

# HomeCool

Learning, Laughing and Loving in Lockdown



*Read & Enjoy*

**MIND MATTERS**

**READING ROOM**

**PASTIME PUZZLES**

**AWESOME ART**

**Happy & hopeful**

# Happy & hopeful



**hello friends,**

Summer holidays are here...YAY!! Although they feel very different this year, we are sure we'll still manage to

have loads of fun. Who'd have thought we'd all end up wearing masks whilst shopping! But we are happy and we are hopeful that very soon things will be normal and until then we have HomeCool Kids to share our stories. Thanks for all your wonderful feedback and comments and for sharing our magazine!

We are now on the third issue of our magazine and it has been an amazing experience. This issue is extra special as we have our first international contributor, AB from Kolkata India. At least HomeCool Kids is going places even though we are not!

We welcome a new set of contributors in this issue. We have IS who has shared her poem to create awareness about mental health; LP who introduces us to a new type of painting she has been doing during Lockdown; 9 year-old MIR who talks about his love for reading, and lots more! There are also a bunch of fun activities like puzzles, yoga poses, Origami and colouring to keep you entertained.

Happy Reading and Keep Sharing!

**TEAM HOMECOOL KIDS**

## wall of fame OUR WONDERFUL CONTRIBUTORS



**X1:**  
Leader of the pack, Wears all hats: Writer, Editor, Illustrator  
**AGED 12**



**X2:**  
Cool Cricketer; Kind Neighbour; Headline Master; Leg Spinner and Story Weaver  
**AGED 9**



**LP:**  
Scientific Thinker; Cool Gamer; Artistic Nature Lover  
**AGED 9**



**IS:**  
Pet Lover; Brilliant Baker  
**AGED 12**

**PK:**  
Future Pop Star; Versatile Performer: Singer, Dancer, Song Writer.  
**AGED 9**



**ES:**  
Cool & Creative; Always Enthusiastic and Super Sporty  
**AGED 11**

**SK:**  
Deep Thinker; Fun Ideas Generator; Animal Whisperer  
**AGED 11**

**AC:**  
DIY Inventor; Movie Buff; Origami Wizard  
**AGED 9**



**AB:**  
Puzzle Lover; Art Enthusiast; Model Creator; Mad about Space  
**AGED 10**



**MIR:**  
Geeky; Funny; Loving Brother; Kind and Generous  
**AGED 9**

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 a grown-up).

\*INITIALS HAVE BEEN USED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT!

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# Mind Matters

## Love thyself

By IS

page  
**3**

*I am 12 years-old and the Lockdown has made me understand the importance of mental health as well as physical health. Therefore, I've decided to create awareness about this through poetry and I am sharing one with you here*

### Believe in Yourself

*So many go through it  
Yet nobody knows it  
You may feel all alone  
And that your feelings are disowned  
One in ten children experience it  
And sometimes you may feel the need to quit  
You might feel unheard  
But you just have to type the words  
<https://www.childline.org.uk/>  
The professionals can help you through rough times  
With their 15-hour helpline  
You may feel helpless and hopeless  
You may be at a deep point of lowness  
However there is a way out  
It's what gets you through this time that counts!  
The feelings you get can be so deep  
But there is really no need to weep  
Take a leap of faith  
And Stay Super Safe  
Love thyself because you are enough  
You may find that hard to do and it may get rough  
But don't let anyone tell you different  
Just believe in yourself and reach out to a friend  
Because you can do it  
Bit by Bit  
Because you are strong  
You can never be wrong  
And as long as you believe  
You'll have tricks up your sleeve  
You can do anything  
Just cherish the joy you will bring*

Exercise is one of the many many ways that can help uplift your spirits. Here are some yoga poses for you to try. Each of these poses represent a different animal. Can you identify the animal?

