



# VSK home learning resource booklet



## Primary



# Early years and pre-school

Dear Carers and Parents

Children in the early years and pre-school age range can be supported by many learning activities at home, which could include:

- Talking and interacting with adults and older children
- Sharing a book every day and talking about the story
- Time for experimenting with writing and drawing using paper, pens, pencils and paint
- Counting and using numbers to add, subtract, count in groups or share out objects
- Encouragement to play independently

You can support your children's learning through engaging in playful activities together, for example setting up a pretend shop would involve writing labels, counting objects, using money and lots of interaction. Try to follow young children's interests: if they want to write about their favourite toy or the best superhero, go with that plan!

Remember that young children do not need to sit at a table for long periods in order to learn at home: vital learning happens through play so it is important to balance any formal learning with opportunities for independent and imaginative activities. Make use of the garden too for scavenger hunts, minibeast safaris, outdoor art and much more or you could try some simple cooking in the kitchen.

We hope you find this guide a useful addition to anything that has been sent home from your child's school.

With Our Best Wishes

The Virtual School Kent Team



# Primary

Your school website should have links to online support materials. If not, we have suggested some sites covering a broad range of ages and needs.

Here are a few which are well worth a look but there is a wealth of other resources on the following pages:

## **National Numeracy: The Family Maths Toolkit**

([www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/family-maths-toolkit](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/family-maths-toolkit)) offers links to a wide range of numeracy based activities for children.

**Oxford University Press: Oxford Owl** ([www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)) is an education website covering subjects in the pre-school and primary age range,

**Khan Academy:** ([www.khanacademy.org.uk](http://www.khanacademy.org.uk)) this site provides instructional videos for all ages and stages of mathematics.

**Booktrust:** ([www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)) a national charity providing resources and support to help children develop a love of reading. Booktrust publishes lists of recommended books by age and books by theme. See also their children's book finder for new book suggestions.

**National Literacy Trust:** ([www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk)) a new Family Zone site has been launched in response to the coronavirus outbreak, with literacy activities organised by age-range.

**SEND:** Useful websites are:

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/category/free-resources/>

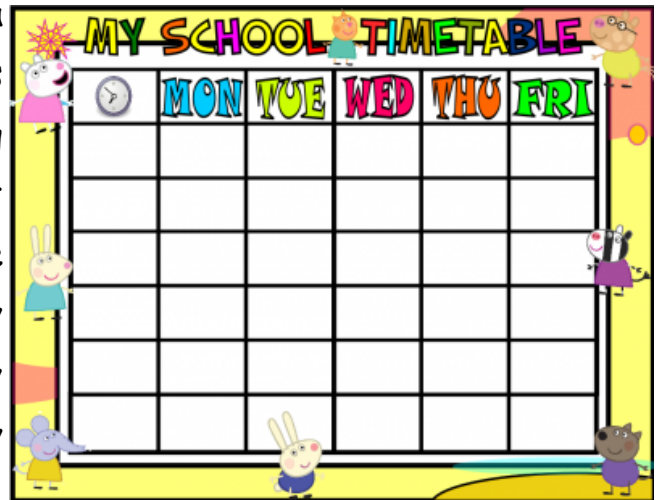
<https://ncse.ie/online-resources>



# Planning your days

When children are at school they will not spend long periods of time sat at a desk and their attention span may not be much longer than 40 minutes on any one task.

Therefore, you should try to have a timetable of activities with breaks from more formal learning and allowing physical activity. Try to include at least one session of a maths type activity and one session of a literacy activity each day. Learning takes many forms and can be built into many activities, such as cooking or gardening.



You can also make use of the many online learning opportunities/activities that have become available in response to the coronavirus.

