

HomeCool

Learning, Laughing and Loving in Lockdown



Fly High

KEEP YOUR SPIRITS IN THE SKY!



Interview with Steve McCabe MP

Book Corner

Beautiful Birds

Gaming Zone



Meet the TEAM!

HELLO Spring

Dear Beloved HomeCool Readers,

Welcome to this fun-packed 6th edition of HomeCool Kids magazine!

This is an extra special edition as we have an important interview with the one and only...**Steve McCabe** MP for Birmingham Selly Oak (pg 7)! We'd like to thank Mr McCabe for his time and energy during this topsy-turvy time; we really got an insight into his world!

We also have an excerpt from a book that 11 year-old **HL** wrote and published in Lockdown 3 (pg 4)! What an amazing achievement. Well done HL!

As spring arrives, **LP** has written all about her passion for birds and birdwatching (pg 3)! We'd love to hear about your bird sightings too, whilst out on your walks.

Who doesn't love reading books? To help you discover new reads, we have a brand new book recommendation section and stories for Harry Potter and Minecraft fans! Have fun reading!

I'm sure you will have noticed the increasing number of dogs on your walks or in local parks. **OK** has written all about how his new pet dog kept him active and fit during Lockdown (pg 5).

Who else is egg-cited about Easter? We have some eggs-tremely entertaining Easter-themed fun activities.

Last but not least, a huge thanks for the cover image (and other artwork) painted by the talented 10 year-old MD!

Don't forget to eggs-ercise after all that chocolate :-)

Happy Reading!

SK and the HomeCool Kids team

*INITIALS HAVE BEEN USED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT!



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



X2: Co-Editor; Cool Cricketer; Humorous Headline Hunter; Story Weaver and Poet
AGED 10



SK: Deep Thinker; Fun Ideas Generator; Animal Whisperer
AGED 12



MD: Famous Artist in Making; Fabulous Big Sister; Green-Fingered Nature Lover
AGED 10



LP: Scientific Thinker; Cool Gamer; Artistic Nature Admirer
AGED 10



PK: Future Pop Star; Versatile Performer: Singer, Dancer, Song Writer.
AGED 10



LD: Loves School and Playing Football; Enjoys Home life With His Younger Sister; If Not Learning, Busy Having Fun
AGED 10



WP: Loves Reading Fantasy Books; Interested in History and Art; Minecraft Fan
AGED 10



AR: Movie Buff; Passionate Marvel Fan
AGED 12

MANAGING EDITOR BINNY SABHARWAL; DESIGNER BAPPA [ADRI SAHA]
(THE ONLY TWO GROWN-UPS ON OUR TEAM)

OUR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS



DJ: Loves Reading, Creative Writing and a Good Joke; Enjoys Role-playing Games with her Sisters
AGED 10



NJ: Loves Craft and Cooking
AGED 8



MM: Inquisitive Teenager, Bookworm and Daydreamer; Loves Baking
AGED 14



SB: Passionate Painter; Loves Crafts and Bollywood Dancing
AGED 11



HL: Plays piano and drums; Loves Reading and Writing
AGED 11



OK: Animal Lover; Rugby and Video Games Fan; Plays Drums
AGED 11



Got A STORY?

WE WOULD LOVE TO PUBLISH IT!
GET IN TOUCH WITH US
(WITH YOUR PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S PERMISSION):

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WHERE APPLICABLE, ALL CONTENT AND IMAGES HAVE BEEN USED WITH THE REQUISITE PERMISSIONS AND APPROPRIATE CONSENT.

by LP

Fly HIGH

I am grateful for Lockdown as it gave me a chance to explore my passion for birds



@HomeCool

I grow up, would like to become an RSPB Ornithologist so I can continue with my passion for birds.

I am actually kind of thankful for Lockdown. The reason why? Well, I have been able to spend a billion more minutes up in my room, watching the resident blue tits and the hilarious pigeons. The tits, I've found, really love my next-door neighbour's 'coconut tree'. It's not an actual coconut tree; I just call it that because the neighbour has feeders that look like the outside shells of coconuts on a wooden structure that's under the tree. The tits love the little berries that grow on it, and even more so the feeders. I don't know how he made the feeders, but I can just lean against my window sill, with the radiator warming my legs (if it's on, that is), and watch the birds be as cute (and funny) as ever.

I am looking forward to having my own nest boxes next year. Don't worry if you have no idea how to make one - I'll probably get my Grandpa to build mine (if Covid's over by then).

I absolutely adore birds. Of course, I like some more than others; the blue tit is one of my favourites. They are just so cute! I love the brilliant blue caps and iconic black stripe over their eyes. I've loved birds ever since I got a top with a hummingbird on it. When



ACTIVITY

Hope you enjoy making your very own Bird Feeder

by MD

How to make a BIRDFEEDER
you will need:

- An apple
- Some seeds
- Two sticks
- Peanut butter (optional)
- String

1.



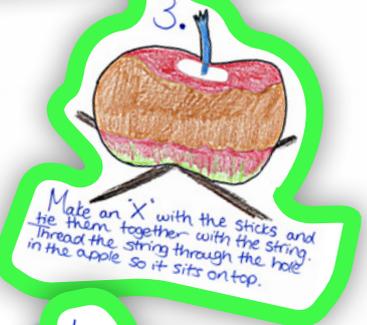
Core the apple. Ask a grownup to help!

