



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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3rd April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

It's the last day of term and all of our lives have changed rapidly. We are all living, learning and working in very different ways, ways which seemed unimaginable a few weeks ago. What is quite extraordinary is how quickly we do adapt to these changes which shows how resilient, how flexible and how resourceful we all are.

With the Easter holidays coming up, you might be on the lookout for some new fun activities for your children. On the other hand you might just want to crawl under the duvet or lock yourself in the bathroom for just a few minutes of time to yourself! **You've had two weeks of home learning and I'm sure you're feeling ready for a break!**

An Easter Egg Hunt at home is an easy win but Easter holidays are usually a time to get out and about. Children (and parents) may be feeling disappointed that all of the normal days out and holidays are on hold, but I hope these ideas **for family days staying in** (many with credit to ParentKind) will give you some ideas so that having a 'stay-at-home-Easter' can still be fun. Equally, please feel free to ignore completely if you are fed up with 'fun' suggestions from school and just want to do your own thing! I understand, I really do, but sometimes people want a little inspiration so forgive me for my list of **30 ideas**. Those who know me well know that I do love a list!

1. DIY Escape room.

If you love escape rooms, why not recreate the experience for your family at home whilst we're in lockdown. It's a great project for parents and older children to put together. For step-by-step instructions for designing your own game see this website.

<https://lockpaperscissors.co/self-isolation-escape-room-game>

2. Form a band.

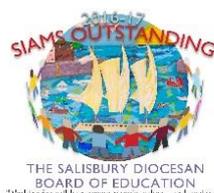
This could be just for the children, the whole family, or link up with friends using FaceTime or similar. If you don't own an instrument, improvise with household objects – and don't forget the all-important band name!

3. Choreograph a dance.

Everyone picks their favourite song and choreographs a routine for an evening performance. If you're not sure where to start, look up the music video on YouTube for inspiration. Maybe even have a family disco!

4. Go camping indoors or in your garden.

If you have a tent and a garden, you can venture into the great outdoors for an overnight camp out. Do all the things you'd normally do like play swing-ball, cook on a camping stove, and do a bit of stargazing. If you can't go outside then why not set up camp indoors, with lots of blankets, cushions and pillows, tell stories, play games and ditch the technology.



5. Visit a virtual museum.

They're closed for now of course, but you can still visit many world famous museums on a virtual tour. from the Natural History Museum in London to the Vatican museums in Rome. The Guardian lists 10 of the world's best virtual tours.

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2020/mar/23/10-of-the-worlds-best-virtual-museum-and-art-gallery-tours>

6. Have a Bake off.

Set the challenges, prepare the kitchen and get ready to bake. If you're finding it difficult getting hold of the essentials, then why not make it a playdough challenge instead (if you can get hold of flour to make your own playdough).

<http://allrecipes.co.uk/recipe/50/play-dough.aspx>

7. Spend an afternoon at the 'beach'.

If you have outdoor space, a paddling pool and a sandpit, then chuck down some towels and imagine yourself at the beach. Make sandcastles, go paddling, read a book and don't forget to pack a picnic. If you don't have sand, mud castles are a great messy alternative. For your indoor alternative (which has the bonus of being warmer and staying dry), find a beach screen saver, cook fish and chips (to be eaten out of newspaper) and eat ice cream.

8. Tackle an obstacle course.

Grab chairs, cushions, sheets, hula hoops, planks, bricks etc. and build an obstacle course. Spend a while designing it to include things to climb over, duck under, crawl through and swerve around – safely of course!

9. Alphabet hunt.

Challenge children to find an object around the house starting with each letter of the alphabet. They could draw, write or take a photo of the items.

10. Visit a virtual zoo or aquarium.

You can still watch and learn about animals from home via webcams. Meet pandas, penguins, tigers and koalas at Edinburgh Zoo, or venture further afield for coral reef, sharks and sea otters at Monterey Bay Aquarium, California.

<https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/>

<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>

11. Secret cinema.

If you're planning a night in watching a film, why not make it an interactive experience. If you've chosen a musical, print out or look up song lyrics. For any other films, pick a character and dress as them and join in with some scenes!

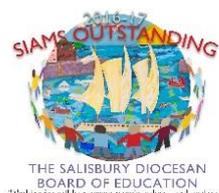
12. You've got talent.

Hold your own talent show. Link up with family and friends using FaceTime or similar and invite them to audition too.

13. Visit a famous landmark online.

Just like many museums, thanks to the miracles of modern technology, you can take an online tour of some of the world's most famous landmarks. The Guardian features 10 of the best including the pyramids of Giza, the Eiffel Tower, Stonehenge and the Taj Mahal. You can visit as a whole family for free!