Establishing a routine may take time as you get to know how your young person learns best away from the classroom; some children will prefer a

more formal timetable replicating their school experience closely with a clearly designated learning space set up for them whilst others may benefit from a more flexible, child led approach. It's important to find the approach that works for you and the children in your care. They may also be

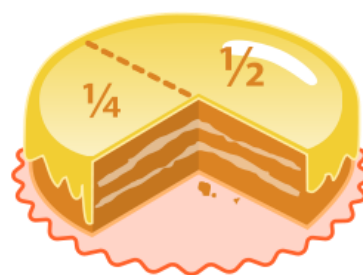
unsettled and concerned about what is going on around them initially and time spent reassuring them and helping them get used to the situation is essential too as this will help their learning in the long term.



# Tips for learning at home

## Maths

Maths can be delivered in many informal ways, in addition to the more formal tasks provided by the school such as a cooking session involving weighing and measuring. (Making a pizza or a delicious cake is a brilliant opportunity for discussing fractions or learning about measurements)



While out on your once a day walk, look at the house numbers and count in twos or add the numbers on a registration number plate. Older children should keep their mental maths skills sharp so have a few quick fire sums for them to do too.

**TIMES TABLES**  
**ROCKSTARS**



It is also a good opportunity to continue with Times Tables Rock Stars if your young person has an account. Try to build it in everyday as it is an excellent way to improve times table recall and speed. Contact VSK if you would like more information about TT Rock Stars.





# Tips for learning at home

Literacy can be taught through many other activities as it includes:

## Speaking and listening activities

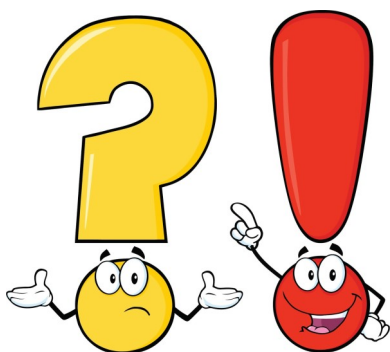
Take time to talk about current events and things they see and hear. This will help reassure them too! Watching Newsround daily on the CBBC website is a great way of helping your children access reliable, age appropriate news. Audio books are a great resource too; why not listen to David Walliams' audio stories?



## Writing - stories, poems, jokes, newspaper articles, diaries, letters and labels

Could they write a letter to a school friend who they may not see for some time? Keep a diary or a blog during this strange period of time? Resist the temptation to correct every mistake as this may inhibit creativity! Encourage correct punctuation - full stops, capital letters and spelling of easier words but praise attempts if they use a more challenging, complex word such as 'Tyrannosaurus' or 'infectious'! If your child is interested in particular topics try to plan writing opportunities around these.

Make handwriting fun by looking up jokes, rhymes and short poems to write out in their neatest handwriting and then decorate the border.



# Tips for learning at home

Try to include a variety of text types for the child to read, but this will depend on the child's age and stage in reading.

## **Avoid making it a chore or a struggle -**

Reading should be for enjoyment but it can lead to despair if too difficult. Older children could read sections of the newspaper but comics, reference material in books and online as well as fiction books are all good activities.



Take the time to read to your child as well and enjoy this with them. Talk about the story, make predictions about what will happen next and discuss the choice of words used by the author. This helps them to understand the plot, the setting and the characters as well as use of descriptive words. It's all part of their development and will support their writing.



Support young people to write a Book List—listing all the books they plan to read whilst they are at home.



# Tips for learning at home

## PE

Young children usually have bags of energy so physical activity is important. At school they will have at least two playtimes daily plus PE lessons. PE will include ball activities catching and throwing, skipping, different types of jumping, hop scotch, or just plain running, as well as team sports. Dance is another option or perhaps set up a circuit in the garden with equipment you have around the house.



(Or if you are feeling really energetic, you could all join in with Joe Wicks on YouTube!)



## Topic Work

The school may have given you some guidance about geography, history or art topics which were planned to be covered at school. These will give you other ideas about what you can research and find out about at home. Have a think about what other activities you could link to these topics to make them exciting. Consider model making, photography, art work, as well as research linked to the theme. Children love collage and collecting materials would be another activity. Can they make a book or a game linked to the theme?