2.



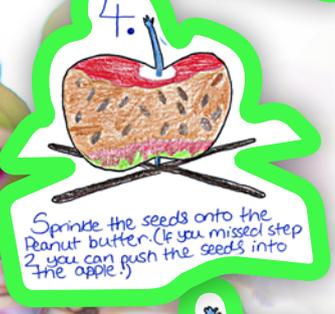
Cover the apple in peanut-butter. (If you are allergic to nuts you can miss this step out!)

3.

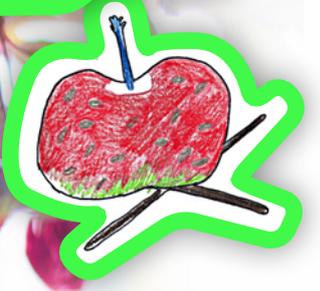


Make an 'X' with the sticks and tie them together with the string. Thread the string through the hole in the apple so it sits on top.

4.



Sprinkle the seeds onto the Peanut-butter. (If you missed step 2 you can push the seeds into the apple!)



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Escape

FROM CHARLESINGTON MANOR

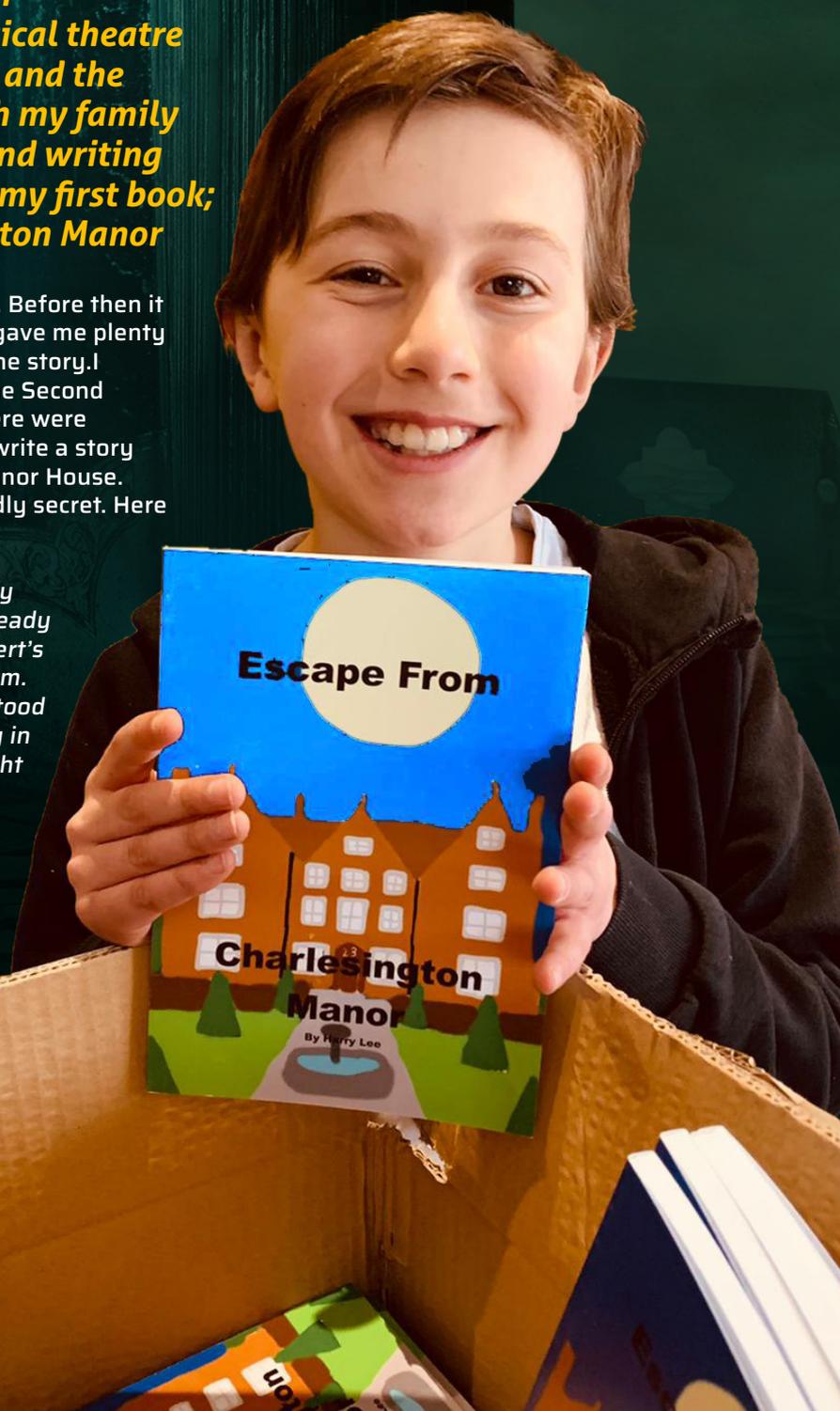
by HL

I am 11 years-old and have lived in Birmingham all my life. I love musical theatre and I play two instruments (piano and the drums). I enjoy spending time with my family and my friends and love reading and writing stories. During Lockdown, I wrote my first book; it is called Escape from Charlesington Manor

