Hello everyone!! First and foremost, I hope everyone is well and staying safe during this difficult period and have found a variety of new and innovative approaches to spending more time at home! The entire Brook Field team are missing the children terribly and we are really looking forward to normal service resuming as soon as it is safe to do so. I must say, although the teachers have been working in a different way with the children, some of the activities and work that has been produced from home has been outstanding! I have pieced together a few examples to showcase but I could have included hundreds! Here is just a small selection of the imagination, creativity and application of key skills the children have produced:

DON’T FORGET – TEACHERS ARE NOW UPDATING DB PRIMARY CLASS PAGES DAILY, WITH APPROPRIATE TASKS AND ACTIVITIES, WHilst ALSO RESPONDING TO ALL UPLOADED WORK AND MESSAGES FROM THE CHILDREN (DB Primary is one of many sites the children can access from our VLE links on the school website: https://www.brookfieldprimary.org/vle-links/)

Year 6
Using certain parts of the willow pattern plate images, create your own fabulous sentences.

As the willow tree inhaled a fresh morning breeze, a middle-aged man with a temper like a rhino stormed past in a huff.

Far far away in a forgotten land, two young people, who had recently been in captivity, played an elegant violin tune together for everlasting harmony.

After they had escaped by the skin of their teeth, the wind was singing a peaceful melody, which sounded like the essence of love.
Year 4

Wildlife on the Mississippi River

**Mammals:** Mammals in the park range from tiny, secretive northern shrews to more obvious animals such as otters, beavers, coyotes, and white-tailed deer. Black bears and mountain lions may rarely wander through the park, although neither represent resident populations.

**Birds:** The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area has sites of different habitats available for birds making it a haven for many species. Migrating birds use the river as a major migratory path in both spring and autumn.

**Mussels:** Mussel populations, once rare to non-existent in the river, are becoming increasingly common. While they are often overlooked mussels play a significant role in the river’s ecology and have fascinating life histories.

My River

The model of my river includes a mountain, a hill, a road, a bridge, some beaches and the sea.

The source of the river is in the craggy mountain.
Year 3

Just before Easter we had a Geography task linked to our mapping objectives. We could either:

- Create a sound map of near our house;
- Draw a map of our local area from memory or;
- Design our own Roman Town (linked to our History)

Here is an example of each type of map from Macy (Sound), Alfie (Local area) and Neve (Roman Town).

Year 3 Work

Natalia’s Easter Cupcakes and clocks for telling the time to 5-minute intervals.

Some imperative verb work for our instruction writing and calculating how long events take to happen from Elsie and Iris.
Year 2
Year 1
We **ABSOLUTELY LOVE** seeing all the fantastic work you are producing; it really gives us a cheer, thank you!!!! Please keep sending it to us.

**Our School Value this Term is:**

**RESPECT**

Perhaps the children could e-mail me, via DB Primary, of all the things they have been doing at home and around the house demonstrating this value. I would love to hear from them!
Continue Home Learning Opportunities

As many of you are aware, the new Home Learning Activities tab on our website has proved extremely useful. Simply access our website and click on the: ‘Our School’ page. Or use the attached link: https://www.brookfieldprimary.org/home-learning-resources/ On here you will find a vast range of different subjects’ materials and weblinks, including an Oracy section. Do visit this page regularly, as in addition to the list of resources and advice, there are topics for discussion and debate that are renewed daily.

Helping you make the most of this time to talk together and have great debates!

Would you rather...

live in a house made of pudding, OR a house made of marshmallow?

Would you rather...

have one year of winter and then 5 months of summer OR two years of winter and 1 year of summer?

Topics for meal time conversations...

What do you think adults need to remember about being a child to help them bring up children well?

Are you mostly a leader or a follower?

Why is it so important to find time to keep up with reading at home?

Reading allows children to discover new worlds, meet new people and learn about the past, while sparking imagination, stimulating critical thinking and helping children develop empathy. What’s more, we know that children who enjoy reading and read widely are more likely to do better in school and be happier with their lives (National Literacy Trust (2018) Mental wellbeing, reading and writing).

