



SOUTH WEST EDITION

FAMILY MATTERS

SUMMER 2020



STAYCATION IDEAS



BE BACK TO SCHOOL READY



SCHOOL NEWS

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WELCOME

Hello, it's been a while!

We hope you've been keeping well and managing to keep everyone happy and healthy during this weird time.

With no school, we're sure you parents are wondering what exactly there is left to do until September when it is hoped schools can reopen, there is only so much crafting and cake baking you can do after all. That's why we thought we'd produce this digital edition which will hopefully fill you with inspiration on things to do until schools can reopen again.

We're optimistic the next time we catch up it'll be September and things will start to return to normal, in the meantime, stay safe, make sure to follow the latest advice and guidelines and we hope to see you all in print form soon.

From all of us here at Family Matters, we hope that you have a great summer, despite all the current weirdness and we'll see you on the other side!

Published by Ignite Media Ltd - email: info@ignite-uk.co.uk call: 01761 410141
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Britain's hidden gems | Staycation ideas for families

If you're anything like us, you're likely bored of seeing your own four walls. Lockdown has been a stressful time and you're probably in need of a holiday, but what are your options?

With the economy suffering under the pandemic, people not being at work and the tourism industry effectively closed, it can be hard to know just where you can take the family for a much needed break this summer.

That's where we come in, heading overseas is going to be difficult for a little while, both financially and physically, so why not choose a staycation? Many of the UK's holiday accommodation providers are taking bookings for July onwards with Covid-19 safety measures in place, with this in mind, we've come up with this list of amazing hidden gems which are perfect for a family get away this summer!

The beach |

While we can't be in the Canaries or sunning ourselves in the south of France while the kids build sandcastles, try out some of these British beach suggestions:

Pembrokeshire, Wales

The Pembrokeshire coast has some truly incredible beaches and coves including the Elegug Stacks which, if you get good weather, can make you believe you're somewhere much more exotic. Not only does Pembrokeshire have a huge range of beaches and family friendly accommodation options, but you also have access to the National Park and a host of fascinating attractions including Pembroke Castle.

Bamburgh Beach, Northumberland

This beach is overlooked by a castle if you want something otherworldly and mystical to inspire the kids. It's the ideal beach holiday for those that love long walks and beautiful views, though there isn't much in the way of sunbathing here unfortunately.

Pelistry Bay, Isles Of Scilly

Want to feel like you've at least left the mainland? This might be the spot for you, Pelistry Bay often

tops lists of Britain's hidden gems and with the clear blue seas and white sand, you and the kids can easily imagine being abroad.

West Voe, Shetland, Scotland

Ok, it is quite a trip, but then, so is getting everyone to an airport, on a plane and safely to your destination on the other side. While it might be hard to believe, Scotland has some of the most incredible beaches in the UK and those in the Shetlands are no exception.

And if you want to be in the heart of the action...

If you are looking for somewhere more popular, there is always the English Riviera, where you'll find Torquay, Brixham, Teignmouth, Dawlish and other popular Devon locations, the Jurassic Coast which has Lyme Regis and Sidmouth among others or the Dorset coast; Weymouth, Bournemouth etc. Cornwall is another good choice too as there is plenty of different coastal settings to choose from!

Rural retreat |

If you want to get away and have plenty of space to run around with the kids, with safe social distancing, take a look at these more rural destinations.

The Lake District

Again, it is a fair way to the Lake District, but once you get there it is so worth it. It is one of the UK's most beautiful places and is full of historic villages, outdoor pursuits and if you have any little readers among your party, has loads of connections to Beatrix Potter including her former home and a museum dedicated to her.

Herefordshire

Heading into the Midlands and bordering Wales is the county of Herefordshire where you can find popular spots like the Forest of Dean. Like its neighbouring counties, Herefordshire is full of open space, cosy cottages and more making it a great spot for those of you wanting to get away, but have the choice to self-isolate if you like.

The Norfolk Broads

The Norfolk Broads, while pretty much on the opposite side of the country is full of fields, rivers and lakes for you to enjoy and being such a vast area, it's unlikely you'll cross paths with many other holiday hunters.

Other honourable mentions:

Of course, Cornwall, Wales and Devon all get another shout out here as all three places have amazing countryside options. If you fancy travelling to the North, there are loads of options in Yorkshire and the surrounding area and for those of you wanting to go east, Kent has lots of amazing places for a rural hideaway.