I started writing the story in November 2020. Before then it was just an idea in my head, but Lockdown gave me plenty of free time over the weekends to develop the story. I wanted to write a book set in the times of the Second World War (1939-45) and I remembered that there were evacuees back then. That was why I decided to write a story about a poor boy who is evacuated to a posh Manor House. However, there is a twist and he finds out a deadly secret. Here is an extract from my book:

Richard rubbed Robert's hair - something the boy despised. "Now you better be off to bed. It is already eleven o'clock!" Richard opened the door to Robert's room. It was strange how he knew it was his room. Robert walked in and got into his bed. Richard stood at the door and smiled, but there was something in that smile which made Robert uneasy. He thought for a moment: what if Richard was actually planning against Mr Charlesington... or John? What if his co-worker was planning to steal money from the Charlesington family? If that was the case, Robert would have to alert somebody in the family. But first he needed evidence. And there was only one place to get evidence, the place he had been many times.

IF YOU ARE CURIOUS TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, PLEASE READ MY BOOK HERE WWW.HOMECOOLKIDS.COM



Lockdown BUDDIES

I've been fine during the many Lockdowns because of my pets who have kept me company when I couldn't meet friends

by OK

I have a 9 month-old, gold-coloured, English Cocker Spaniel dog called Cooper and a 13 year-old cat (she is even older than me as I am only 11), Badem. During the first Lockdown, I only had Badem. Although I didn't really play with her, she was my constant companion. When I woke up in the mornings, the first thing I felt was a dark grey and black furball curled on my leg. Her presence there in the mornings was comforting and cheered me up. She would also come to me and rub her head against me and sit on my lap. This was helpful as it made me happy.

This Lockdown was amazing because I had Cooper along with Bedam. Cooper made this Lockdown more joyful because he played with me in the park and at home. I also got plenty of exercise chasing him around the park and we had quite a few play-fights. We also got to know a few other dogs in the park and I created a game called The Dogolympics where I threw a ball and the first dog to get it won a treat. Sometimes, I also chased the ball, but I never won.

My pets and I make a great team!

@HomeCool



Laugh OUT LOUD

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT RAINS CATS AND DOGS?

YOU CAN STEP IN A POODLE!

WHAT IS A CAT'S FAVOURITE SONG?

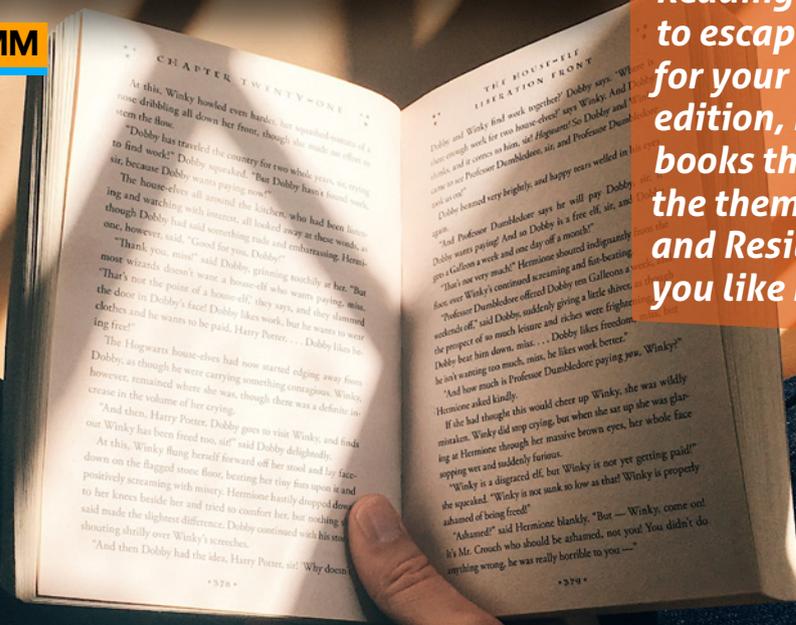
THREE BLIND MICE

WHERE DOES A DOG GO AFTER IT LOSES ITS TAIL?

THE RETAIL STORE

Books WE LOVE

by MM



I am 14 years-old and I run a blog called The Young Press, where, among other things, I recommend to children books that I have read and enjoyed. I love to share my passion for reading and want to encourage other young people to read more. Reading is a great way to escape and it is good for your mind. In this edition, I focus on books that celebrate the themes of Hope and Resilience. Hope you like my selection!



Who Let the Gods Out?

by Maz Evans (9+)

Twelve year-old Elliot has a lot on his young shoulders with family and financial problems. One night he meets Virgo, an immortal on the Zodiac council, and when they accidentally release Thanatos, the evil Daemon of Death, his life is turned upside down. Elliot and Virgo will need all the help they can get to stop Thanatos for good. Who Let the Gods Out? is a story full of adventure, family dynamics, resilience and chaos.

A Kind of Spark

by Elle McNicoll (9+)

Addie, 11 years old, attempts to convince her small town to pay homage to the innocent women who were killed because they were thought to be witches. She faces adversity and ignorance from those who don't understand but knows that she cannot give up. Addie wants to teach everyone how to see the world through her eyes



and that being autistic is a superpower. Featuring hope, friendship, and standing up for what is right.