(HINT: NOTE THE COLOUR OF THEIR CLOTHING)



While there is a lot of focus on ones physical health, the mental health - especially of young people - is sometimes sadly neglected. My hope is that more young people will start talking about how they feel



# fences broken. Relationships Built

By X2



*For all those who have been reading HomeCool regularly, you will know that I frequently hit soft cricket balls over my fence (accidentally!) while practicing. I am fortunate to have lovely neighbours as I almost always get the balls back. In return, I also try to be a good neighbour to them*

Who would have thought a broken fence during Lockdown could build a relationship between me and my elderly neighbour?

Before the fence broke, I used to climb up on it to try and spot where my ball had landed. If I saw my neighbour, I would always say "Hello", and he always waved back. Once, he asked me if I wanted any oranges as he didn't want to eat alone. So, observing social distancing, he threw me one and I caught it like it was a cricket ball. All those days practicing my catching came in handy!

A few days later, the fence between our gardens broke due to a strong gust of wind. The following day, I was back outside and it wasn't long before my ball ended up in his garden (again)! I climbed onto my usual spotting post to find it and saw my neighbour sitting in his conservatory. We exchanged our usual "Hello" to each other, but this time he told me to use the newly created gap in the fence to retrieve the ball myself.

The grass was very long but eventually I found the ball. After that, and observing social distancing, we talked for a bit about nothing much. We did that every day when it was sunny. A few days ago, I planned to do something different and decided to put on a show for him. In the show, I did juggling (which I failed badly at), pretended to be a Lion in the Savannah, using the long grass to simulate me creeping towards my prey, and I showed him my well-practiced batting technique.

Recently, he had been having difficulty with his clothes washing because he had hurt his foot, so I offered to help. He pushed his chair out of the way and kept well back as I put his washing from the washing machine into the basket. He thanked me and, in return, he left me two chocolate bars on his patio. I have also

started reading to him and

I hope we will continue to become good friends.



# A-MAZE-ING & Amusing

By AB

*A big Hello to everyone from Kolkata, India. In the 4 months since Lockdown started here, I have been creating and sharing mind-bending puzzles to keep my family members entertained*

I am 10 years-old and the Lockdown has actually been quite interesting.

Schools are still closed but I have regular online classes so at least I get to see my teachers and classmates. As I am not allowed to play with my friends, I have tried to find other ways to have some fun and keep myself entertained. I've been self-learning to play the guitar as I couldn't start taking lessons formally. I love trying out different tunes and have already learnt how to play the Indian National Anthem and the Happy Birthday song.

In addition, I have been making quizzes and sending them to family members, especially my grandparents, so that they are occupied and have something fun to do as they can't meet their friends either.

It has been funny to see my family scratch their heads while trying to find the answers to my quizzes. At least there is something they don't know!!!

Why don't you try these puzzles and get your parents involved too? Maybe you can have a (friendly) competition to see who solves them first?

## Unscramble and solve

RPIEHS

TEOSL

SCORA

SDONU

WHEN THE TEACHER HEARD THE NOISE IN THE CLASS, HE WAS \_\_\_\_\_ AND WENT "\_\_\_\_\_"

OBONS

VOLNE

RUNIGIN

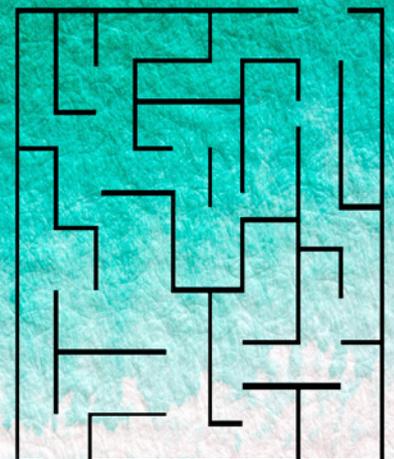
RAKBEY

MR. BOB, THE GUINEA PIG, MADE SUCH A BIG ACHIEVEMENT THAT IT BROKE THE "\_\_\_\_\_ " OF WORLD RECORDS.