City break |

Not everyone enjoys the great outdoors, some crave the hustle and bustle of city life. Visiting a city post lockdown won't have quite the same atmosphere due to social distancing, but if you do want a city break you have many choices within the UK.

London

While lots of the capital's main attractions will still be restricted, including many of the theatres and museums, the city itself is open for business so you can still enjoy the architecture and history. Make sure to avoid public transport at peak times and to adhere to the current guidelines if you visit.

Birmingham

The Midland's major city is just a short jaunt along the motorway for many of us, so why not spend a few days holed up there? It's a great place for those of you wanting a shopping break or just a change of scenery. While it is a city, Birmingham has canals and there are green spaces surrounding it too so you can enjoy the best of both worlds!

Cambridge

For a city that doesn't feel like a city, why not head somewhere like Cambridge for a few days? Compared to other major UK cities, this one is fairly quiet, especially at the moment when the university students aren't around as much. It is also one of the UK's prettiest cities, so you'll have plenty to look at as you explore.

Swansea

Known as Wales' Art City, Swansea is a hot bed for culture. While we won't be watching any bands perform any time soon, the atmosphere still exists and there are lots of murals and street art for you to spot as you wander around

Why not combine coast with city and visit somewhere like Exeter, Plymouth, Brighton or Bournemouth? These places have everything you could want from a city, while also having a beach giving you the best of both worlds? Similarly, for a rural retreat with city life, you can stay in Bath or Bristol where you have access to some incredible countryside walks and views right on the doorstep, without having to stray too far from the city centre.



Inspired by any of these staycation ideas? Let us know. You can find us on Facebook and Twitter @ukfamilymatters

Welcome back to America: no passport required!

If it's fresh air and space to spend socially distanced time with friends and family you are after, then the gardens the American Museum & Gardens, are just what you need.

Opened in September 2018 by Alan Titchmarsh, the New American Garden is the first European commission for Washington DC-based landscape architects Oehme van Sweden. Native American shrubs, perennials, and bulbs feature heavily, but the garden is designed to work with the steep terrain and enhance the view over the Limpley Stoke Valley, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Museum's gardens also feature a reproduction of George Washington's upper garden as it would have appeared on his Mount Vernon estate in Virginia in 1799. Our Mount Vernon garden features ornamental planting, fruit and vegetables, and boxwood hedges in the shape of four fleur de lis which symbolise the friendship between America's first president and the Marquis de Lafayette.



Inside Claverton Manor - a shared journey

The Manor house is the home of the Museum's main collection. It is the only Museum outside the United States to showcase the decorative arts of America. The permanent collection includes more than two hundred historic American quilts, exceptional pieces of Shaker furniture, Native American objects, and two hundred historical maps of the New World from the twelfth century to the Renaissance. The Museum also has the most significant collection of American folk art in Europe.

For more information about planning a visit to the American Museum & Gardens visit www.americanmuseum.org

A wide shot of a garden path with purple flowers and a blue wave graphic at the bottom. The path is paved and leads through a garden with various plants and flowers. The blue wave graphic is at the bottom of the image.

 American Museum & Gardens

Bath's best kept secret

americanmuseum.org Bath, BA2 7BD

© Rebecca Barnhill

Enjoy the sun safely this summer

As the weather gets better and further restrictions are lifted coming out of lockdown, all of you will be eager to get outside and enjoy the sunshine, so we've come up with these four top tips so you can enjoy the warm weather safely!

Avoid the sun during peak hours

As hard as that might be, try to limit the time you spend in the sun when it is at its hottest, particularly if we get the summer heatwave we hear about every year. Check the weather before heading out for a day trip so you can time it to be inside or under shade during the hottest part of the day. Overheating can be dangerous, especially for younger children, the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.



Sun cream is your friend

We know, it smells and it feels horrible on your skin and the kids no doubt wiggle and moan while you're applying it, but it is important. No matter what the temperature is, if you're going out in the sun you should make sure the whole family has any exposed areas covered with some form of sun cream, the higher the SPF the better.

