



## Tips for Engaging Parents during Covid-19

Communicating with families is arguably more important during this unprecedented period of lockdown than in normal school life.

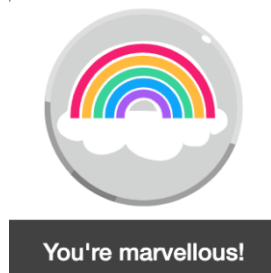
Sharing information about learning activities, saying 'well done' for completed work or even just to let them know 'I'm thinking of you' is key for the children's development and wellbeing.



To help you share valuable information at this time, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has recently provided example text and ideas for you use. This is easy to copy and send (for free) to parents through MarvellousMe.

Of course, the words can be adapted to suit your needs and, as always, the messages you send will automatically be personalised with the individual child's name, making it feel even more special.

### MARVELLOUSME BADGES



Tell children that you think they've done a great job with a piece of work or to award them for demonstrating a key life skill.

Many pre-set Badges are already in MarvellousMe, but we've seen that a lot of teachers have recently created a 'You're Marvellous!' badge using the rainbow icon. Some schools have also set up Badges to reinforce their school values and/or the 5 ways to wellbeing.

The Badge label alone may be enough, but if you want to include an additional short message you could use the following:

- Well done for completing your home learning task. I can tell you worked very hard on it.'
- I'm really proud to see you working so hard at home.
- You're doing a great job! I love the effort you're putting into your work.
- I think you are brilliant. Keep smiling!

Remember our 'SuperParent' badge too. It's a nice touch to thank parents for encouraging and supporting their child's learning at home.

## MARVELLOUSME LEARNING ACTIVITIES



The EEF suggests the below text to advise parents on how to support their child's home learning. Just copy and paste into MarvellousMe and send to specific children, the whole class, or the entire school.

### Reading

- Have fun with reading. Let your child choose what they read and enjoy it together. Short or long, it's time well spent.
- Don't worry about what your kids are reading: recipes, cereal packets, Argos catalogues... It's all useful! Keep books and other reading materials close by.
- Reading to kids of all ages is helpful. If your little one isn't reading by themselves yet, read with them.
- Ask lots of questions: who, what, where, when and why and ask them to summarise when you've finished.
- When you see your child reading, praise them! "I love to see you reading."
- Don't worry about how long you read with your child for. Every minute spent reading makes a bigger difference than you realise!
- Take turns talking about what you are going to read. Say things like: "I feel like reading a book with animals in it today. What do you feel like reading?"
- Take turns guessing what's going to happen when you're reading with your child. Say things like: "I wonder what will happen next... What do you think?"
- Ask questions to check ideas and understanding when your child is reading. Say things like: "Why do you think that happened?"

- Use encouragement and praise to keep your child engaged in reading. Say things like: “You’re doing brilliantly today!... Let’s keep reading to see what happens!”
- Every chat your child has with you is a learning opportunity! After breakfast, talk about your plan for the day. What are they looking forward to? What activities would they like to do in the evening?

### **Maths (younger children)**

- Maths can be a part of your everyday activities through games, stories and conversation! You don’t need to have a separate maths lesson or activity. Why not count the plates as you lay the table or do a fun addition quiz?
- Board games like Snakes and Ladders or other games with numbered spaces can be great for maths learning. You can even make your own!
- Meals and snack times can be great to teach lots of concepts, like sharing, talking about time, counting how many carrots you have, estimating the number of beans or comparing sizes of potatoes.
- Use maths words in conversation and play, talking about size (“Which is bigger?”), order (“Which is first?”), shapes and more.
- Stories can be great opportunities for maths learning. Check out <https://www.mathsthroughstories.org/recommendations.html> or you can use books you have at home!
- Use manipulatives like bricks or toys of different sizes or amounts to support learning. Measuring, building, puzzles, sorting and patterns can be great!
- When you see your child practising maths in everyday tasks, praise them! “I love to see you counting / ordering / sharing.”

### **Maths (older children)**

- We want to support families with some tips for promoting maths learning at home. One great strategy is to create a daily routine with time for different tasks, such as practicing times tables or completing an online lesson.
- Encouraging your child to set goals and make plans can help them learn independently. Older children can be more independent but will still need some support.
- Having a set time and place to study with the resources they will need can help keep children on task and make sure they have the tools for success.
- Practicing times tables, either online or on paper, can be a great tool to help your child remember maths facts quickly and easily!

- It can be hard to learn new maths concepts outside of school. Create time for your child to practice what they already know, such as repeating known times tables.
- Providing example maths problems can be helpful for your child. These should show all steps clearly and have a very similar follow-up problem for them to try.

## MARVELLOUSME MESSAGES



The MarvellousMe Message option can be used for anything not specifically linked to a learning task or award.

Many schools are currently using this facility to share information about food vouchers for FSM pupils and to share notices/school newsletters with parents.

## OTHER FACILITIES TO SUPPORT PARENTS

Ask your school's MarvellousMe administrator to add Quick Links for the parent app to direct parents to your website or to other learning portals, such as TT Rockstars.

Lots of schools are also using this facility to point parents to learning sheets and activities via the 'Class Pages' on the school website and/or on Google docs.

