

# HomeCool

Learning, Laughing and Loving in Lockdown



**Look  
Inside  
For**

**Confessions**  
of a Homeschooled kid

   
**MADE BY  
CHILDREN**

**HOME  
HEROES**

**CREATIVE  
CORNER**

# spreading hello smiles

**Readers and Friends,**

Welcome to the first issue of HOMECOOOL, a magazine created by me and my brother from Birmingham, UK to record the memories and feelings of children like us and share the stories of the people who have been inspirational in Lockdown.

We would love editorial contributions for any of our columns and feedback to make our magazine even better. You can ask your parents to write to us at [homecoolkids@gmail.com](mailto:homecoolkids@gmail.com)

(The email will be handled by our mother who is our honorary Communications and Social Media Manager).



**Around the World in Lockdown**

We hope this endeavour of ours will help lift the spirits of everyone around. Hence, we aim to give you a good read full of positivity, love and laughs. Besides showcasing the amazing children who, in these difficult times, have helped and motivated others in creative ways, this is also a small effort to bring a cheer to adults who are trying their best to cope. We hope HOMECOOOL will help everyone take a break from all the negative news around and encourage them to experience the joys of community spirit. We all have friends, family, schoolmates and teachers whom we have missed during Lockdown. Hopefully, this magazine will help us to keep in touch with them and may even encourage them to contribute by sharing their stories. After all, any time spent on the screen doing this is productive tech time and so should be acceptable to parents!

**About Us:**

We are a team of two children aged 9 and 12 who, like most UK children, have been in Lockdown for 65 days (not that we've been counting!). We have conceptualised and created HOMECOOOL mostly independently with our parents' supervision. The project is totally child-led but we have taken some grown-up help to design this first edition.

**Around the World in Lockdown**

## Happy Reading!

**X1 and X2 - INITIALS ARE USED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT :)**



**Around the World in Lockdown**



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# Confessions

## *of a Homeschooled Kid*

By X1

*Over the past seven weeks, everything I have seen, heard, and read has solely focused on the difficulties of parents acquiring the new job of teaching their children while doing their own work.*

While I fully appreciate the fact that all adults have their own jobs to do, which can be difficult... WHAT ABOUT US KIDS!!!!???? This Lockdown is much more difficult for us as we have to learn everything ourselves and we have to put up with the sudden realisation that our parents are NOT as smart as they think (I really miss my teachers!) I have also learned many shocking truths such as: my Mother is brilliant at Maths, OK at Shakespeare... But "ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE at Chemistry" (Quote by my Mother). I have also learnt that if you ask my Father for help he will always say "I have a book on that." Oh, the things you learn during Lockdown!

We have gone from being taught by Masters... to being taught how to type a question into our search engine of choice. This is a dramatic learning curve... downwards (Although, I have tried to use it only as a last resort as my teachers have been brilliant in answering my barrage of questions over email). This is much more difficult for older children (years 10 and 12) as they can't learn the stuff they need for their exams. I guess all children will have to learn to live with it. This will be difficult. Especially as I can see the games console, the board games, my phone and the TV with all my favourite channels calling out to me; instead, I have to log-in to online classes to do four hours of learning. I am obviously getting distracted by these wonderful pastimes as I am taking two hours longer.



If any you have been facing similar trials and tribulations, feel free to share them (with your parents' permission!) at [homecoolkids@gmail.com](mailto:homecoolkids@gmail.com). As they say, "A problem shared is a problem laughed at."

# Loving in Lockdown

By X2

*In this column, we will be highlighting the children who have been innovative and treated Lockdown as a new experience with pride and generosity.*

For our first issue, we have decided not to choose one child as our Home Hero but to feature all children locally and globally who have been staying at home and finding innovative ways to bust boredom and have been inspirational. Hence, our heroes this week include all the children who have had to celebrate their birthdays in Lockdown, the young performers who have entertained their neighbours by showcasing their talents during Clap for Carers, all key workers' children at schools, participants of the Music Service virtual ensembles,



all those who have painted rainbows on their windows and the boy who has been writing a joke-a-day to cheer-up his neighbours. A special shout-out to all children who have performed the miracle of resisting sibling rivalry and helped each other, making it easier for their parents who are working from home. And last but not least, to those children who have reached out to elderly neighbours and relatives and shown great kindness and generosity while maintaining social distancing.

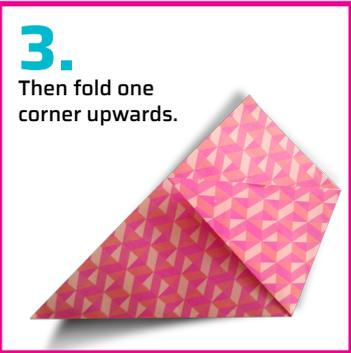


**If you think you have been kind and caring and helped spread smiles, then please write to us (with your parents' help and permission) at [homecoolkids@gmail.com](mailto:homecoolkids@gmail.com) and we would love to feature you here.**

# Creative corner

## ORIGAMI POUCH

**1.** Get a square piece of paper. Any size and colour is acceptable but I have used one measuring 15 cm by 15 cm



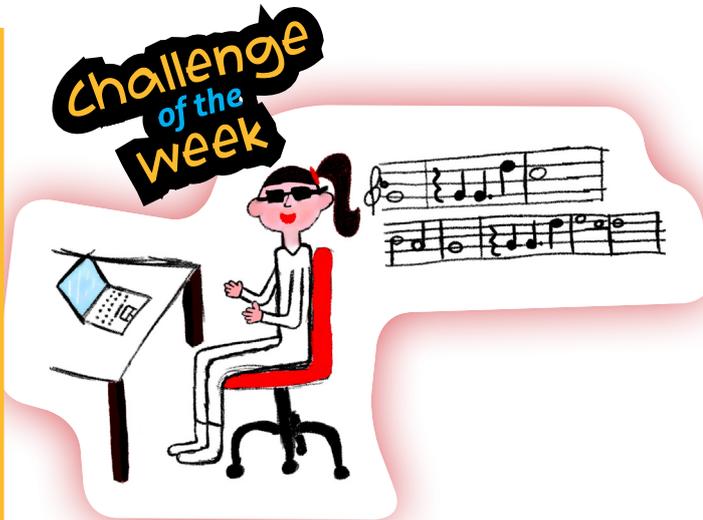
ORIGAMI PHOTOGRAPHS HOMECOOOL KIDS

## Cartoon Strip

CREATED BY X2  
ILLUSTRATIONS X1



## Challenge of the week



Can you guess the song from the music notes in the cartoon strip?