Running on Empty

by S. E. Durrant (9+)

AJ has more to deal with than most 11 year-olds. After a family death, he becomes his parents' main carer and always puts them first. He loves running and wants to be the best but he can't afford trainers to achieve his dream. Following his struggles through school, AJ tries to prove himself to all those who doubt him. Running on Empty is a heartfelt and uplifting book, encouraging the power of love and hope.



The Goldfish Boy

by Lisa Thompson (9+)

A mystery with an unlikely hero, The Goldfish Boy focuses on Matthew, aged 12, whose OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder) makes him afraid of germs that might make

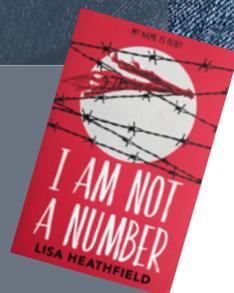


his loved ones sick. His fears lead to him spending all of his time inside. When his neighbour's toddler goes missing, Matthew realises that he has the key to finding the truth. An inspiring read, encouraging friendship and determination.

I Am Not a Number

by Lisa Heathfield (12+)

After the Traditional Party are elected in a world where speaking up is dangerous, Ruby, 15, her family and others who rebel, find themselves taken to a prison camp. But how can you fight the injustices and create a better future, when everything you know has been taken away from you? I Am Not A Number is a tale of courage, survival and standing up for what you believe in, even if there are heart-breaking consequences.



Reading TIP

READ A WIDE VARIETY OF GENRES, FICTION OR NON-FICTION, UNTIL YOU FIND WHAT YOU LIKE TO READ. TRY AUDIO BOOKS IF YOU PREFER

In our first-ever interview, LP and X2 invite Steve McCabe, our local MP, for a lively chat about his Lockdown experiences



AN MP IN Lockdown

X2: What does an MP do and how has Covid impacted your job?

Steve McCabe MP: It has made a big impact on me, as it has had on everyone...It has not been possible for the House of Commons (HoC) to meet [like normal]. I was last down there in January-end, first time since November because they can only allow a certain number of people to go to Westminster and when we are there, as you can see on the TV, only a small number of people can go in the chamber... Quite a lot of people are at home as I am at the moment, we try to do all the work via Zoom and that's been quite different. It has certainly changed a lot about working practices... While I am in Birmingham, I would go to school or meet constituents and of course everything like that for almost a year now has been on Zoom... but it's a very different way of speaking and engaging with people so that has been difficult... I think my work has been different. And I have to say, I don't really like it as the whole point of being a constituency MP means you are out and about meeting people...and I suppose the other thing that is different is, of course, the whole question of Covid has dominated my work. It's great to see that people, you are a great example, have tried to find creative ways to address all those problems. [So] I think, we [are working] and [doing] the things that are important but they are being done in a very different way and it is a bit harder

I am elected by the people who live in Birmingham Selly Oak constituency to [firstly] help determine the laws in the country if they need changing. I am a

Labour MP so I am in opposition at the moment so I am not involved in making the laws; they are brought forward by the Government but my job is to scrutinise them to make sure that what they are saying [and] they are doing is good or has problems. The other part of my job is where people in my constituency might feel they are not getting the help and support they need...then I try to intervene and see if I can bring about changes.

LP: How is Parliament different with Covid, and what would you like to keep and what would you like to change?

Steve McCabe MP: [W]hat we have learnt is that it is possible for people to do their jobs without being in Westminster all of the time. In the past, that has probably limited some of the people that probably wanted to be MPs... I think we have learnt that it is possible to run the country without having to be there all the time...and we have possibly helped open-up parliament a little bit. I would want some of that to be retained because the idea in this country is that anyone should be able to stand for Parliament and it is up to the voters to decide whether they want to vote for you or not but if there are artificial barriers for people in the way then...you don't get so many people.

Nonetheless, politics is about meeting people face to face, it's about being able to point out things so there has to be contact... I would like that to return.



X2: How has work from home been for you, and do you prefer working from home or going into work?

Steve McCabe MP: At the moment, I am sitting in my small sitting room...and my wife is working next door in our front room which we use as our office so the [space] side has not been difficult for me [as it has been for other people]. But I sometimes think, I get up in the morning and come down here...and may be do 3-4 Zoom meetings and before you know, it's 2 o'clock and you haven't moved. There have been days when I have forgotten to go out for a walk...[T]hat's why some people have found Lockdown depressing and difficult and not so easy; you can't go out with your friends; it's not so easy to go out on a bike ride; you can go in the park but there are a lots of people... If I am working very hard and I am thinking about something, I like to go for a walk to just clear my mind and have a chance to think what is the best way to do that and I think that is easier if I can get up and walk about and I think being in the house too much can be a bit depressing.

Talking about technical problems, a good friend of mine, who is a Birmingham MP as well,... were having a meeting and somebody shouted you are on mute and she said "Oh, Yes! A year of doing this and I still forget!", so these things happen.

...At the end of the day all I want to do is go and find proper books so I can turn pages, just so that it feels a bit different. So, it hasn't been quite as bad for me but for some people it has been much much harder and tougher and there are people who have been on their own entirely and have not seen anyone for best part of the year...

LP: What are you doing to help local children during and after Covid?

