

# HomeCool

Learning, Laughing and Loving in Lockdown

**KIDS**

  
**WRITTEN BY  
CHILDREN**



*Read &  
Enjoy*

# hello School!

**CONFESSIONS  
2020**

**TENNIS  
TALES**

**WORLD  
REIMAGINED**

**CHILL  
ZONE**

TOGETHER AGAIN...  
**HIP HIP HOORAY!!!**

# Ready, Set, School

page  
2

# wall of fame

OUR WONDERFUL CONTRIBUTORS

## Dear readers

Our bags are packed, our pencils sharpened, and our uniforms ironed in eager preparation for our first day back at school since March.

We lost precious school time this year, but we've managed to catch-up on some of our learning by doing different activities like writing and producing HomeCool. Hope you enjoy reading this issue. Like the ones before, it is also packed with perfect poems, super stories, rich recipes and awesome activities.

Thank you to all our young contributors who took time out of their summer holidays to send us their beautiful work. Everyone who has contributed and supported us deserves a pat on the back.

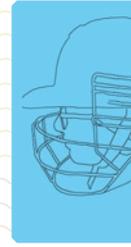
My brother and I are looking forward to going back to school. Therefore, with a heavy heart, we have decided to pause publishing the magazine for now until we settle back into our new routine at school. We wanted to end this beautiful journey once school started but we have been urged to continue by our contributors, many of whom still have a lot of stories to share. Therefore, we will spend the next few months focussing on our studies and also collecting the stories of children like us and will be back with another issue later in the year.

Until then, let's make the most of being back together again in school!

Cheers,  
X1 and X2



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



**X2:** Cool Cricketer; Humorous Headline Hunter; Leg Spinner and Story Weaver  
AGED 9



**MD:** Famous Artist in Making; Fabulous Big Sister; Green-Fingered Nature Lover  
AGED 9



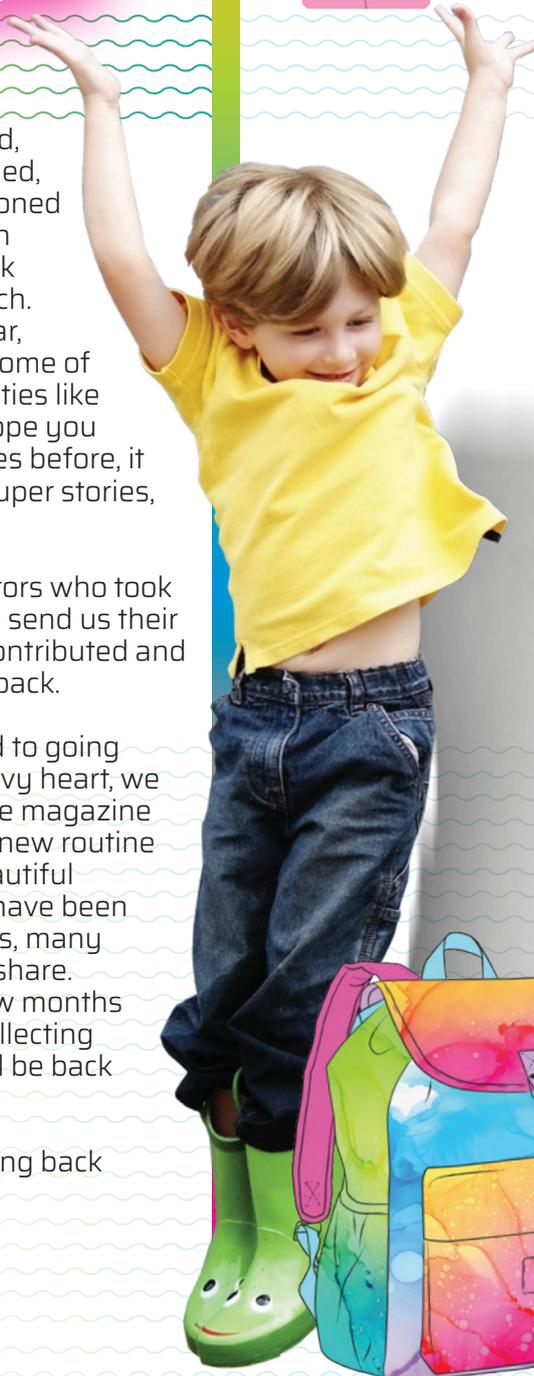
**LP:** Scientific Thinker; Cool Gamer; Artistic Nature Admirer  
AGED 9



**CS:** Super Sporty; Ambitious and Adventurous and very Disciplined  
AGED 13



**GEMH:** Kind; Determined; Creative and Super Fun  
AGED 9



\*INITIALS HAVE BEEN USED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT!