### Animal Riddles

1. Which snake is a professional car cleaner?
2. What kind of music do rabbits like? 
3. What animal always has a buck?
4. What animal is the best cricket player? 
5. What type of mouse does a cat dislike eating?
6. What do you call 50 penguins in the North Pole?
7. What do you call a bear with no teeth? 
8. Why didn't the teddy bear eat his dinner?

### Maze



# Lord of the Books

By MIR

*Have I missed my friends during Lockdown? Yes, but then I got reading and haven't stopped...*

I have always been fond of reading and I find books very interesting and the stories captivating. So, when Lockdown came, it gave me a fantastic opportunity to read-up all the books that I had on my reading list. I love fantasies so I started my Lockdown reading with the Harry Potter series and then moved on to the Percy Jackson, Heroes of Olympus and the Trials of Apollo series. I have just finished reading the Alex Rider series. All together I have read over 2 million words from 40 books in these four months. I can proudly say that I am surrounded by books and loving every minute of it.

My personal favourite is House of Hades', the fourth book from the Heroes of Olympus series. This book is about an oracle which proclaims what will happen in the future. Percy Jackson and his friends Leo, Jason, Ana Beth, Hazel and Frank go on a

quest to defeat the godmother Gaia because she is letting all the monsters from Tartarus (Hell) free. In the end, they succeed after a big fight in the last two books of this series. Don't worry, I won't spoil the story for you! Next on my reading list is The Tower of Nero from the series of Trials of Apollo which is out in September.

If you are bored in Lockdown, I would highly recommend taking up reading as it helps you learn a lot. Another plus point is that if you read, read and read then parents don't bother you about schoolwork ;). If you are just starting out and you love fantasy stories, I would recommend reading the Harry Potter series as then you can always watch the movies with greater pleasure!



**If you love the Harry Potter books (or movies) like me, here is a little quiz for you:**

1. How many players are on a Quidditch team?
2. Which animal carries mail in the wizarding world?
3. What is the wrist movement for the Levitation charm?
4. Who founded each of the houses: Hufflepuff, Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin?
5. What do Harry and Hermione use to travel back in time?
6. Who teaches Harry Occlumency?
7. What is the password to the Gryffindor common room in Harry's first few days?
8. (Extra hard Bonus question) Name all the Horcruxes.

ANSWERS: TURN TO THE LAST PAGE



# Awesome Art

# STICK-a-PIC

By LP



*I am 9 years-old and I have been creating a lot of artwork during Lockdown using a new technique called Paint by Sticker. It is not only relaxing but also satisfying watching the template get covered by colour as the picture builds itself up! Why don't you give it a try?*