Stay hydrated

If you're going out into the sunshine, whether that's for a walk, a trip to the beach or just a run around the garden, make sure to have plenty of water or squash on hand to keep everyone hydrated. Becoming dehydrated can lead to headaches and sickness, so keep everyone topped up and try to avoid fizzy drinks and alcohol (that one's for the parents!) if you can it might feel refreshing, but these drinks actually aid dehydration – water is always better!



Wear a hat

It might not go with your outfit, but keeping your head covered when it is hot out will help you avoid conditions like sunstroke and will also help keep your scalp and the back of your neck protected as these are places you'll often get sunburnt. Wearing sun glasses is also recommended to protect your eyes from the sun's glare.





The Reading Agency and Libraries Present

SILLY SQUAD

Summer Reading Challenge 2020

The Summer Reading Challenge is back and this year, the organisers are inviting you to join the Silly Squad and get involved with reading over the summer months!

The challenge is a great way to get involved with reading and to engage with each other – whether that’s family or friends, while you celebrate your reading achievements!

It doesn’t even have to be a book, the reading challenge covers everything from newspapers, magazines, ebooks, audio books, comics and just about everything in between!

The Summer Reading Challenge was created by The Reading Agency and works with public libraries to challenge children aged 4-11 to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure over the summer holidays – not only does it keep their minds active, but by getting them involved in reading, you are also helping them develop hobbies and providing lots of fun and enjoyment into the bargain! Part of the challenge includes discussing what they’ve read, they could even host their own Summer Reading Challenge book club – while adhering to safety guidelines of course!

Usually, parents are encouraged to visit their local library to let the children pick their reads for the challenge, this year, because of Coronavirus, libraries are operating a little differently, but that doesn’t mean you can’t still access a great range of books and comics to read. Libraries West has a number of apps

to help you find amazing books to enjoy this summer, simply download CloudLibrary, Borrow Box and RB Digital from your app store, log in with your library details and read away!

The Silly Squad Book Collection

Part of the fun of the Summer Reading Challenge is finding your own books to read, but if you need a bit of inspiration, the Silly Squad have put together their own collection of funny books specially chosen by children and librarians to get you going!

You can see these, and a wide range of adult books, so parents can join in too, on the Summer Reading Challenge website,

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

All the recommended reads and a whole host more are available from your local library throughout the summer!

We’d love to know how you get on during this year’s challenge, so don’t forget to get in touch with us on Facebook or Twitter [@ukfamilymatters](https://twitter.com/ukfamilymatters) or send us an email info@familymatters-uk.co.uk – we’ll even feature you in the next issue’s WOW section!

YOUNGER READER SUGGESTIONS:

Agent Weasel and the Fiendish Fox Gang Book 1
by Nick East

Bad Nana: Older Not Wiser
by Sophy Henn

Monsters go to School
by Zanna Davidson and
Melanie Williamson

Chick and Brain: Smell My Foot by Cece Bell

Unicorn Muddle
by Hannah Shaw.

And loads more!

MIDDLE GRADE READERS, AN EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE LIST:

The Amelia Fang stories
by Laura Ellen Anderson

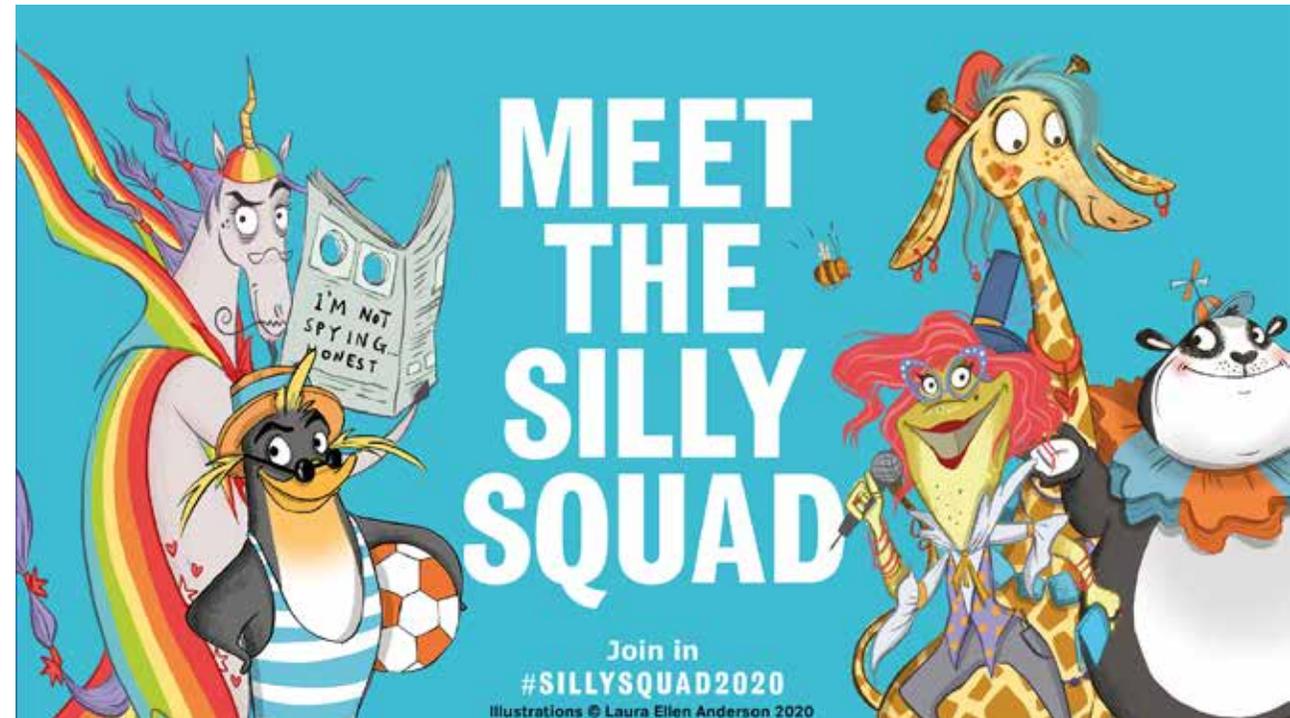
Dragon Detective: Catnapped
by Gareth P Jones

Laura Norder, Sheriff of Butts Canyon
by Guy Bass and Steve May

The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates by Jenny Pearson and Rob Biddulph

Storm Hound
by Claire Fayers

Head online to see more recommendations!



Self-care tips for living through a pandemic

We all cope with traumatic situations differently, but no matter how you feel about the world at the moment, we're sure the Covid-19 break out and the subsequent lockdown took a real toll on you and your family's mental health. These are unprecedented times and our lives have all been changed drastically in a bid to limit infection, but it is just as important to look after your mental health as well as your physical health. The government published guidance on how you can do this, but we know that it can be tough when it isn't just you to look after. Here are some ways you can keep your mind, as well as your body healthy.

Too much news

Staying informed is important, but continual bad news is not good for you. Limit your news intake by signing up to news alerts on your phone, so you're informed of breaking news without having to keep a news channel in the background or try just watching one TV news bulletin a day.

Get enough sleep

We know it's tough with the kids not at school and many families working from home, but try to keep to regular sleep patterns. If you can, try to get up at the same time you normally would for work and school. Maintain the same bedtimes, lack of sleep has a huge impact on the way we are feeling.

Cut back on coffee and alcohol

We know, big ask at the moment, but you'll feel better for it, trust us!

Do the things you enjoy

One way to keep your mind healthy and happy is to do the things you enjoy, take time to read a book, go for a walk or whatever else you enjoy. If you can involve the rest of the family too, that's even better! You might end up discovering something you can all continue to do together!

