbambrick2020@gmail.com and the password is *seniorinfants* (all lower case and one word).

Over the next few weeks, you will see what I compile under "My Favourites" on the left-hand side of the screen. I will add relevant activities and games in here. We are now beginning to learn all about the number 9. Your child could begin by watching the "number 9" video under "My favourites" on folens.ie. Next, I would recommend they watch this video [here](#) explaining how to form the number 9 correctly. After this video, they could engage in a variety of multisensory activities such as: use their "magic finger" to air-write number 9, write it on a family member's back, trace 9 with their finger on a table, make 9 out of playdough, write a huge 9 and then a tiny one, write 9 with chalk outside, etc. They also could do a number 9 search around the house or through a book/ magazine. The more familiar they become with the formation of the number 9 before they ever lift a pencil to write it, the better. When you are happy that they have a good grasp of the formation, you can introduce page **79** in the Big Planet Maths book. (Please remind them of how we sit when we are writing - back up straight, feet flat on the floor {or dangling straight if they can't reach}, tummy touching the table, and holding our nice chunky pencils carefully between our thumb and pointer finger). Here they can draw 9 worms in the garden, colour them in neatly and then practise writing number 9 at the bottom of the page.

On page **80**, your child is asked to draw 9 beads on each string and also make a pattern then when colouring these in (I would recommend choosing 3 colours for the pattern - e.g, red, yellow, green, red etc). They are also asked to count the spots on each snake, and only colour in the snakes with exactly 9 spots.

For further practice of the number 9 formation, your child can complete page **25** in the **small** Planet Maths book.

As revision, your child can complete page **18** in the **Small** Planet Maths book which will revisit the correction formation of the number 7.

*Feel free to explore this Folens.ie account as there is a range of other games/activities that would help your child revise other topics we've covered this year such as number, addition, shape, counting on etc.

Literacy

Phonics:

"sh" sound

Suggested steps to teach this new sound:

- Brainstorm with your child for words that they can hear the "sh" sound in (give them a starting hint if necessary) Perhaps write these for future practice?
- Then show them the following list and ask them to sound them out each word

ship shop shut shoe shush shark
sheep shell shed sheet shock shin

(at end of a word) fish smash crash mash

- Youtube videos (Mr Thorne does Phonics and Geraldine Giraffe are both fun and interactive - type "sh phonics sound" into Youtube and they should both appear)
- **Big** "Just Phonics" book pages 48 and 49 - I will do a voiceover clip on Seesaw teaching your child how to complete this activity.
- **Small** "Just Phonics" book page 13 - write as many sh words as they can fit, and then draw/stick a picture.

"ch" sound

Suggested steps to teach this new sound:

- Brainstorm with your child for words that they can hear the "ch" sound in (give them a starting hint if necessary). Perhaps write these for future practice?
- Then show them the following list and ask them to sound out each word

chip chop chat cheek chain chess
chicken chin cheer check chest chair

(at end of a word): church crunch such much

- Youtube videos (Mr Thorne does Phonics and Geraldine Giraffe are both fun and interactive -type "ch phonics sound" into youtube and they should both appear)
- **Big** "Just Phonics" book page 50 and 51 - I will do a voiceover clip on Seesaw teaching your child how to complete this activity.
- **Small** "Just Phonics" book page 14 - write as many ch words as they can fit, and then draw/stick a picture.
- Please feel free to revise previously covered digraphs both on Youtube (e.g. Mr. Thorne and Geraldine Giraffe) and by brainstorming words on a page (the phonics book should be a good reference to remind of the digraphs covered in Senior Infants so far). This brainstorm approach works well as a class activity on our Interactive Whiteboard so they are familiar with it. Continued blending of these digraphs in the context of a word will help your child's reading fluency.

Reading:

Your child has their usual reading books for homework in their folder this week. You could perhaps read book A on Monday and then revisit it on Wednesday to see what they have retained, and the same with book B for Tuesday and Thursday. As an option if you feel your child would benefit from this, I will post "Reading for Teacher" as an activity on Seesaw, and they are more than welcome to send me a voice clip of them reading their book/s and I will listen and respond to encourage them.