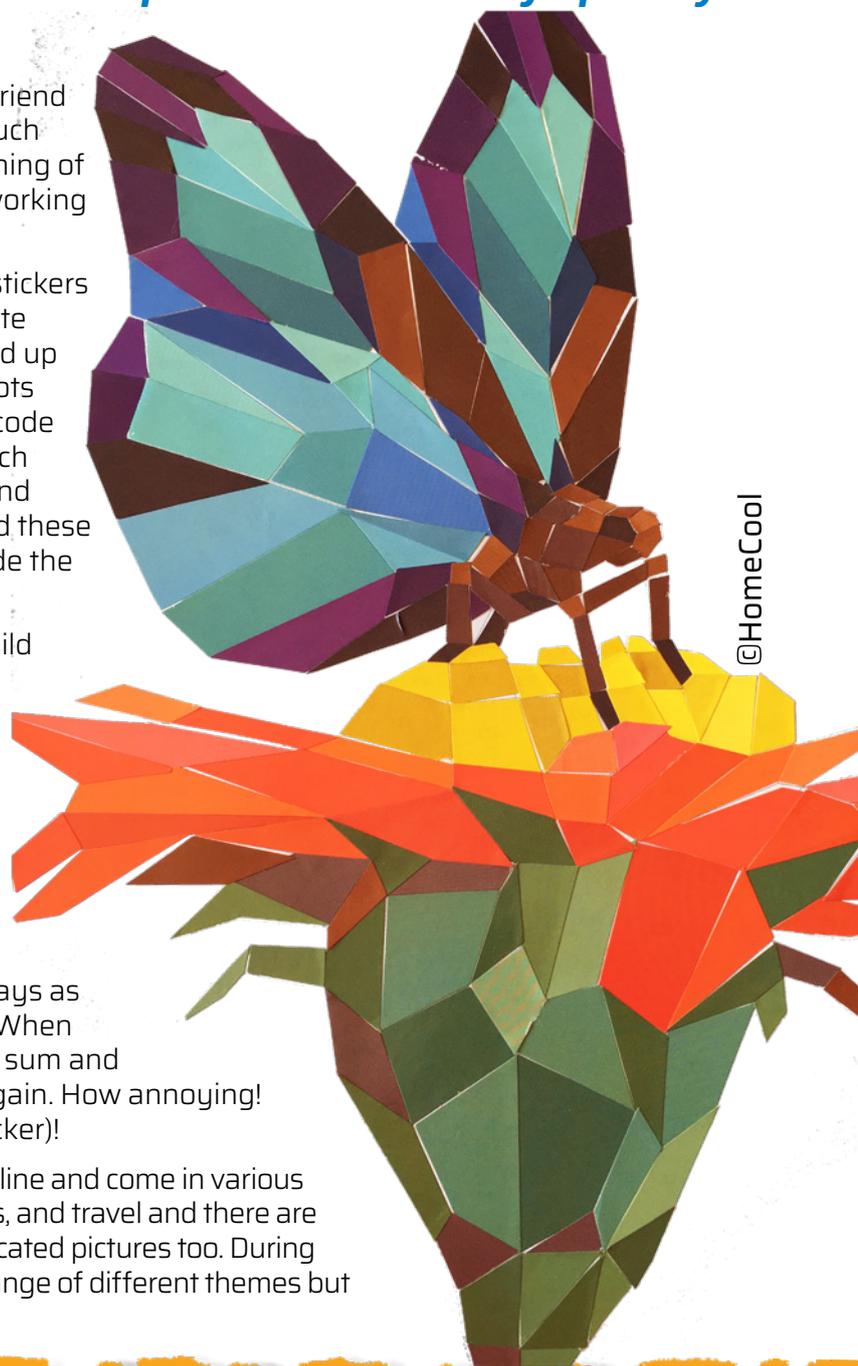
I first got introduced to Paint by Sticker when a friend gifted me a book for my birthday. I loved it so much that my mum bought me two more at the beginning of Lockdown (just to keep me busy, I think). I love working on a picture when I need a bit of relaxing time.

Paint by Sticker is a type of art where you stick stickers on a given template. In the template, every minute detail of the picture is divided up by lots of lines and these slots are labelled with a unique code (like colour by number). Each sticker has its own letter and number code, like A14, and these match the slot codes inside the templates.

Sticker by sticker you build the picture whenever you want and there are no messy paints or pen lids to lose (it is worth the effort as the pictures, once completed, look really good). You can complete a picture in one go or over several days as you won't lose your place (When I'm in the middle of a maths sum and

someone interrupts me, I have to start all over again. How annoying! But at least this is not the case with Paint by Sticker!)

The Paint by Sticker books are readily available online and come in various themes such as birds, famous paintings, musicians, and travel and there are easier books for younger children with less complicated pictures too. During Lockdown, I have completed five pictures from a range of different themes but the one on birds is my favourite.



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Have you done any painting or artwork during Lockdown? Please share it with us on [homecoolkids@gmail.com](mailto:homecoolkids@gmail.com) and we will love to feature it here



@HomeCool

# Sayonara School LOCKDOWN Leavers

By ES

*This academic year has been quite strange for everyone, but for Year 6 students like me it has been an emotional roller coaster*

This year has been a weird one (surprise surprise...). During the first few months of Year 6, all I cared about was enjoying my last days at primary school before I ventured into the unknown (not the Frozen 2 song) secondary school world. Then, Covid-19 came and everything changed.