Eat healthy

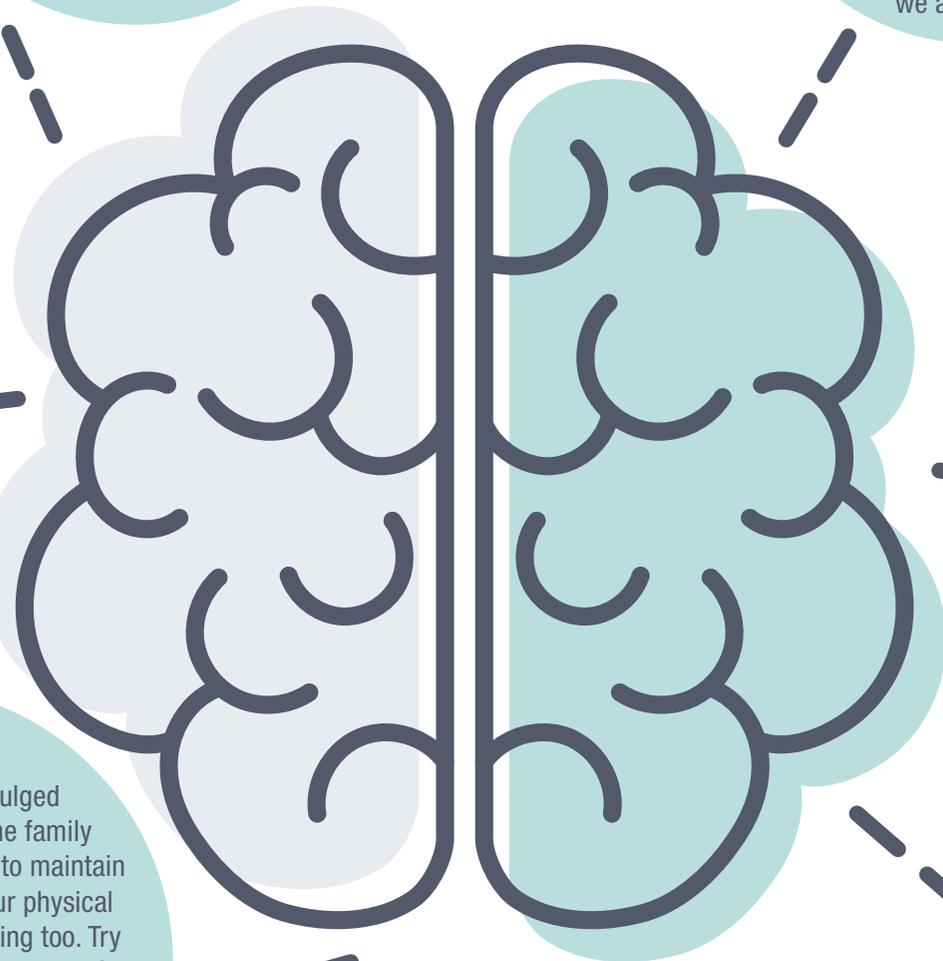
No doubt you'll have indulged in a bit of baking to keep the family entertained, but it's important to maintain a healthy diet not only for your physical health but your mental wellbeing too. Try to avoid things packed with sugar; opt for fruits, nuts and vegetables instead. With all the extra free time, lockdown provided the perfect excuse to do more home cooking, so try to continue this as restrictions ease where you can.

Credible sources

Seen some scary information on Facebook? Ignore it. Visit sources which are up to date and credible, like the NHS website or a credible news source. The official government website is a good place to go for all the latest guidelines as we move forward.

Keep talking

Talking about your thoughts and feelings is a good way to ease stress, make sure to keep in touch with friends and family, via the phone or internet and talk to them, encourage them to talk too, helping others has been proven to be just as affective in keeping us mentally well.



"BACK TO SCHOOL READY!"

For many of you, it has been months since you've stepped foot in a classroom and we're sure you're all eager to get back into the swing of things.

However, it doesn't matter how excited you are to get back into a more normal routine, the idea of going back to school can be incredibly daunting. There will be certain restrictions in place in regards to break times, some lessons and school meals, which will be managed by individual schools, together with the advice issued by your school and these tips, you should be ready for heading back to school with as little anxiety as possible.

GRADUALLY REINTRODUCE ROUTINES

It's much less stressful to get ready for heading back to school and the new academic year if you do it gradually rather than just springing it on the kids when September rolls around. Make sure to keep up to date with the latest communication from the school with regards to lunch times and uniforms and give yourself plenty of time to start getting back into the routine. Start by bringing in a morning routine, getting the kids up early and implementing set times for lunch and bed. This will make the transition back to school much easier.

GET ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT READY

Shops are open now, but social distancing and as the wider world gets back into the swing of things, it might take you a while to pick up all the bits and pieces that you need for going back to school. If you start early enough, by the time September rolls around, you'll have everything you need. No one wants to wake up on their first day of school to find out that their shoes don't fit or that they don't know where their favourite pen has gone. By starting early you can get the kids involved too, allowing them to pick their own lunchbox or pencil case will help the more reluctant kids get excited about going back to school.

KEEP THEIR MINDS ACTIVE

We're sure you're bored of home schooling by now, but it's important not to let the kids get out of the habit of working, even if it is just a gardening project or taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge. It'll get them used to the idea of doing homework again and will keep their productivity and motivation working.