Steve McCabe MP: One of the things that I have been working on is what is going to happen for people over assessments and exams...we need to make sure the assessments will be fair...[and take into account] people who may be at a disadvantage... We do need to have some type of catch-up lessons... but catch-up should not be about cramming or about exams. It has not been so easy to have normal play. Play is part of relaxing and feeling healthy and normal and discovering things and having laughs with your friends so I think we need to make sure that people have time to play when this is over... I think things that we quite often do together... like Music class, Drama

class where you are learning and enjoying what you are doing would be really important [and] catching-up on things that we haven't been able to do. It is pretty obvious looking at the magazine that you are all pretty creative people and I think that it is important those things are given time as that's how we develop talent... and those are the things make us the sort of people we are...We've got to make sure we create safe opportunities for leisure and exercise and play.

We have learnt new ways of communicating and reaching out to people and some of that needs to be retained because that way people who might find it harder to go to Westminster can still take part

X2: How has Lockdown been for you personally? What is the most fun thing you've done during Lockdown? Any new hobbies?

Steve McCabe MP: I haven't been able to see my friends and a lot of things that I would do as leisure activities I don't do. I like going to watch football and I haven't been out to watch a football match. I miss the people I would socialise with; I miss the people I would laugh and joke and discuss things with and yes you can do a bit online but sometimes, when you have spent all day on Zoom doing work things, the last thing I feel like doing in my spare time is another Zoom [call].

I have got one new hobby. I have been continuing to try to play the guitar as badly as I have ever played it and sometimes you just need to admit that you are not as good at some things; I think I could practice the guitar from here to eternity and I won't get any better but I have been persevering as ever... I usually don't like doing online things for leisure but I have [also] been doing a Spanish class online in my spare time.

My wife and I have been doing dancing lessons online... so I have stood on my wife's toes a number of times, we



have collapsed in a heap on the floor laughing at my complete inability to execute a proper move... and I don't think I would ever make it to Strictly Come Dancing but it has been a lot of fun and if anyone else watches they would see that we spend most of our times collapsing in fits of laughter .

LP: Are you allowed to dress differently when on calls (do you get to wear your slippers when on calls)?

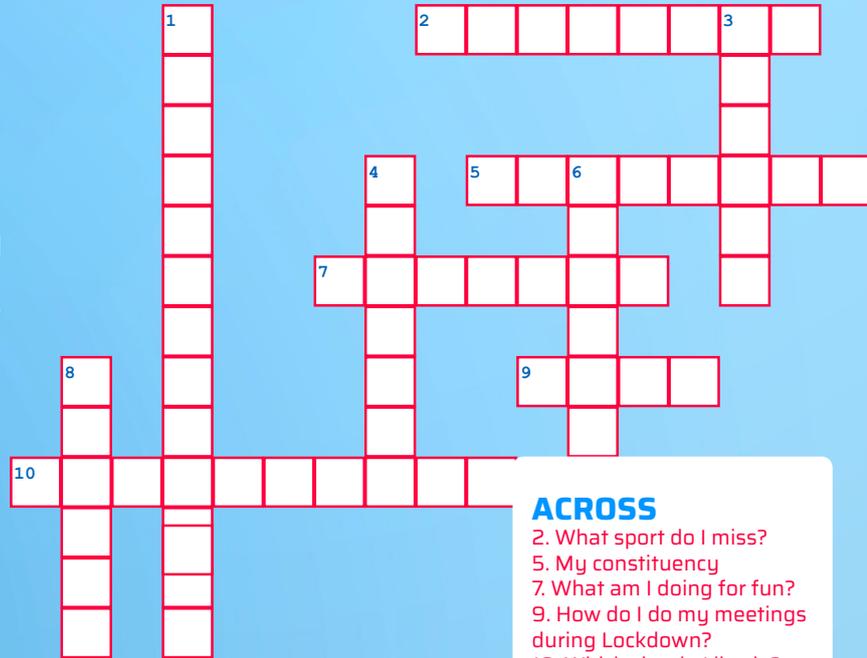
Steve McCabe MP: Since you are asking, I am going to confess, I am sitting here wearing a shirt and a tie and a suit jacket but...let me stand up so you...see that I am wearing a pair of jeans and if we had this call earlier this morning, I was also wearing my slippers. I have switched to a pair of trainers now. Don't tell the speaker in the HoC this because we've got a very strict dress code but yes I sometimes do that.

X2: As our local MP, what message would you like to give to our readers?

Steve McCabe MP: I think I would say to them that absolutely make sure that you get to look at a copy of HomeCool, make that part of your regular diet because it is brilliant. As you go back to school, try to remember that this is difficult and it can't be exactly the same at the moment; remember we do have to social distance, we do have to be sensible and responsible and make sure we get to the top of this virus and we move to better times...

POLITICAL PUZZLE

READ THE INTERVIEW AND SOLVE THE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 2. What sport do I miss?
- 5. My constituency
- 7. What am I doing for fun?
- 9. How do I do my meetings during Lockdown?
- 10. Which city do I live in?