Not only were the tests cancelled but so were all the fun activities. As schools shut, my last year at primary school was also tragically cut short. Worse still was the realization that we - the Class of 2020 - won't have the usual farewell ceremonies; no leaver's assembly, no amusement park trips and no residential.

I spent 3 months of Lockdown home schooling and missing my classmates thinking that I won't be seeing many of them again. However, I needn't have worried. As things started improving in June, the school reopened its gates to some more students. And after much planning, the teachers managed to organise a leaver's assembly for us (hooray!!). The news was uplifting and I eagerly looked forward to the day. But when I entered the school gates with my family to attend the assembly, it felt peculiar. It had been 119 days since

I and most of my friends had been back at school and it took me a while to feel confident to chat with friends and teachers.

The assembly was held outdoors for each class. We sat with our family on socially-distanced benches as we listened to our teachers say goodbye to us.

I was awarded Class Champion, an award I am very grateful to have received; that too from a teacher who has always taught with a smile on her face and a kind heart. The school

presented all of us with a hoodie with our names printed on as we couldn't have the ceremonial end-of-year shirt signing because of social distancing rules. The hoodie will always remain special to me.

I am grateful to the school for giving me a chance to say a proper goodbye. I can now look forward to beginning another journey in September at my new secondary school with a smile.



Hope you enjoy colouring-in this illustration. Use your own imagination and colours of your choice

# master Origami

By AC

Besides making a lot of Star Wars Origami, I have also been trying to create Origami that is useful and practical; and after much research, I came across this phone stand. I made one for my mother and she absolutely loves it

Thanks for loving my Origami tutorial in the last issue. Following its publication, I was approached by my classmates to give them an online masterclass on creating Origami. Ten of my friends attended the call and I had a lot of fun teaching them



**1.**  
Take an A4 sheet of paper



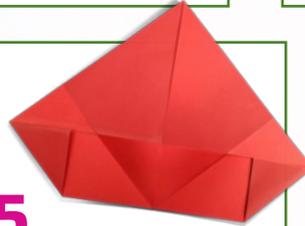
**2.**  
Fold in half and make a crease



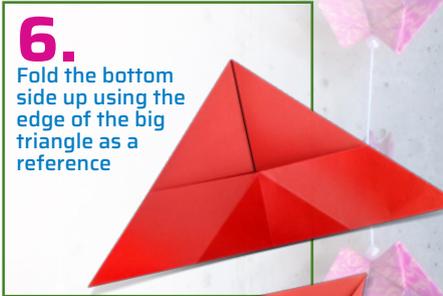
**3.**  
Fold the paper. Bring the bottom two corners towards the middle creating two diagonal folds



**4.**  
Unfold and repeat the step for the top two corners. Keep it folded



**5.**  
Take the bottom corners and fold them in diagonally towards the edge of the previous fold one by one



**6.**  
Fold the bottom side up using the edge of the big triangle as a reference



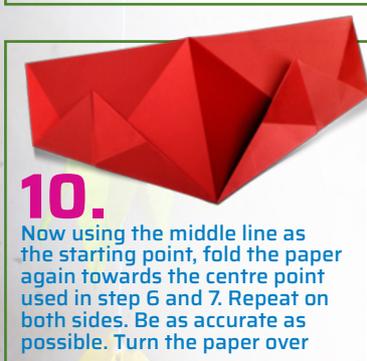
**7.**  
Make a sharp crease and unfold. Open the top flaps, fold the bottom inwards again and turn the paper over



**8.**  
You should be able to see all the creases you have made so far



**9.**  
Fold the left side inwards towards the crease line as shown in the picture and unfold. Repeat on the other side



**10.**  
Now using the middle line as the starting point, fold the paper again towards the centre point used in step 6 and 7. Repeat on both sides. Be as accurate as possible. Turn the paper over