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www.crispinschool.co.uk

We have been walking through woodland and fields more than ever due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

Many of us have been going on long walks through the countryside and as the Summer continues, will be doing so even more.

One thing you should be aware whilst walking through fields and woodlands are ticks. Ticks live in grass or other grassy plants, typically grass that has been left to grow wild. They grab hold of any animal that brushes past them. It is true that there has been much more awareness over

recent years about Lyme's Disease, a condition brought on by infected tick bites that which left untreated causes all manner of debilitating symptoms, but that doesn't mean we should be scared of letting the kids run wild in the outdoors.

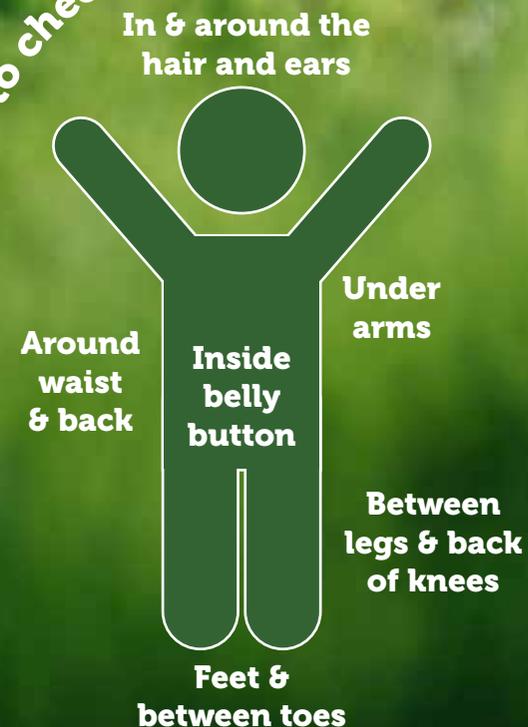
Not every tick is infected and not every insect bite your children might receive from playing outside will be from a tick, but to be on the safe side, it is something you can talk to them about before letting them enjoy the outside. To remove a tick safely, use fine tipped tweezers to grab it as

close to the head as possible without squeezing its body or twisting, the aim is to get the whole tick. You only need to see a GP if a rash or flu like symptoms develop, like most things, the earlier any infection is treated, the less likely it is that you'll develop adverse symptoms. The majority of cases can be cleared up with a course of antibiotics and are first spotted by noticing a rash which is often described as looking like a bulls-eye. The most important thing is to not panic and to make sure your children are aware of their environment.

LYME DISEASE & ticks



Where to check for ticks



To reduce the risk of being bitten:

Cover your skin while walking outdoors and tuck your trousers into your socks.

Use insect repellent on your clothes and skin – products containing DEET are best.

Stick to paths whenever possible.

Wear light-coloured clothing so ticks are easier to spot and brush off.

News and Reviews

A staple part of Family Matters is sharing all your school achievements and news each term. As many schools have been closed or pupils are learning in a different way to usual, we don't have as many stories to share with you, but we do have a few from before and during lockdown from across our distribution area.

If you have any great stories to share from lockdown make sure to let us know on Facebook and Twitter, you can find us at [@ukfamilymatters](https://www.facebook.com/ukfamilymatters), or via email at info@familymatters-uk.co.uk.



MILLFIELD HOLIDAY COURSES

We're running a number of holiday courses this summer for children aged 5-17.

The health and safety of children and staff is always our top priority. To keep everyone safe, we've introduced a number of additional hygiene and safety measures to our courses. Find out more on our website using the link below.

BOOK ONLINE
millfieldenterprises.com/courses

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MILLFIELD ENTERPRISES

HOLIDAY COURSES AND FACILITY HIRE AT MILLFIELD THIS SUMMER

This summer Millfield Enterprises will be running holiday courses for children aged 4-16. The health and safety of guests and staff is always top priority, and to keep everyone safe, they've introduced a number of additional hygiene and safety measures. Because of this, the courses will take on a slightly different format than usual as they adhere to Government guidelines.