DOWN

- 1. Where do I usually work?
- 3. Which political party do I belong to?
- 4. My new hobby
- 6. Which city do I work in?
- 8. My old hobby that I am trying to perfect

ANSWERS ON Pg 16

[Back at school] enjoy your time with your friends and as time moves on, remember how important these people are and how you've missed them and get the best out of being with people you like because it's the fun and the laughter and the things you do together that would make it all worthwhile



by SB

Art of LOVING

I am an 11 year-old boy from Kolkata, India. Since the pandemic started, my mother was really sad and worried about our safety. So, to cheer her up, I painted beautiful murals on our boring kitchen cabinets

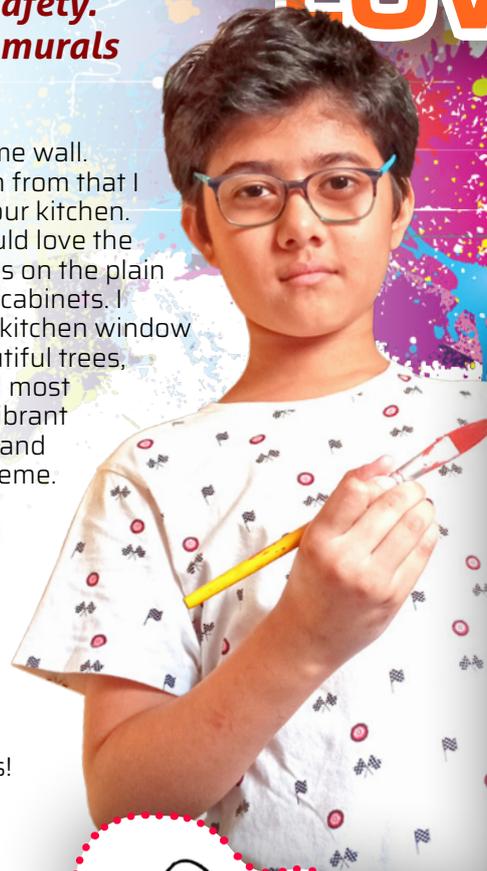
For children in India, the past year has been difficult as our schools shut in March 2020 and have still not opened. We've had online lessons, but, as you would agree, that is not the same thing. When the school's first closed, I was very scared, but then slowly I started enjoying being at home although I missed my friends a lot.

My mother, however, was weary and sad and this made me unhappy as well. She was also very worried about keeping us safe. So I decided to surprise her! I considered a few ideas, but then I remembered the time when I had seen an artist painting

murals on his home wall. Taking inspiration from that I decided to paint our kitchen. I thought she would love the colourful paintings on the plain off-white kitchen cabinets. I looked out of the kitchen window and saw the beautiful trees, flowers, birds and most importantly the vibrant colours of nature and decided on my theme.

It took me around three to four days, but her reaction made it worthwhile. She loved it and smiled a lot once she saw the finished paintings!

Everybody who has come across the paintings has praised them. My uncle has suggested I paint the whole house with murals, even the bathrooms. I would love to do that if my parents allow me.



Let's COLOUR

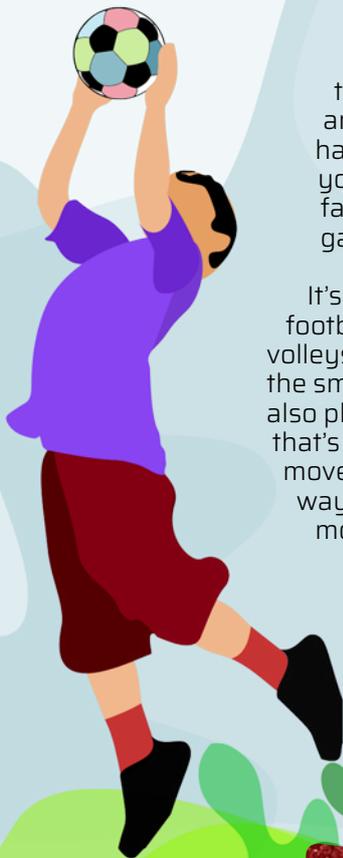
As you may have guessed, I love colours. I am looking forward to the Holi festival on March 29th. Holi is India's spring festival where we play with powder colours to celebrate. Why don't you use your imagination to colour-in this Holi scene that I have drawn for you?



FUN WITH Football

by LD

During these uncertain times, many things that we like doing have not been possible. Sports and activities are one of them. But instead of feeling sad about it, my sister and I created our very own football game



We are all working hard during our online lessons and trying our best to make things normal again, but staying active and getting fresh air is equally important.

My sister and I, like many children in the UK, have been unable to do what we enjoy such as swimming, dancing and playing football. I started to get very frustrated when all the sport activities that I enjoy stopped, so I had a think about what I could do. I decided to play with my sister a lot more (which I do a lot anyway)! I made up games around the things we both like doing, such as football and dance; especially football. The key to having fun at home is to find something that you and your siblings enjoy doing! I got my father involved too and we invented a new game called 'Prandle Bob!'

It's named after two players in my club football team. The aim of the game is to score volleys (kicking the ball on the way down) into the small football goals in the garden. You can also play indoors and hit the sofa! Obviously, that's not a favourite of my mother's so we moved all the pictures and ornaments out the way. The winner is the one who scores the most volleys in the game within a set time of 5 or 10 minutes. Of course, my sister plays too, but she doesn't do the volleys; she tries to tackle the ball off us!

So what have you done to stay active? Why not invent a new game and involve your family too!



