Dear parents and children,

I hope that you and your families have all had a nice weekend and been able to enjoy the great weather! We are coming to the end of this half term, even though it has been such an unusual half term for us all. Myself, Mrs Whittles and Mrs Holmes have been so thankful that everyone has been able to stay safe and well in these times and we have been so impressed by all the hard work you have all been doing at home. I am especially grateful to parents and families for the time and effort you have put into home schooling – you have all been amazing! We are still uncertain about what school reopening might look like of course there will be the challenges of teaching children how to social distance in school to think about. We will pass on any information when we have heard more from the local authority and in the meantime, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with any queries and we will do our best to help.

This is our last week of our topic about ‘Forests and Woodlands’ and our last story of the topic is another story set in a Forest – Owl Babies written by Martin Waddell. You might recognise the story or you might have seen some of Martin Waddell’s other stories, including ‘Can’t You Sleep Little Bear?’ I have attached a video of the story and a document with the story for you to read at home. Please also find attached some literacy activities, including a sequencing activity, speech bubbles writing template, fact writing and a forest description template.

In Topic, we would have been creating our own owl pictures using natural resources that we would have found outside. There is a template attached which the children may like to colour or use things from outside (twigs or leaves etc) to stick on the picture. You could be as creative as you like though and make your own owl picture using any craft supplies you have at home, using pictures of owls as reference. We also would have been learning about habitats, particularly woodland and forest habitats and the animals which live there. Even though it’s unlikely that you will see any owls at home, you might like to use the garden bird’s checklist to see how many other birds you can see in your gardens.

Our focus in Maths this week will be looking at measuring and telling the time. In reception we would introduce telling the time to the hour, but it is important to remember that this can be a difficult concept to learn and one of the best ways to teach time is by mentioning time in your daily routines, for example you might be able to say “The clock says 12 o’clock which means that it’s lunchtime”. Please find attached PowerPoints which help to introduce both measuring and telling the time as well as some work sheets and ideas for home challenges.

For this week in Literacy, we will be looking at another traditional tale set in a Forest – Goldilocks and the Three Bears. There is a story PowerPoint attached but you might have your own copy of the story to read at home! Please find attached some literacy activities which you could do at home, including a story template where children could either draw or write about the setting, characters, beginning, middle and end of the story. There is also a story board attached with 4 pictures showing some of the main parts of the story, and it would be fantastic if the children could write a sentence about what happened in each picture. A template for a letter which Goldilocks could write to the three bears is also attached. The children could think about what Goldilocks might say, for example ‘I am sorry for eating your porridge.’

For topic this week, we would have been making porridge like the three bears did in the story. You might want to have a go at following the attached instructions to make your own porridge, and you could even experiment with adding extra fruit or jam! As it is a special bank holiday on Friday 8th May to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day, we would have been creating our own Union Jack Flag and you may like to create your own using any materials you have – paints, tissue paper, pens etc. There are a couple of resources attached which you may find interesting including bunting you could colour and a recipe book with some interesting ideas for those of you who are enjoying baking!

In Phonics this week it is our last week of Phase 3 and we would have been continuing to practice reading questions and looking at sentence substitution as well as learning the tricky word ‘are’ and practiced reading real and silly words, as well as having a go at reading another short story. Please see the attached PowerPoint for this week’s teaching, and there are lots of online games that you might like to play, including spelling shed or Phonics Play. Last week, the department for Education started online phonics lessons every week day which you may want to access on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw>. These online lessons don’t match up perfectly to where we are in our Phonics lessons Starfish class, however they do follow the same scheme of work we use, called Letters and Sounds. Please do not feel that you have to use them, but if you choose to watch them with your children then all your child needs is some paper and something to write with.

As always, there is no pressure to complete everything! Please don’t hesitate to email with any questions and please keep posting pictures of what the children have been up to on Tapestry. I will look forward to seeing what you have been doing and I hope to speak to you all over the phone this week to check in and keep up to date with you all. Please keep an eye out for an unknown number and if there is a particular time which would you would prefer for a phone call please let me know via email – admin@kirksmeaton.n-yorks.sch.uk .

Best Wishes,

Miss Ghent and the Starfish Class Team