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2020/mar/30/10-best-virtual-tour-worlds-most-famous-landmarks>



14. Go bowling.

Turn a passageway in to a bowling alley. You'll need 10 empty plastic bottles and a football. Put some water in the bottom of each bottle – make sure you seal them REALLY well and put some tape around just to be sure. If you're playing on carpet, make your lane out of old cardboard boxes, it'll help the ball roll faster and protect from spills!

15. Wildlife watch.

Web cams aren't just for zoos and aquariums, grab some paper and pencils and go online bird spotting with the Wildlife Trust. Find out facts, identify species, draw pictures or just watch. If you're up for a challenge, why not head to Loch Ness and see if you can spot Nessie! <https://worldcams.tv/united-kingdom/inverness/loch-ness>

16. Get crafty.

Whatever their age, children never seem to tire of arts and crafts, probably because there are a million and one things they could do. So pick a favourite or try something new – it could be junk modelling, Lego building, watercolour painting, cutting and sticking, painting stones, making slime, potato printing, knitting, sewing, playdoh modelling, papier mache, balloon modelling, window art...

17. Become an author.

Writing can be a great way for children (and adults) to explore what they're feeling, or escape to an imaginary world. There are no rules, you could tell a story, make a picture book, create a comic strip, or write a news article. Do it individually or team up and share ideas!

18. Games night.

Children learn a lot from games, but it's the holidays so don't let on! Pick board games, video games, card games or bingo!

19. Relax with a virtual Spa day.

Who needs Champneys! Let your children come up with a menu of 'treatments' – hairstyling, foot massage, nail polish, head massage etc. – get lots of towels out, use a washing up bowl for a foot spa, and... relax (if you can stop laughing long enough!)

20. Animal training.

Spending time with pets can be calming and lots of fun. If you have a family pet, see if you can teach it something new. If you don't have a pet, be imaginative and train some teddies!

21. Scavenger hunt.

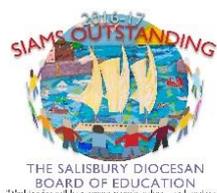
Make a list of things for the children to find around the house. It could be a written list, or you could take photos of the objects. To make it harder, take pictures of part of the object so they have to guess what it is first.

22. Build a den.

Dens can be built indoors or outdoors. Encourage your children to get creative and use whatever's available – checking there's nothing dangerous around first - old boxes, garden furniture, sheets, sofa cushions, clothes pegs etc. There's nothing like making a den and using your imagination!

23. Come dine with me.

Depending on the ages of your children, you could do this over several days, or each take a course on the same day. Put together your menus, then each take turns to prepare food and



entertain your 'guests'. After each meal or course, write down a score then the scores are added up and revealed after the last meal or course. You could also add an extra score for the entertainment if you're going for the whole experience!

24. Circus skills.

Learn a few circus skills then roll the circus into your home. Set up a ring and decide who'll be ringmaster and introduce your acts. Kinetic circus has some great online tutorials to help you learn to juggle (and make your own balls if you don't have them), hula hoop and perfect other tricks using things you'll have at home like playing cards, a coin, a pencil and a rubber.

<https://kineticcircus.co.uk/circus-skills-tutorials/>

25. Go on a mini safari.

Encourage your children to go out and explore then put together a guide book or video guide with information about all the creatures and plants so they can take you on their mini safari.

26. Collective worship

Usually at this time of year we are holding one of our colourful and vibrant services in Church to celebrate Easter. Your child or children might want to make up their own Easter service for the family. In the absence of this, Canon Jenny has sent schools in the Chalke Valley a link to her collective worship. Feel free to join in with the singing at the end!

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5v8G3l9pB_s

27. Make Palm Crosses (without palms)

YouTube may help! No actual palms are needed just a strip of paper!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSF7-8QmrPY>

28. Make a Time Capsule

We are living through a period of history like no other and children may want to collect some ideas so that they can look back on it in years to come. They could write a fact file about themselves, put in a newspaper or list things they are looking forward to doing once it's over.

29. Try to relax!

If you don't fancy doing any of this because you're exhausted or you have better ideas yourself then that's fine too. Do what feels right for you and your family and enjoy some family time together – that is all that matters. Take a deep breath, relax and let go!

30. Give yourself a treat – you deserve it!

Parents are doing a great job holding it all together. There will be good days and there will be bad days. Don't be hard on yourself, you're doing your best in challenging circumstances. Give yourself a treat and look after yourselves so that you can look after everyone else.

Wishing you all, despite everything going on in our world in these strange times, a happy 'stay at home' Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

Please also find attached a new newspaper (Edition 1) for children from Wiltshire Council.