In this difficult time, it’s really important that parents and families create time in their daily routines to share books and stories together. Not only will it provide enjoyable moments as a family, but by encouraging children to keep practising their literacy skills at home, it will help them feel confident and prepared to go back to the classroom and ensure
they do not fall behind. Reading with your child for as little as 10 minutes a day can make all the difference. (Oxford University Press (2013) Books Beyond Time)

How can I access new books from the confinement of my home?

Do visit our School’s website, in particular the home learning tab of Reading and writing: https://www.brookfieldprimary.org/english/, where there is a vast range of links to authors reading aloud, book suggestions and links to texts that are regularly being updated.

Also for information on which colour book your child/ren should be reading and the next colour to move on to, please visit on our website, Our Ethos & Curriculum, Reading: https://www.brookfieldprimary.org/reading/. A fantastic FREE RESOURCE at the moment is: https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/school-closure-resources/ A powerpoint has been attached to the email accompanying this newsletter to take you through a very quick and easy approach to accessing Phonics and banded e-books for free!!

As well as listening to free audiobooks through Audible, there are several apps you can use to access books and stories at home. Here are three great examples below, and you can find more through our handy guide to literacy apps:

Libby allows you to borrow ebooks and audiobooks from your local library using your device
Borrow Box allows you to borrow audiobooks and ebooks for free in the app
CBeebies Storytime app makes reading fun, with playful and imaginative stories featuring CBeebies characters designed to help support early years reading
Many incredible authors and illustrators are also reading daily stories online for children and families, including Oliver Jeffers, Steve Anthony and Rob Biddulph.

Visit the National Literacy Trust’s brand new Family Zone for more ideas and guidance for simple activities that will engage your children at home, while also benefiting their reading, writing and language development.

For more advice and information please visit: https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/

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30 Day LEGO Challenge

Follow the instructions for each day. The only rule is to have fun and use your imagination!

Day 1: You were invited to a wizard’s party. Build a castle or a wizard’s hat.

Day 2: Build a Jedediah Smith type of house.

Day 3: Build a ship.

Day 4: Build a robot.

Day 5: Build a minivan.

Day 6: Build a train.

Day 7: Build a truck.

Day 8: Build a castle.

Day 9: Build a dragon.

Day 10: Build a castle.

Day 11: Build a robot.

Day 12: Build a train.

Day 13: Build a truck.

Day 14: Build a castle.

Day 15: Build a dragon.

Day 16: Build a robot.

Day 17: Build a train.

Day 18: Build a truck.

Day 19: Build a castle.

Day 20: Build a dragon.

Day 21: Build a robot.

Day 22: Build a train.

Day 23: Build a truck.

Day 24: Build a castle.

Day 25: Build a dragon.

Day 26: Build a robot.

Day 27: Build a train.

Day 28: Build a truck.

Day 29: Build a castle.

Day 30: Build a dragon.

What was your favorite day?
Family Support Top Tips

- Use of a timer
  - to set a challenge
  - for time out
  - for school work
  - exercise/dance routine
  - reading

- Create a calm down area
  - helps to diffuse a situation
  - gives space a time to calm down
  - helps with anxiety
  For a child this is often their bedroom, they could create a corner like a den. You can also have a box in there for the child to help them calm down. Some ideas for the box; pencil and paper, colouring pad, cuddly toy, slime, books.

- Make a worry box (perhaps use an old shoe box)
  - good for children/adults who struggle to verbalise their feelings
  - family to talk together about the worries for reassurance
  - everyone can share their worries
  Find a place that isn’t too obvious to place the box. Leave some paper and a pen next to the box.

- Set a Routine (maybe use the back of an old cereal box)
  - the ‘new’ normal
  - adds structure and helps with anxiety
  - learn new things
  - whole family input to aid fairness
  - provides ‘free choice’
  The activities that you decide upon could be on separate strips of card, so that you can decide on the order of events for the day together.