As we only have one week's supply of our class readers at home, from next week, we will be using <https://readingeggs.co.uk/> for our reading material. This website is giving a 30

day free trial during school closures so if you are looking for additional reading material this week you might like to check this website out.

Tricky words:

We will work on **you** and **your** this week on page 4 of our homework pack. At the bottom of this page, there is also an activity based on the short vowel sounds (a, e, i, o and u). It would be very beneficial for your child to continue revising the blue, and to keep looking over the yellow as these are our current focus. There are so many games that you can play to reinforce tricky word recognition, and I have added a PDF of both blue and yellow tricky word activities on to Seesaw that you could either print off if you have that facility, or recreate the ideas yourself on plain paper if not. Also, "Epic Phonics" on Youtube has great Tricky Word videos which can help them revise. The sequence/groups are not exactly in tandem with ours but still very relevant.

Gaeilge

On Seesaw, you will see an activity that explains how to download Bua na Cainte (the Irish programme we use at school) on to a PC or Mac (not mobile devices). When you have successfully downloaded this, we will be beginning "Sa Bhaile" as our theme. Your child will be very used to this from the Interactive Whiteboard in school. I will assign 2 lessons (*ceachtanna*) this week to ease them back in to Gaeilge, and to allow for revision also. I would suggest ceacht 1 on Monday and Tuesday, and then ceacht 2 for the end of the week.

Ceacht 1 - focusses on counting people, as there is a different method for counting people in Irish than counting other objects. There are 2 conversations that they can listen to and pause to repeat what has been said throughout (again they will know how to do this). There is also a song "Cúigear Fear" (Five Men) and a listening game (click the game controller icon). As the emphasis in Irish at Senior Infant level is only on listening and speaking and not on reading or writing, the spelling is not needed here but for your own use and to help with pronunciation I will give this written example: Páiste amháin, beirt pháistí, triúr páistí, ceathrar páistí, cúigear páistí. You will notice how the h is present in pháistí for beirt but none of the rest, and how páiste comes first when we are talking about just one child.

Ceacht 2 - This lesson focusses on items in the home (ballaí = walls, díon = roof, doras = door, fuinneog = window, simléar = chimney) Again there are 2 conversations, a song "An Teach" (The House) and 4 interactive games. The focus on this lesson is on colours also (corcra = purple, bán = white, glas = green, donn = brown, gorm = blue, buí = yellow, oráiste = orange, dearg = red).

You also will have access to the themes that we have covered to date this year so feel free to revisit any of these. The children particularly enjoy the songs and interactive games on *Bua na Cainte* and find them very engaging.

Aistear (integrating Art/ Drama/ Geography/ History/ Science)

"People Who Help Us" is our Aistear theme for January. This covers all emergency services workers and local people in our community who provide goods/services we rely on.

I have uploaded and put voiceovers on to "The Zoo Vet" on Seesaw so I hope that it runs smoothly and that the children enjoy listening along as they follow the story. I have also added an activity that looks at the workplaces of some of the People Who Help Us.

Below I have included some ideas of activities that we would have been carrying out in class (in normal times) as stations as part of this topic. You might find some are adaptable to your circumstances. Treat this as a pick and mix, there are no expectations for you to complete all of these. If your child does partake and wishes to show me some of their work, I have an activity called "People Who Help Us Activities" on Seesaw where you can upload a photograph if you so wish.

- Junk Art creations from recycled materials based on this theme. Your child could make the workers themselves, some of the equipment they use or the place where they work. Ideas include Lollipop person stick, a chef's hat, a doctor's stethoscope, a fire engine. What other ideas can they come up with?
- Construction - pick a person who helps us from the ones we have talked about. Where does this person work? On a blank page, draw your design of this building e.g. a library, fire station etc. Using whatever bricks, or blocks you might have at home, can you build your design?
- Playdough - using playdough to create some of the equipment that a person who helps us might use, e.g. what tools did the Vet use in our story?
- Drama/ Role play - Acting out the role of one of the people who help us at home. Can you set up your own shop/restaurant/dentist surgery? Can you find some customers/patients? These could be people in your family, but don't forget you can use toys and teddies too. Maybe your Teddy bear from school might want to join in?
- A selection of People Who Help Us colouring pages is also on Seesaw under that title to help children to work on their Fine Motor Skills.