Did you **KNOW?**

THE WORLD RECORD FOR THE MOST KICK UPS IN A MINUTE IS

→ 339 ←



Minecraft has been a way for me to stay in touch with my friends during Lockdown because it is a multiplayer game that can be played safely, for minimal cost

Minecraft

MANIA by WP



PHOTO COURTESY MINECRAFT



Lockdown has been terrible for most people as it has separated families and friends for long periods of time. Many people have been using technology such as video calling to stay in touch with each other. Another way of communicating has been through online gaming and the use of safe chat functions. I have been using Minecraft to connect safely with my friends.

Minecraft is one of the most popular games in the world with over 200 million copies sold. It is a sandbox game where people can build and be as creative as they would like. Although it doesn't obey the laws of physics, Minecraft does have some realistic elements to it; for example, smelting sand in a furnace will make glass!

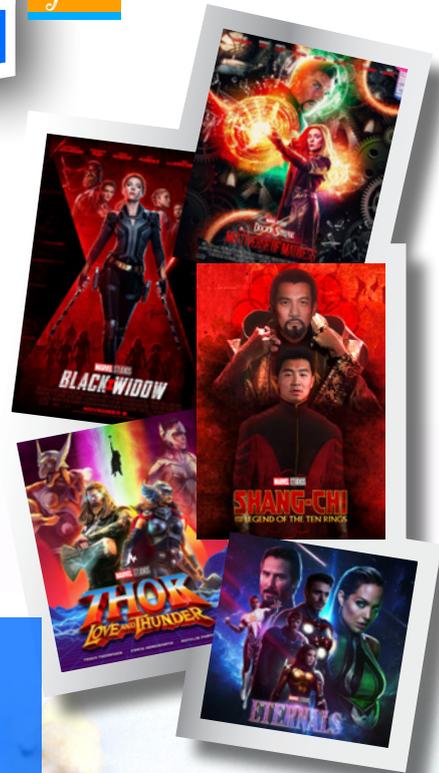
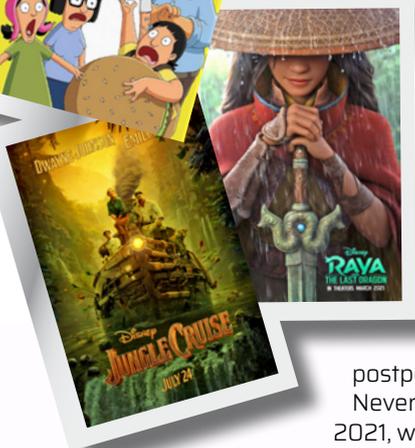
I've been playing Minecraft Realm with my friends for two years now and during Lockdown, it was a true stress buster. Realms are a part of the game that allow you to play a multiplayer world without the creator being online. So you can join when you like and be creative on your own or in a team with your friends. We always set rules so everyone feels included and no one feels like they are being bullied. Remember, it is important to be kind even while playing with your friends online.

Keep in MIND

REALMS COST £5.99 PER MONTH (SO PLEASE TALK TO YOUR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS BEFORE BUYING). A REALM IS TOTALLY SAFE BECAUSE ONLY PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN INVITED CAN JOIN

Cinemas CALLING

by AR



We are eagerly looking forward to these movies which will help us take our minds off 2020

No one liked 2020; it was a terrible year for everyone. So many bad things happened and we just can't wait to move on. One big thing that annoyed everyone was the fact that cinemas closed because of the virus and a number of movies that we were eagerly waiting for got

postponed or cancelled.

Nevertheless, as we are already in the third month of 2021, we can hope that this year would be promising for us movie buffs. Although some films have even been pushed as far back as 2022, we can't wait for our usual cinema visits.



If you're a Marvel fan like me, you should be excited for:

- Thor: Love and Thunder: May 2022
- Spider-Man: No Way Home: December 2021
- Black Widow: May 2021
- The Eternals: November 2021
- Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings: July 2021
- Morbis: January 2022
- Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness: March 2022

There are quite lot of Disney and Pixar films coming out this year, and they are:

- Indiana Jones: July 2022
- Raya the Last Dragon: March 2021
- Bob's Burgers: April 2021
- Jungle Cruise: July 2021
- The Beatles: Get Back August 2021

If you're looking for a Universal film, the ones coming out are:

- Fast and furious 9: April 2021
- Minions 2: June 2021

DC fans can expect:

- The Batman: January 2022
- The Flash: November 2022
- Black Adam: December 2021



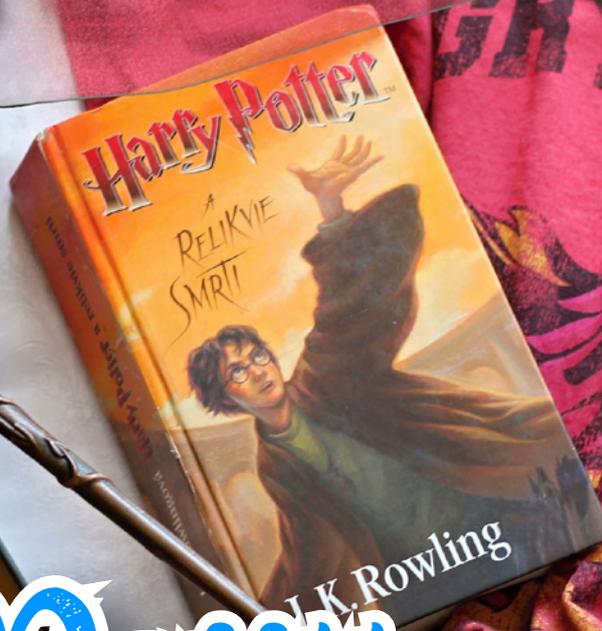
Let us **KNOW**

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE FILM AND WHY?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Harry Potter books have been translated into over 80 languages. Can you guess which book is featured in the picture and in which language?