## Keep connected with your child's school staff

Keep in touch with your child's school and check out their newsletters and websites to keep up to date with what is going on. They may provide additional advice and resources as time goes on. Make use of any online learning or lessons makes available for children.





# List of suggested websites for supporting learning activities

Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y FS	K S 1	K S 2	S E N D
Action for Children : support and advice for parents / carers	<a href="http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk">www.actionforchildren.org.uk</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amazing Education: On line learning (American)	<a href="http://www.amazingeducationalresources.com/">http://www.amazingeducationalresources.com/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Audio Books David Walliams audio books	<a href="https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com">https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
BBC learning : Old site but still useful	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/">http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
BBC Bite Size : Games, assessments, lessons	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/</a>	✓	✓	✓	
BBC Teach: Live lessons	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons">www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons</a>	✓	✓	✓	
Big Eyed Owl: Range of activities for KS1	<a href="http://www.BigEyedOwl.co.uk">www.BigEyedOwl.co.uk</a>	✓	✓	✓	
Blue Peter badges: You will need a stamp!	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges">https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges</a>		✓	✓	
Book trust : stories and books	<a href="http://www.booktrust.org">www.booktrust.org</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
British council: Learning English and other cultures	<a href="https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find">https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
British Science: Science workbooks	<a href="https://www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/activity-packs/">https://www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/activity-packs/</a>		✓	✓	
Captain Fantastic : Online toddler group	<a href="https://facebook.com/events/s/free-online-toddler-group/247799796254003/?tl=icl">https://facebook.com/events/s/free-online-toddler-group/247799796254003/?tl=icl</a>	✓			
Cbeebies Radio: Listening activities for the younger ones	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio">https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio</a>	✓			
Carol Vorderman: Maths resources	<a href="https://www.themathsfactor.com">https://www.themathsfactor.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	
Chatterpack: On line learning	<a href="https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning">https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓

