

# THINGS TO DO

A weekly newsletter from SEND Supported



ISSUE 7

4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

While adhering to social distancing advice, the nationwide round of applause for our NHS heroes and social carers each Thursday evening has become a firm routine for many people. The joy of connecting with surrounding neighbours and friends through enthusiastic clapping, gestures and smiles is incredibly moving. People of all ages are showing their gratitude to those working tirelessly to save lives and see the UK through the worst of the covid-19 pandemic. We know that many of you are keyworkers and thank you for your tireless effort and commitment.



Warmest wishes and please keep safe.

Joanna and team



Are you the parent or carer of a young person with SEND? Would you like to connect with other families of children or young people with SEND? Join our weekly, virtual Drop-ins using Zoom and get together for a chat. Drop-ins will alternate between Friday morning and Thursday evening sessions, starting 10.00 am Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May. To register an interest and find out more please email [enquiries@sendsupported.com](mailto:enquiries@sendsupported.com).



## EMOTIONAL WELLBEING - Kate Griffiths

As schools start to consider the implications of reopening and welcoming their young people back, Professor Barry Carpenter has shared his thoughts around the '[Recovery Curriculum](#)' that he feels will enable schools to consider the processes they will need to put in place to successfully transition children back to school.

Over the coming weeks as part of developing this 'Recovery Curriculum' a set of 6 [podcasts](#) will also be shared. These will feature school's leaders from Primary Secondary and Special discussing their responses to the challenges ahead.



## AUTISM - Jules McLean

Why not encourage and support your children to create a 2020 COVID-19 Time Capsule. For a copy of the worksheets and ideas download from THINGS TO DO Issue 7 - RESOURCES.

Here are some ideas about how to [enhance daily living skills](#) to teach your child how to tie their shoelaces with step by step instructions, flip books and links to videos. <https://www.fieggen.com/shoelace/standardknotflipbook.htm>

PDA Day on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - The theme for this year's PDA Day 2020 is 'Support'. Various

resources have been created around this theme including ...

- A new PDA Day Facebook profile frame depicting community support
- Fun downloadable activities
- A scavenger hunt to help share useful resources on the [PDA Society](#) website – ‘clues’ will be released on PDA Day, each leading to a different source of support.

See the [PDA Society Coronavirus Q&As](#) relating to PDA during the coronavirus pandemic, in a series of short videos.



#### LEARNING - Clair Cole

Organisations continue to update their offers for support with learning at home. Here are some of the latest resources and activities to look out for:

**The National Literacy Trust (NLT)** have launched a new ‘Author of the week’ series. They are teaming up with different well-loved authors each week through exclusive videos, activities, free ebooks and audiobooks to help families discover new stories together. Greg James and Chris Smith kick off this venture; in their video they have set children a challenge to write their own superhero story, based on the duo’s brand new book, [Kid Normal and the Final Five](#). There are also free reading activities and an audiobook of Kid Normal. The ‘Author of the week’ series will be hosted on the NLT’s [Family Zone](#) website.

**The National Literacy Trust** is also offering their Skills Academy programme to all secondary schools for **free** and are opening it up to families to enjoy together. The [Skills Academy](#) programme is a reading intervention which improves Year 7 and 8 students’ reading in a fun and engaging way, rewarding their progress by unlocking exclusive video tutorials from some of the UK’s best freestyle footballers, beatboxers and breakdancers.

Families of children aged between 9 and 13 can choose between two modules: **freestyle football** or **breakdance and beatbox**. Visit the [Family Zone](#), get a free login and challenge your children to a series of online reading comprehension challenges; once the challenges have been completed, unlock videos that teach them the skills of their heroes!

Secondary schools can access the reading intervention and all supporting digital resources for free during the COVID-19 period, including 10 detailed lesson plans, downloadable handouts and access to the [Skills Academy](#) website which hosts the online challenges and video tutorials, for one year.

**Widget** continue to offer free and unrestricted access to Widgit Online and its ready-made materials for 30 days. **Use Code: WIDGIT30**. They have recently added:



## New Coronavirus Symbols

We have added a range of new symbols to help you create teaching resources and supports around the subject of COVID-19.

These symbols are now live and available to use in Widgit Online.

InPrint3 users can download the latest update to access the new symbols.

[See What's New](#)

[BBC Bitesize](#) are offering daily lessons for Y1 through to Y10 pupils covering English, Maths, Science and History.



## FAMILY & CHILDREN AT HOME - Clare Viney

[Time To Talk Warwickshire](#) with 'Ideas on how to develop the home learning environment are easily accessible through this link, with a particular focus on chatting, playing and reading demonstrated through video clips.'

'Warwickshire educational psychologists are offering a free telephone consultation to parents and carers during the lockdown.' Download Clare's folder from THINGS TO DO Issue 6 - RESOURCES for more information.

[Boredom Busters](#): A collection of simple fun activities to help pass the time and keep children and young people occupied while they are staying safe at home.

Download Clare's folder from THINGS TO DO Issue 6 - RESOURCES for the Facebook timetable of activities running at the Children's Centre in Stratford.

[The Book of Hopes](#): Words and Pictures to Comfort, Inspire and Entertain Children in Lockdown, was published this month by Bloomsbury and the National Literacy Trust, and is free to access online.

Try out the virtual rides at [Disney Theme Parks](#)! Or perhaps you would prefer a virtual tour of a national park or a [digital Safari](#)!

[Kenilworth Covid Support Facebook group](#): 'Kenilworth families can access support via the FB page and calling 01926 919340. Provision includes: out of hours support with mental health (24 hour helpline), helpline specifically for men, helpline for older people offering friendship and advice, support with domestic violence, dementia support, free counselling (waiting list, but there are people who can), Age UK counselling, a carers well-being service, as well as an online resource for carers.'

See the [Family Information Newsletter](#) for a wealth of useful information.

This week Warwickshire County Council has launched a national campaign called, #youarenotalone. This is a domestic abuse campaign, backed by National Government, to help bring awareness of this crime and its victims, during the current COVID-19 lockdown.





## Heart-warming good news stories

Meet the owls of Wigan and virtually feed the pigs of Bath! Wings of the World, an owl sanctuary in Wigan, has been [posting daily videos](#) documenting its feathered residents. And Bath City Farm uses [its Facebook page](#) to broadcast live animal feeding from the farm each Saturday morning and keep people in touch with farm life as they stay at home.



In Bearley, Warwickshire [Kitten Von Mew](#) and her daughter Betsy have been dressing up as different characters for their daily walk, a lovely way to enjoy the day!



See these wonderful examples of things to do at home shared by families;

### BACK YARD SCAVENGER HUNT

- |                                   |                                     |  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ant      | <input type="checkbox"/> brown leaf | <input type="checkbox"/> butterfly     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clover   | <input type="checkbox"/> cloud      | <input type="checkbox"/> purple flower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pinecone | <input type="checkbox"/> ladybug    | <input type="checkbox"/> bird          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> grass    | <input type="checkbox"/> green leaf | <input type="checkbox"/> yellow flower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> feather  | <input type="checkbox"/> rock       | <input type="checkbox"/> sticks        |

Treasure Hunts



Emulsion painted  
Tennis courts




Making Elmer elephants  
out of milk bottles

If you would like to connect with other families of children or young people with SEND, please email [enquiries@sendsupported.com](mailto:enquiries@sendsupported.com) to join the weekly, online Parent 'Drop-ins' running daytime and evenings.



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