I first picked up a Harry Potter book when I was bored whilst brushing my teeth (Yes, I know that sounds weird)! After I read my first chapter, I was gripped; it was so hard to put the book away



by DJ

Potty ABOUT Potter

At that time, I was convinced the book was cursed as it never seemed to end but, when it did, I was sad. Even though I didn't read the books in any particular order, the story was still spellbinding and enchanting. The story also provides endless possibilities for crafts and activities. Here are some of them.

@HomeCool

PROFESSOR SNAPE'S POTIONS LAB

I did this with my baby sister. She complained that it was boring at first, so I just grabbed some food colouring, and we were away!

You'll need:

- ◆ Variety of food colourings
- ◆ Different sized containers and tubs
- ◆ Jugs of lukewarm water
- ◆ A clear indoor space (preferably a kitchen)

Instructions:

1. Fill the containers with different amounts of water
2. Now for the fun part; grab your food colourings and squeeze the individual colours into the separate containers and stir-in the colours
3. Next, using a different container, pour-in some of the colours that you have just made, and mix them with each other and enjoy the effect

DIY WAND

I created this activity after researching on the Internet. I really enjoyed doing this, even though it did get messy.

You'll need:

- ◆ An old UNsharpened pencil
- ◆ Paint (I recommend black, white or grey)
- ◆ Paint pens or some sort of permanent markers (Optional)

Instructions

1. Cover your workplace with old sheets or tablecloths (it could get messy)!
2. Grab your UNsharpened pencil and cover it with a few coats of your selected paint and leave it to dry in an old jar.
3. Once dry, decorate the pencil using the permanent markers. You can be as creative as you like, but try to keep your design simple as drawing on a spherical surface is harder than you think! (Note: Make sure the pencil you use is wooden and not covered in plastic)



An amazing portrait of Harry Potter by my friend MD who is a big fan of the books as well!



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HOP INTO Spring

by NJ

Easter is nearly here and my yummy Rabbit Biscuits are just the treats you need to get into the mood to celebrate the joys of spring

Rabbit BISCUITS

Ingredients

- Any sort of ready-made biscuits
- Pink and brown food colouring
- Black or brown writing icing
- 200g icing sugar
- 1 tbsp milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 100g unsalted butter softened
- 6 blocks of milk chocolate not broken up

Method

1. Carefully cut the 6 pieces of chocolate into 2 long sticks, 3 each side and cut them into the shape of a teardrop for the ears.
2. In a medium-sized bowl, mix icing sugar, butter, milk and vanilla extract until smooth to make buttercream
3. Put a third of the buttercream in a small bowl and add 1 drop of pink food colouring; mix and put in a tub. Get another third of the buttercream in the bowl and add 5 drops of brown food colouring; mix and put in a tub. Put the rest of the buttercream in another tub
4. Spread the plain white buttercream on the bottom half of the biscuit only. And then spread the brown buttercream over the remaining top half of the biscuit
5. Now in a triangle shape, remove some of the brown buttercream, from the top half the biscuit. When you remove it, fill this triangle shaped gap with some white buttercream. Leave aside to set
6. Once the icing is set, you can make the eyes by using the white and brown buttercream and grab some of the buttercream and put it on the top of the ears (these you made in step 1, in a teardrop shape) and put under the biscuit.
7. Finally, with the writing icing, draw a little nose. For the cheeks, get a bit of pink buttercream, put a blob on either side of the nose (about 3 cm away) and then put a bit of white buttercream on top of the pink buttercream
8. Last, but definitely not least, enjoy eating it!



INSTEAD OF AN EASTER EGG THIS YEAR, WHY NOT TRY A BUNNY BISCUIT?

Did you KNOW?

CARROTS CAN GIVE RABBITS UPSET TUMMIES SO GIVE THEM CARROTS RARELY AND IN SMALL AMOUNTS. RABBITS NORMALLY EAT A DIET OF HAY SO THAT IS ONE THING THAT MUST BE GIVEN TO THEM

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING

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KIDS

What started as a project by two siblings to stay busy during Lockdown 1 continues to grow all thanks to the dedication, creativity, and resilience of a fantastic team of 8-14 year olds who joined the journey and made it their own! HomeCool Kids was conceived as a digital magazine but the young editorial board has flexed their combined creativity to independently build and launch an accompanying website www.homecoolkids.com. While some aspects of magazine production are handled by grown-ups, we are proud to say that the continued upward direction of HomeCool Kids is an independent effort by the young editorial team! Hope you like it!

We would love to hear
from more amazing children

about their experiences and see examples of their creativity. If you would like to send in a submission, please ask your parent or guardian to contact us on homecoolkids@gmail.com
We are a very friendly bunch!

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