# List of suggested websites for supporting learning activities

Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y FS	K S 1	K S 2	S E N
Childhood: Yoga exercises	<a href="https://www.childhood101.com">https://www.childhood101.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Code.org: Free fun coding activities	<a href="https://code.org/">https://code.org/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corbett Maths : Maths worksheets, videos and test papers	<a href="https://www.corbettmaths.com">https://www.corbettmaths.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	
Crickweb: Interactive games, maths and English	<a href="http://www.crickweb.co.uk">www.crickweb.co.uk</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Country Living: Live animal webcams to watch at home	<a href="https://www.countryliving.com/uk/wildlife/countryside/g31784857/live-animal-webcam-zoo/">https://www.countryliving.com/uk/wildlife/countryside/g31784857/live-animal-webcam-zoo/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crest Awards: Science awards to do from home	<a href="https://www.crestawards.org">https://www.crestawards.org</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Walliams Audio: Free daily audio book	<a href="https://bit.ly/AudioEleveses">https://bit.ly/AudioEleveses</a>		✓	✓	✓
DK Find Out: variety of topics	<a href="https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/">https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/</a>		✓	✓	
Early Years learning : Maths, English resources	<a href="https://earlylearninghq.org.uk">https://earlylearninghq.org.uk</a>	✓			
Early Years Maths : Creative, fun maths	<a href="https://family.co">https://family.co</a>	✓			
Family Days Out : Virtual tours of World museums, educational sites and galleries	<a href="https://www.familydaystriedandtested.com/free-virtual-tours-of-world-museums-educational-sites-galleries-for-children/">https://www.familydaystriedandtested.com/free-virtual-tours-of-world-museums-educational-sites-galleries-for-children/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family Learning: SENDresources	<a href="http://www.familylearning.org.uk">www.familylearning.org.uk</a>				✓
Fizz Pop Science : Live interactive science lessons	<a href="https://www.fizzpopscience.co.uk">https://www.fizzpopscience.co.uk</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y FS	K S 1	K S 2	S E N
Forish Early Years : Shape hunt	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/118807798323655/post/1229155090622248/">https://www.facebook.com/118807798323655/post/1229155090622248/</a>	✓			
Foundation Years: Early years parent led activities	<a href="https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/what-to-expect-when-1.pdf">https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/what-to-expect-when-1.pdf</a>	✓			
Fun English : English games and interactive lessons	<a href="http://www.funenglishgames.com">www.funenglishgames.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gardeners World: Gardening activities	<a href="https://www.gardenersworld.com">https://www.gardenersworld.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Go Go Yoga: Yoga exercises	<a href="https://www.gogoyogakids.com">https://www.gogoyogakids.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Go Noodle : Physical activities	<a href="http://www.gonoodle.com/">http://www.gonoodle.com/</a>	✓	✓	✓	
Google: free tours of art galleries	<a href="https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en">https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heartfulness : relaxation resources	<a href="https://www.heartfulness.uk/?utm_source=DIGITALNRG&amp;utm_medium=cpc&amp;utm_campaign=Meditation_National&amp;gclid=EAlaIQobChMiktyPxeay6AIVCbLCh3JvggOEAYASAAEgJkivD_BwE">https://www.heartfulness.uk/?utm_source=DIGITALNRG&amp;utm_medium=cpc&amp;utm_campaign=Meditation_National&amp;gclid=EAlaIQobChMiktyPxeay6AIVCbLCh3JvggOEAYASAAEgJkivD_BwE</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Horrible Histories : history activities and videos	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/horrible-histories">https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/horrible-histories</a>			✓	▪
Hungry little minds: interactive activities and games	<a href="https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/">https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/</a>	✓	✓	▪	✓
Inclusive Teach : SEN resources and printouts	<a href="https://www.inclusiveteach.com">https://www.inclusiveteach.com</a>	✓			✓
Jo Jo Gnomes : Podcast stories	<a href="https://jojognome.com">https://jojognome.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joe Wicks daily workout : PE activities for fitness	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyCLOPd4VxBvPHOpzoEk5onAEbq40g2-k">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyCLOPd4VxBvPHOpzoEk5onAEbq40g2-k</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jump start : instructions and ideas for creative play, art and craft	<a href="http://www.jumpstart.com">www.jumpstart.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Khan Academy : Maths and computing for all ages	<a href="https://www.khanacademy.org">https://www.khanacademy.org</a>	✓	✓	✓	

# List of suggested websites for supporting learning activities

Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y F5	K S 1	K S 2	S E N
Learn in Colour: Maths, science and social studies	<a href="https://www.learincolour.com">https://www.learincolour.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Literacy Trust : Early words and speech	<a href="https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/early-words-together/early-words-together-two/">https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/early-words-together/early-words-together-two/</a>	✓			
Literacy Trust : Communicaiton skills	<a href="https://literacytrust.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/home-learning-environment/small-talk/">https://literacytrust.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/home-learning-environment/small-talk/</a>	✓			
Mathsphere : Maths worksheets, booklets and games	<a href="http://www.mathsphere.co.uk">www.mathsphere.co.uk</a>		✓	✓	
Mother Could : Sensory play recipes	<a href="https://mailchi.mp/89e346c118ac/sensoryrecipes">https://mailchi.mp/89e346c118ac/sensoryrecipes</a>	✓	✓		✓
Mr Barton's Maths: Maths activities and resources	<a href="http://mrbartonmaths.com/index.html">http://mrbartonmaths.com/index.html</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Museum Tours : Virtual tour of museums around the World.	<a href="http://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours">www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours</a>			✓	▪
Mystery Science: Science experiments and investigations	<a href="https://mysteryscience.com/">https://mysteryscience.com/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nasa: Space resources	<a href="http://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub">www.nasa.gov.kidsclub</a>		✓	✓	✓
National Geographic Kids: Activities and quizzes	<a href="https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/">https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nature Detectives: Outside activities	<a href="http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/menu/">http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/menu/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nature Detectives: Outside activities	<a href="https://naturedetecti.woodlandtrust.org/naturedetectives">https://naturedetecti.woodlandtrust.org/naturedetectives</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Net Mums : Education packs	<a href="https://www.netmums.com/coronavirus/best-free-educational-resources">https://www.netmums.com/coronavirus/best-free-educational-resources</a>	✓	✓	✓	
Newsround: keep up to date with current affairs	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround">https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround</a>	▪	▪	✓	✓
NHS: Exercises and Healthy lifestyles	<a href="http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities">www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
NHS: Speech & language resources	<a href="https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/speech-and-language-therapy/early-years-language/">https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/speech-and-language-therapy/early-years-language/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓

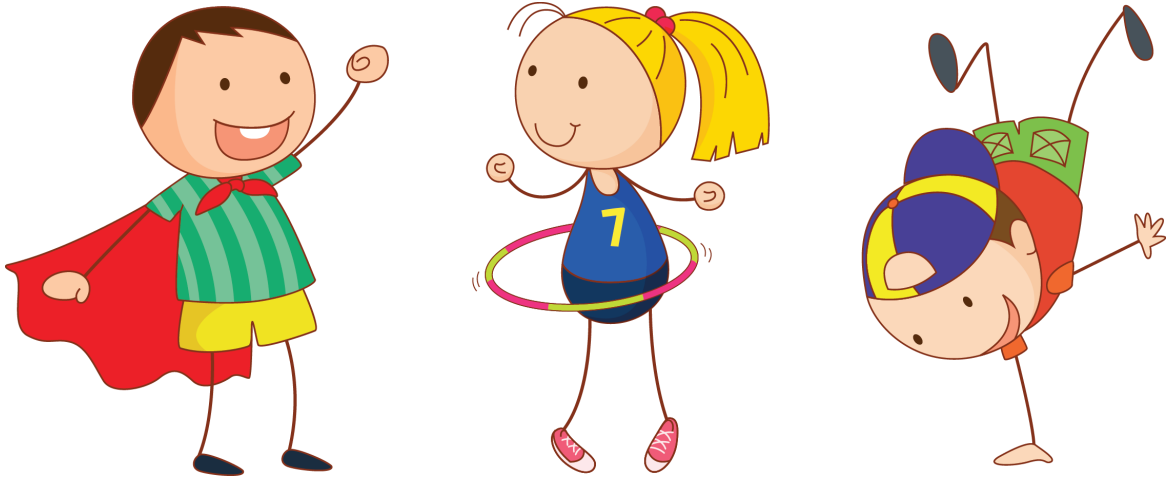
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Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y F5	K S 1	K S 2	S E N
NRICH: maths resources, puzzles and problems (with solutions!)	<a href="https://nrich.maths.org/">https://nrich.maths.org/</a>	✓	✓	✓	▪
Open Culture: Video lessons e-books and Apps	<a href="http://www.openculture.com">www.openculture.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oxford Owl for home : English and maths	<a href="https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/">https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/</a>		✓	✓	
Phonics play : Phonics lessons and resources	<a href="https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk">https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk</a>	✓	✓		
Pixi Maths : Maths resources	<a href="https://www.piximaths.co.uk">https://www.piximaths.co.uk</a>		✓	✓	
Prodigy Maths : Maths games for primary ages	<a href="https://www.prodigygame.com">https://www.prodigygame.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Ted Art : Arts and crafts	<a href="https://www.redtedart.com">https://www.redtedart.com</a>		✓	✓	
RNLI: Resources about water safety	<a href="https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/activity-sheets-and-posters">https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/activity-sheets-and-posters</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scratch & Scratch Junior: Creative computer programming	<a href="https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/">https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/</a>		✓	✓	▪
SEN : SEN resources	<a href="http://www.senresource.co.uk">www.senresource.co.uk</a>				✓
Sensory Play : Early years resource	<a href="https://www.earlyyearsresources.co.uk">https://www.earlyyearsresources.co.uk</a>	✓	✓		✓
Shodor: Maths interactive lessons, tasks and games	<a href="http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/">http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/</a>	✓	✓	✓	
Singing Hands: Sign language	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/SingingHands/">https://www.facebook.com/SingingHands/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Skill workshop: General curriculum resources	<a href="http://www.skillworkshorkshop">www.skillworkshorkshop</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Teachit Primary: Lots of resources for many subjects including helping children to understand about the coronavirus.	<a href="https://www.teachitprimary.co.uk/home">https://www.teachitprimary.co.uk/home</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓



# List of suggested websites for supporting learning activities

Name of Provider	Link Address	E Y FS	K S 1	K S 2	S E N
TedEd home : educational videos	<a href="https://www.ed.ted.com/">https://www.ed.ted.com/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Artful Parent : Good free art activities	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/">https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Imagination Tree: Arts and crafts	<a href="https://theimaginationtree.com">https://theimaginationtree.com</a>		✓	✓	
The kids should see this: Cool educational videos for children to watch	<a href="https://thekidshouldseethis.com/">https://thekidshouldseethis.com/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Literacy Shed: Films to support literacy	<a href="https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html">https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html</a>			✓	▪
The Literacy Shed: Films to support KS1	<a href="https://www.literacyshed.com/the-ks1-shed.html">https://www.literacyshed.com/the-ks1-shed.html</a>	✓	✓	▪	▪
The Planets : Science	<a href="https://theplanets.org/best-science-kits-for-kids/">https://theplanets.org/best-science-kits-for-kids/</a>		✓	✓	
The Week Junior: Current affairs magazine	<a href="http://www.theweekjunior.co.uk">www.theweekjunior.co.uk</a>		▪	✓	
Tinkercad: All kinds of making	<a href="https://www.tinkercad.com">https://www.tinkercad.com</a>		▪	▪	
Topmarks : English interactive work, games and tasks	<a href="https://www.topmarks.co.uk/">https://www.topmarks.co.uk/</a>	✓	✓	✓	
Triominos: Maths games	<a href="#">Triominos, £12.49</a>			✓	
Twinkl: Maths and literacy resources	<a href="https://www.twinkl.co.uk/">https://www.twinkl.co.uk/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Virtual author : Online story time by authors	<a href="https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities">https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Virtual Schools Activities : Live webcam tutors, virtual tours and other creative academic tasks	<a href="https://virtualschoolactivities.com/">https://virtualschoolactivities.com/</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yoga in my school : Yoga exercises	<a href="https://www.yogainmyschool.com">https://www.yogainmyschool.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yoga Kids : Yoga exercises	<a href="https://www.kidsyogastories.com">https://www.kidsyogastories.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yoga Resources : Yoga exercises	<a href="https://www.thekidsyogaresource.com">https://www.thekidsyogaresource.com</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓



We hope we have given you some inspiration as you take on the additional challenge of educating the young people in your care. VSK staff are on hand to support you in any way we can, so if you are stuck for ideas, please [contact us!](#) We will do all that we can to support you and the children through this very difficult time.

***Stay safe everyone!***

Loved Ones

Dear family, friends and loved ones,  
Brothers, sisters, daughters and sons,  
Grandmas, grandpas, uncles and aunts too,

I'm talking to the whole crew:

I know we all have to keep apart,  
But soon enough, we'll have a fresh start.

This is just a reminder,  
Although this may be a long road,

Please remember,

I love you loads!

**Poem by Tia  
VSK Participation Team**

