

It was a real pleasure to spend time with some of Year 5 for part of this week and to get to know them a bit better – it must have been so strange for them to be back in school – and not even Meadgate School! Despite this, I promise you, they have worked hard!

I thought you would be interested to know some of the areas we worked on and some things you could be doing at home over the next few weeks to help and support your children ready for Year 6 in September.

### Maths

The children have been working on the 4 operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) for whole numbers and fractions and the formal methods, e.g. column subtraction. Your kids are great – they picked up the methods very quickly on the whole. However, a common issue was accuracy and speed: they have forgotten number bonds and times tables or they are just very slow at processing these because they haven't been in a classroom practising them every day!

We took some time out to learn a times table that each child felt wobbly on, then to race against the clock to be able to write it down, beating their fastest score each time. Your kids loved being competitive with themselves! So, here is a FREE website where your kids can practise number bonds, times tables and square numbers against the clock to improve their score. I hope it is new to them so will therefore be something that might float their boat!

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

This is also available on an App priced at £2.99 (sorry – I wish it was free) Of course, you can always get your children back on TTRockStars which we launched at school back in February. Your children can log onto this for free through the vle-

<http://meadgate.myvle.co.uk/> then click on content



and then click every few days

on TTRockStars should do the



Just 5-10 minutes trick!



### English

The children have been working on spelling, different types of sentences and reading fluency and comprehension. They have been very honest – most have said reading was not on the agenda during lockdown! However, most were confident enough to do some reading aloud from an on-screen book we read as a group and quickly became more fluent with three days of practice. They all also really enjoyed listening to a story and predicting and discussing the plot. If you can, try to get them back into the reading habit again. Please feel free to read to your children if they are reluctant to read to themselves. Local libraries are open but you'll need a face mask:

#### Great Baddow Library

##### Opening hours

Monday	9am to 5pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	9am to 5pm
Thursday	9am to 5pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	9am to 5pm
Sunday	Closed

#### Chelmsford Library

##### Opening hours

Monday	9am to 5pm
Tuesday	9am to 5pm
Wednesday	9am to 5pm
Thursday	9am to 5pm
Friday	9am to 5pm
Saturday	9am to 5pm
Sunday	1pm to 4pm

Please also check out the school's reading page on our website for audiobooks (if you can't get your kid to read, get them to listen to books being read!) and other ideas to get them back in the reading habit!

<https://www.meadgateprimary.com/reading-activities/>