- 100 acts of Kindness Chart
  Each to write down some family rewards onto small pieces of paper.
  Then fold up an put in a jar.
  Get a large piece of paper and divide into 100 squares
  Write a number from 1 to 100 in each square – this could be in order or randomly.
  When a family member does an act of kindness they get to colour the square in.
  When completed one member of the family chooses a reward randomly from the jar.
Chess Opportunity for Brook Field Children

Play virtual chess on - Chesskid for Schools

In conjunction with our chess coach, Mr Girdlestone, Brook Field has signed up to the above online chess website which provides learning and playing opportunities designed for children aged 5-11. The website provides access to instructional videos, 1000's of puzzles and the children are able to play other children in a completely safe, anonymous environment.

If you think your child would be interested and would like to learn to play or improve their existing chess skills then e-mail the school at: parents@brookfield.swindon.sch.uk (please use Chesskid in the subject/title) with your child's name and we will issue you with your unique password and username as well as a document explaining how to get started and what to expect from the website. We hope you enjoy and perhaps learn a new skill?

https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/chesskid-for-schools

Staying Safe On-Line

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- Thinkyouknow (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- Internet matters (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Parent info (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- LGfL (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Net-aware (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

Free or cheap play ideas!

- Balloon tennis
- Memory games, also known as Kim’s Game—using a tray. Place items on a tray, use a minute timer and then cover the items. See how many items you can remember.
- Design your own game. Perhaps based on a favourite game, your own version of snakes and ladders – stairs and slides!
- Make a den – in or outside
- Using a bubble wand pop bubbles – great exercise too
- Make playdough – https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe
• Have a picnic at home, perhaps make menu or place cards to accompany it, lay a blanket out in the living room or garden. Perhaps make it a teddy bear’s picnic

Helpful links

With Coronavirus (COVID-19) dominating the headlines both on the television and online, children and young people are likely to be asking a lot of questions. Sometimes it can be difficult to know how to approach discussions in an honest and age appropriate way. Below are some links to tips and further information, explaining how best to approach coronavirus conversations with children.


https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51734855

Sports Report

Term 4 was continuing to prove frustrating due to the wet weather, with all the girls’ football matches and several boys’ matches having to be postponed. On one occasion, even the Astroturf, we were going to use was flooded! Brook Field was in the process of gearing up to take part in several Fortius PE Competitions such as a Tag Rugby Tournament and a Netball Festival before other events took over!

Gymnastics Competition

During the morning of Thursday 12th March, Mrs Swift and Mrs Vincent took a team of six Year 1s and a team of seven Year 4s to Abbey Park School for the Fortius Gymnastics Competition. The winners and runners-up of the Years 3/4 event are able to go forward to represent Swindon in the Wiltshire County Finals. The Gymnastics Competition sees the performance of a set routine that becomes progressively more challenging for the older groups. Each gymnast performs the routine individually with all the scores added together for the overall team score to decide the order in which the schools finish.

Everyone performed brilliantly and we did extremely well. Mrs Swift and Mrs Vincent were very proud of all the children, including several who were taking part in their very first competition. We are delighted that the Year 1 team came second overall (out of six teams) and the Year 4 team came third (out of ten teams).

Mrs Vincent and Mrs Swift cannot remember the order of those competing but, as you can see from the results’ tables below, our Gymnast No. 1 from Year 4 was the top individual scorer with 9.9 in their age category and Gymnast No. 3 from our Year 1 team joint top scored also with 9.9 in their age group.

Year 1 Results

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Year 3/4 Results

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Unfortunately, the Year 4 team didn’t quite make it to the County Finals this year but both teams came back to school buzzing and showing off their lovely medals for finishing second and third.

A huge “thank you” to one of the Year 1 mum’s (sorry, not sure which one?!) who bought the leotards for her daughter and the other three girls in the team! It was really appreciated and made them look very smart. Thank you as well to all the parents who provided transport and to Mrs Swift and Mrs Vincent for coaching the teams and getting them prepared and “competition ready!” Congratulations to everybody in the Year 1 and Year 4 teams – you were amazing!