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).



**DISCLAIMER:** HOMECOOOL KIDS IS A MAGAZINE WRITTEN BY CHILDREN AS A CREATIVE WAY TO SHARE THEIR LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCES. ALTHOUGH IT IS COMPLETELY NON-COMMERCIAL AND NON-PROFIT, NO PART OF THIS MAGAZINE MAY BE REPRODUCED IN PART OR WHOLE WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION. LAY OUT DESIGN ADRI BAPPA SAHA;

ALL ILLUSTRATIONS X1. PHOTO CREDITS (UNLESS SPECIFIED): UNSPLASH AND PIXABAY

COVER PHOTO © HOMECOOOL KIDS. LOCATION COURTESY: PACKWOOD HOUSE, NATIONAL TRUST

**Hello School**  
**together**  
**again**  
**By X2**



page  
**3**

**The day I have been anxiously waiting for has finally arrived. After 5 months and 15 days (not that I've been counting!), I'll soon be back at school. I want to say that this time away has whizzed by but I would be wrong as it has been a long and sometimes boring period being away from school. I am looking forward to going back and being with all my friends and teachers. In honour of this momentous occasion, I've written this poem for you all. Enjoy!**

*It's term 2020 to 2021  
This year we're gonna have loads of fun*

*This term's gonna tower above the rest  
This term's gonna be the very best*

*I am so excited, I'm hopping like a kangaroo  
The first day back ought to be a hullabaloo*

*I've missed all friends of mine  
Because we haven't been together in such a long time*

*It feels like an eternity since we last met  
But we'll love being together again, I bet*

*The school might look and feel different  
But I am sure the days will be magnificent*

*Even though we'll have to stay in a bubble  
I doubt this year will be a big struggle*

*Social distancing measures will be in place  
And we'll respect them with a happy face*

*No more being bored, stuck at home  
I am looking forward to not playing alone*

*The time that Lockdown has taken away from us  
Will soon be forgotten without a fuss*

*Let's hope this year won't have any more interruptions  
Therefore, I will follow all instructions*

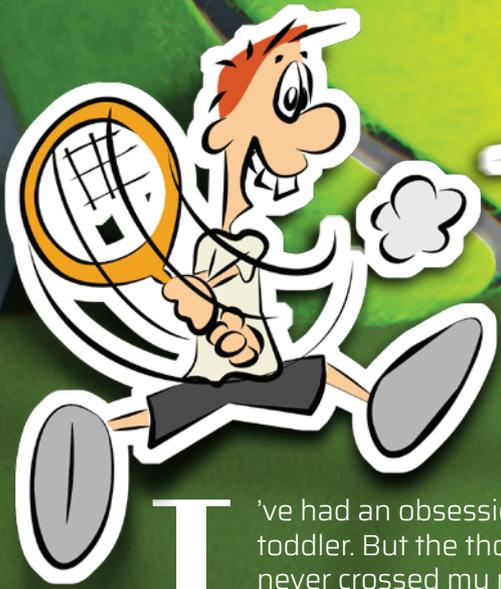
*I can't wait to be back at school  
Because I've realized, the place is very cool!*



# Tennis Tales game, set Lockdown!

By CS

*I am a 13 year-old aspiring tennis player from Delhi, India in Lockdown since March. The walls of the spare room in my house tell my tennis tale*



I've had an obsession for green balls since I was a toddler. But the thought of becoming a tennis player never crossed my mind until I was nine when I won a trophy in the school tennis match. I've been playing tennis professionally for the last three years. My daily routine involved rigorous practice for 3-4 hours at a nearby sports facility. Then Covid came to India and the whole country was put under Lockdown. All parks and sports facilities were shut indefinitely and my practice came to a sudden halt.