**11.**  
Fold the corner up connecting the two end points



**12.**  
Fold it in half and unfold



**13.**  
Using the existing crease fold in half first on the left side and then fold the right side inwards as well and place on top

**14.**  
Rotate and press on the crease lines and fold inwards. Press on all the creases. The origami phone stand is ready



@HomeCool

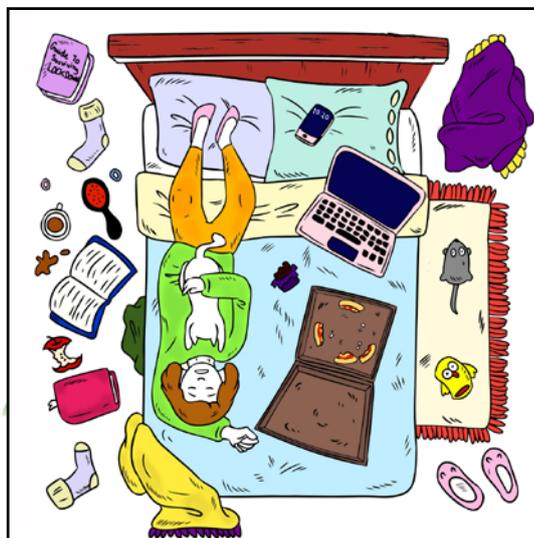
**CHALLENGE OF  
THE MONTH**

**spot the difference**

X1 was goofing around with these illustrations, trying to make two versions of the same picture to catch out the eagle-eyed. Can you find the 10 differences that she deliberately created in the two illustrations?

**Guess the  
Recipe**

In last month's issue, we asked you to guess the recipe based on a set of ingredients. We received a number of replies, all saying that the recipe was of Cheesecake but unfortunately that is not the correct answer. The ingredients combine to make a Classic Trifle (yummy!!!). You can visit BBC Good Food website for the full recipe if you would like to try it.



**Laugh out loud | By PK**

1. What do you call a dinosaur that's sleeping?  
**A dino-snore**
2. What did the Dalmation say after lunch?  
**That hit the spot!!**
3. Why did the boy throw his cLock out of the window?  
**He wanted to see time fly**
4. What did the buffalo say when his little boy left for school?  
**Bison**

Guess the Animal: Yoga poses answered (From page 3)

- |                  |                  |                     |                    |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>1. Turtle</b> | <b>2. Monkey</b> | <b>3. Giraffe</b>   | <b>4. Flamingo</b> |
| <b>5. Cow</b>    | <b>6. Snake</b>  | <b>7. Butterfly</b> | <b>8. Dog</b>      |

(ANSWERS WILL BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE)

**ANSWERS TO UNSCRAMBLE  
AND SOLVE (PG 5)**

**Unscramble and solve** -Puzzle 1- WORDS:  
Perish, Stole, Oscar, Sound  
ANS: Cross, Nuts  
**Unscramble and solve** -Puzzle 2: WORDS:  
Boons, Novel, Ruining, Bakery  
ANS: Guineas Book

**ANIMAL RIDDLES**

1. Viper
2. Hip Hop
3. Doe
4. Bat
5. Computer Mouse
6. Lost
7. Gummy Bear
8. Because he was stuffed
9. Tweetment

**ANSWERS TO THE HARRY POTTER QUIZ (PG 6)**

**Answers:**

1. Seven
2. Owl
3. Swish and Flick
4. Helga Hufflepuff, Godric Grrifindor, Rowena Ravenclaw, and Salazar Slytherin
5. A time-turner
6. Snape
7. Caput Draconis
8. Tom Riddle's diary, Marvolo Gaunt's Ring, Salazar Slytherin's Locket, Helga Hufflepuff's Cup, Rowena Ravenclaw's Diadem, Harry Potter (unknown to Voldemort until after he had destroyed it, Nagini the Snake)

