

June 19th 2015

Dear Parents,

Following a trial carried out last summer, I am inviting all Year 4 parents to support their children's learning of Spanish by doing some activities with them at home. Progression in foreign language learning is heavily influenced by constant exposure and practice. The children who took part in the trial have all shown greater retention of the target vocabulary and in some cases, an amazing boost in their confidence.

All you need to support your children is to have access to a computer. You don't need to know any Spanish as the website we use will provide both the spelling and pronunciation of the target vocabulary. Unfortunately this particular website does not work on i-pads but children who only have access to i-pads at home can always do the activities in the homework club run by Mrs Whitcombe.

The website we are encouraging children to use is '*Mi mundo en palabras*', an interactive site created by the Instituto Cervantes of Spain. Using this site at home will not only increase the exposure to the language, but also help the children retain key vocabulary. As it is all in Spanish, I am enclosing a guide that will help you navigate and follow instructions easily.

I would be very grateful if you could support your child in the next couple of weeks to consolidate their knowledge of numbers, and foster learning new vocabulary. Please could you complete the slip below and return it to school by Monday July 6th.

Sincerely yours,

Señora Martínez

Please return the slip below

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Child's name _____ Class _____ Relationship to the child _____

Was the guide enclosed helpful? _____

How did you find the activities suggested? _____

Would you recommend the site to other parents for their children? _____

GUIDE TO SPANISH WEBSITE

You can access 'Mi mundo en palabras' (My world in words) via the school's website (link in pupil zone). The site is organised in 10 units, each represented by an icon in a rocket's path. Each unit has the same structure with four different sections:

- El mundo de Carlos (Carlos' world) is a short cartoon video that presents the language structures and vocabulary in context and models pronunciation.
- In Pasatiempo (Pass time) children can play a game to practise the target language.
- Taller (Workshop) provides further practice through a craft activity.
- Mochila de palabras (Backpack of words) is the picture dictionary of the vocabulary of the unit. You can access the dictionary from the unit menu and also by clicking on the backpack icon on the bottom toolbar. From the toolbar, the glossary is available as you are doing the activities. When you click on the pictures in the dictionary, you hear the pronunciation and see the written word below. For detailed description of the website's content see table overleaf.

TASK 1 Go over/consolidate knowledge of numbers 1-31

Click on last icon of the rocket's path and then on the backback.

TASK 2 Learn words for leisure activities in the context of 'I like' sentences.

In order to complete each task, it would be great if you could carry out the steps below:

- L.O. To copy pronunciation
Click on each icon (number or leisure activity), listen and ask your child to repeat without paying attention to the spelling of the word.
- L.O. To practise sound-word links
Click on each icon with sound off. Ask your child to have a go at reading the word aloud. Click again with sound on to compare.
- L.O. To consolidate recognition of a spoken word
For this activity, your child must look away. Click on icons at random with sound on and ask your child to say them in English. Go over any target word that seem to be difficult.