I knew I had to find a way out so that the Lockdown restrictions imposed on mobility doesn't deplete my stamina.

Therefore, I started practicing in a spare room in my house. It was difficult at first, but after a few days I got the hang of it. What ensued was a battle between my racquet and the room and the latter bore the brunt of my practice sessions. Light bulbs and switches became the victims of my racquet and the walls of the room were left with marks due to stroke repetition.

I've managed to practice for 2-3 hours everyday, but now I miss the open courts where I could practice with my coach without worrying about damaging anything in the house and without my mom scolding me for destroying her precious room. I hope the pandemic gets over soon so that I can go back to playing in open courts again safely.



## Terrific Tennis Word Search

Z	S	E	L	B	U	O	D	A	H	P	L	C	J	P
Q	E	M	A	G	I	T	W	C	O	J	R	A	O	E
N	L	T	O	K	J	V	M	O	S	J	A	M	V	H
W	L	S	N	F	C	H	X	U	W	R	Q	A	G	Q
K	S	E	I	F	I	T	V	R	H	O	R	T	P	Y
Q	Y	C	F	G	H	N	F	T	N	A	A	C	B	Y
I	S	U	L	Q	S	E	A	K	B	K	C	H	A	L
C	A	E	N	T	E	D	B	C	J	T	Q	H	L	B
K	S	D	E	S	T	R	Q	N	Q	P	U	M	L	J
W	D	D	S	I	E	R	L	F	M	N	E	Z	O	K
G	Q	I	P	G	N	J	X	L	M	M	T	N	H	Y
T	O	I	E	A	L	J	C	X	W	I	U	K	P	Y
H	T	T	U	L	O	V	E	M	Q	S	T	B	K	X
H	B	Q	Y	C	N	W	C	O	J	F	E	B	D	B
X	O	I	H	F	P	C	A	L	C	Z	Q	Q	X	Y

BALL | COURT | NET | ACE | SET  
MATCH | DOUBLES | DEUCE | LOVE  
RACQUET | GAME



# Catch'em if you can

By GEMH

*I am 9 years-old and a big fan of Pokémon. My love for Pokémon started when I saw a book that my brother had. I've spent countless hours during Lockdown playing Pokémon games with my brother and friends. Here I present to you some of my drawings of my favourite*

*Pokémon and the different reasons for which I would catch them.*



## 1. Beedrill

I know that it is a matter of opinion whether or not Beedrill is any good. However, if you look up its stats, you will find they are terrible. However, I would catch Beedrill to use on poké jobs like delivering letters. Poké jobs are chores that you can send your Pokémon on to earn money to buy things like clothes and poké balls.

## 2. Butterfree

Although she looks sweet, but she has some pretty powerful moves so generally she would be worth catching. Don't judge it by its looks, it is more powerful than you would expect!

## 3. Delphox

It is very loyal so no question it's just my favourite!

CAN YOU MATCH THE PICTURE TO THE NAME?

WEEDLE

BUTTERFREE

DELPHOX

BEEDRILL



World Reimagined

# same Kind of different

*Ever since it all started, I have been wondering what the post-pandemic world would be like. So, I interviewed some young thinkers on how they visualize the world after...*

## By X1

**SM, AGED 12**

The world will never be the same. For example, if someone coughs, everyone else in the room will move to the other side of the room and as we get older we will be slightly more paranoid about health than other generations. Things will go back to normal but never be the same again.

**YF, AGED 10**

I think people will talk about it for a long time and Covid will still be around but not as much

**JP, AGED 12**

Everything will be a bit different, but people will try to make it as close to normal as they can. Neighbours will definitely know each other better.

**JC, AGED 12**

To be honest, I think it's going to be weird. I think contactless payments are going to be normal and things like sports are going to take a very long time to fully return to normal. I hope it won't take too long though.

**KS, AGED 12**

I don't think anything will ever change. Covid-19 could end up being seasonal like the common cold, or it could be like the Spanish flu and go away when we find a vaccine. But either way, everyone will be a bit more precautious and the world will eventually go back to normal.

**KC, AGED 16**

After Covid, people will become more conscious about their health. People will start investing more in technology. The rate of unemployment will also increase.