Alongside the usual holiday courses, they are also running an Academic Catch Up course for students who have just completed Year 9 or Year 10 and want to prepare for going back to the classroom in the next academic year. Each subject will last three hours and will look at key curriculum topics of the subject to help students with their GCSE preparation. To find out more about the courses on offer and the additional measures in place please see millfieldenterprises.com/courses

Millfield are pleased to announce that they're also opening up some of the outdoor facilities for one-hour bookings this summer. Again, with the health and safety of guests and staff in mind, they have introduced some additional hygiene and safety measures for bookings. To find out more about the facilities available to hire and the additional measures in place see millfieldenterprises.com/facilities

YEAR 3 CHEDDAR GORGE WORKSHOP

As part of their Stone Age topic, Year 3 from Elmhurst spent some time working with Cheddar Gorge prior to lockdown.



Each class was visited by two cavemen and took part in numerous activities including looking at a variety of artefacts and learning about life during the Stone Age.



The visitors explained the importance of fire and showed the children the many ways that Stone Age men would have started them using friction or percussion fire lighting. The class used a King Alfred's cake from an Ash tree to hold an ember and blew on it, watching it glow red. Whilst out and about,

they foraged for plants and berries that would have been gathered during the Stone Age and there was an opportunity to dress as a Stone Age man, wearing furs, leathers and spears. Luckily this leather was cleaner than back then- ask a Year 3 about brains and urine!



In the afternoon, they carefully watched the visitors flint knapping- turning a rock into arrowheads, scrapers and knives. In an attempt to make their own Stone Age spearhead, we carved bars of soap into the perfect shape.





CONGRATULATIONS, KADEN, MATILDA AND JAKE!

Congratulations to Oakfield Academy pupils Kaden Hunter, Matilda Conway and Jake Stickley for their winning entries in a competition to design a tracksuit for 'Illusive London', an urban sportswear brand, earlier this year.

Their design talent and understanding of what appeals to a target audience of their age won them vouchers of £200 (Matilda) and £100 (Kaden & Jake) to spend with the company.

Well done to these budding fashion designers.



LOCKDOWN GARDENING AT ASHCOTT PRIMARY

Children of Key Workers from Ashcott Primary School spent the last few months of lockdown in school and were very busy tending to the school allotment every day, growing a huge range of healthy vegetables.

The allotment is usually looked after by the school gardening club which is supported by a large group of willing volunteer gardeners from the Ashcott Village Garden Club who pass on their skills and tips for growing vegetables successfully.

Since the club has not been able to continue running as a result of the lockdown, the children of Key Workers took over the responsibility with enthusiasm, supported by the school staff, who have all been learning about gardening together and looking after the 16 raised beds in the school grounds.

The children have grown potatoes, onions, radish, lettuce, garlic, peas, mange tout, carrots, spinach and many more tasty veggie treats. They are looking forward to being able to taste the fruits of their labour as they begin harvesting some of the vegetables.

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SHOSCOMBE SCHOOL PRODUCES NEW BOOK WHILE IN LOCKDOWN

Shoscombe School's pupils might have been out of school since lockdown began in March, but that doesn't mean they haven't been kept busy. Together, from their own homes, they have produced a new school-wide book.

Speaking to reporters, Ruth Noall, headteacher, said: "Our school follows Jane Considine's Write Stuff approach to the teaching of writing from Reception through to Year 6. Normally this writing session takes place in class each day, but of course, this was not possible at this unprecedented time. Instead, assistant head and English lead, Tania Rorison, created

a series of filmed daily lessons shared with pupils through our website.

"Each day, pupils watched a different clip from La Luna, a Pixar film, and responded by writing a sentence using various grammatical devices. Sentences were then uploaded to the child's portfolio. Some were selected each day and stitched together to form a whole class story."

Copies of the book can be viewed on the school website where you can also read other whole school stories produced during lockdown inspired by Piper and Where the Horizon Melts.

'WE'LL MEET AGAIN' EXPERIENCE FOR WESTBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Before lockdown, Westbury Junior pupils in Year 5 were completely immersed in a 'We'll Meet Again' experience at STEAM in Swindon.

This involved dressing in 1940's attire, taking 'rationed' packed lunches and gas mask boxes they had made in their Design and Technology class. During the day, the pupils experienced life inside an Air Raid shelter, on an evacuation train and even talked to people who were their age during the outbreak of World War 2.

It was an incredibly memorable experience for all involved and credit must be given to the staff at STEAM for providing such a wonderful event for the children.



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