**TC, AGED 12**

Once there is a vaccine/cure, I think it will just be like the flu. You have an injection or take some medicine and then you're fine.



Glorious  
Gardening

# A Green lockdown

By MD

*Lockdown gave me an opportunity to pick up a new hobby - gardening and I've loved my green-fingered experience*

My brother and I have done a lot of gardening during Lockdown. We've grown our own vegetables and sunflowers from seeds. We had to be really patient, but we've had so much fun and it was worth the wait when our seeds grew.

Firstly, we planted the seeds in some egg boxes; that didn't go too well because the wind blew the boxes away and all the seeds fell out! So, we replanted them in some small plastic pots. Every morning, we went out excitedly to check on them and water them, waiting patiently to see the tiny seedlings sprout. My brother and I had a little competition to see whose seedlings would grow first. I think I won!

When the vegetable seedlings grew into small plants, we

helped put them in a small vegetable patch in the back of our garden. We planted the sunflower plants into toilet rolls! I know it may sound silly, but they actually make pretty good plant pots. We decided to take some of our sunflower plants to friends and family to cheer them up during Lockdown. It was really nice to see my friends and family (even though it was from a distance) because we had not seen them for weeks.

Over the weeks, our plants grew and grew. We've already eaten wonky purple carrots and courgettes that we have grown. Yummy!

I can see why people love gardening; getting my fingers messy has really helped me relax and feel proud of my plants!

**HOW MANY BEES ARE ON THE SUNFLOWER?**



# Super Summer Camping Chronicles

By LP

There were many things we did for the first time during Lockdown and as restrictions eased, we managed to add camping to that list as well

Summer 2020 was the first time we'd ever camped as a family. We bought a tent, and practiced putting it up in our garden a few times. Once we packed up all the gear, the car was so full that we barely had room to move. We drove for 5 hours to the west coast of Wales, near Haverfordwest. When we got there, we had a look around at our campsite and found a good place to pitch our tent. It went up quite quickly (the practice came in handy), with all of us helping.

The campsite was on a farm where they had chickens, and quails, which I enjoyed playing with, along with the children who lived there. Everyone loved building campfires in the fire pit, toasting marshmallows, making smores, and spotting bats as it got dark. We weren't far from the coast, so we went swimming, bodyboarding, built sandcastles and did cliff top walks. We also had fish and chips on the beach - yum! We had rain, wind, sunshine and an amazing lightning storm, but we survived, and loved our first camping trip.

## just for laughs

What do you call a bear with no teeth?  
**A gummy bear**

How do trees access the Internet?  
**They log in**

Where did the sheep go to camping?  
**The Baa-hamas!**

What did the beaver say to the tree?  
**"It's been nice gnawing you!"**

What's another name for a sleeping bag?  
**A nap sack**



# Confessions 2020

# L-O-C-K-D-O-W-N A-L-P-H-A-B-E-T

By X1

As we move towards the light at the end of the tunnel with the Lockdown easing and some sense of normality returning, I look back at all the

things that have helped me and my family cope during this period. As Charles

Dickens said, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness," so here is my list of all things that kept me reasonably sane and which helped maintain the balance between the "best of times" and the "worst of times."

**A**  
AWESOME AVENGERS

**B**  
BEAUTIFUL BEADS

**C**  
COMPETITIVE CRICKET



**D**  
DELIGHTFUL DISNEY

**E**  
ENERGETIC EXERCISE

**F**  
FAITHFUL FRENCH HORN

**G**  
GLORIOUS GAMES

**H**  
HAPPY HOMECOOOL

**I**  
IMAGINATIVE ILLUSTRATIONS

**J**  
JOYFUL JOKES

**K**  
KINDLED KNOWLEDGE



**L**  
LOVELY LEARNING



**M**  
MANIC MONOPOLY

**N**  
NONSENSICAL NOTHINGNESS

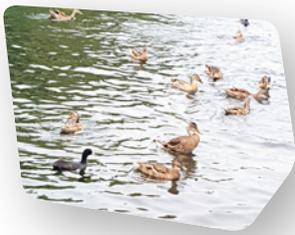
**O**  
ORGANIC OUTDOORS

**P**  
PASSIONATE PIANO

**Q**  
QUESTIONING QUIZZES

**R**  
REFINING RUSSIAN

**S**  
SCIENTIFIC SPACE



**T**  
THERAPEUTIC TELEVISION

**U**  
UNDECIDED USEFULNESS



**V**  
VIVACIOUS VERSATILITY

**W**  
WARM WALES

**X**  
X2... (HE IS A HANDFUL)

**Y**  
YO-YO YAWNING



**Z**  
ZZZZZZ  
ZZZZZZZZ

## Yummy Treats

# for Baking

By LP



## Choc Chip Cookies

*Since I was little I have watched my Mum bake lots of different, delicious things. She has baked yummy cakes for our family and friends, cookies for cake sales and picnics, and birthday cakes for family members. As I am getting older I have been wanting to bake myself, and have already done a couple of bakes alone. As I have had more time over the Lockdown period, I have done more baking, including making tiffin with my Grandma and younger sister, and many versions of this delicious cookie recipe.*

**Bake and Enjoy!**



This is a family favourite - the condensed milk makes the cookies crunchy on the outside and soft and chewy in the middle..... mmmmm.....yummy!

### INGREDIENTS

**350g** self-raising flour, sifted

**100g** chocolate chips of your choice

**170g** condensed milk

**225g** unsalted butter

**225g** sugar

1. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius, (160 degrees Celsius for fan ovens), Gas mark 4.

2. In a large bowl, cream the butter, sugar and condensed milk together until light and fluffy.

3. Mix in the flour to a soft dough and then mix in the chocolate chips.

4. Roll the dough into walnut size balls and place on an oven tray, flattening them out slightly. Space well apart as they'll spread! Bake for 10 - 15 minutes.

This dough will keep quite happily in the freezer so you don't have to bake it all at once. It will also keep in the refrigerator for about a week.

If you want to double the recipe, then these are the amounts of ingredients you want to go for:

**820g self-raising flour**

**240g choc chips of your choice**

**1 tin (397g) condensed milk**

**540g unsalted butter**

**540g sugar**

# Chill Zone

## It's time for fun...always!

Can you guess the movies from the emoji clues given below?

- 🕷️ 🧑 🏠 ⬅️
- 👑 🌹 🐉
- 🚚 🚗 🏎️ 🚗
- 🐝 🎬
- 🐜 🦋 🧬
- 🤔 🗨️
- 🧸 📚
- 🦁 👑
- 👧 👗
- 🐭 👨🍳
- 🅐 + 🐿️
- 👑 🐕
- 🏫 🎤 🎵 ⬆️
- 🔍 🐠

\*ANSWERS GIVEN AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE



## Finding X1

During Lockdown, X1 honed her tree climbing skills. Day by day, she climbed higher and higher. Can you spot her in this picture?

@HomeCool

## Answers Terrific Tennis Word Search

Z S E L B U O D A H P L C J P  
 Q E M A G I T W C O J R A O E  
 N L T O K J V M O S J A M V H  
 W L S N F C H X U W R Q A G Q  
 K S E I F I T V R H O R T P Y  
 Q Y C F G H N F T N A A C B Y  
 I S U L Q S E A K B K C H A L  
 C A E N T E D B C J T Q H L B  
 K S D E S T R Q N Q P U M L J  
 W D D S I E R L F M N E Z O K  
 G Q I P G N J X L M M T N H Y  
 T O I E A L J C X W I U K P Y  
 H T T U L O V E M Q S T B K X  
 H B Q Y C N W C O J F E B D B  
 X O I H F P C A L C Z Q Q X Y

- BALL
- COURT
- NET
- ACE
- SET
- MATCH
- DOUBLES
- DEUCE
- LOVE
- RACQUET
- GAME



## ANSWERS: SPOT THE DIFFERENCE (FROM LAST ISSUE)



## Answers

- Spiderman Homecoming
- Beauty and the Beast
- Cars
- Bee Movie
- A Bug's Life
- Wonder
- Toy Story
- The Lion King
- The Boy in the Dress
- Ratatouille
- Alvin and the Chipmunks
- The Queen's Corgi
- High School Musical
- Finding Nemo