

SENsational learning ideas – Journeys

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our seventh edition of the SENsational newsletter. Our theme of journeys this week recognises that families can now begin to travel further. We will have a short break next week and our next newsletter will be published in the week beginning 1 June so we have included additional activities for you.

Thought for the week

“It is good to have an end to journey towards: but it is the journey that matters, in the end.”

Ursula Le Guin. Writer.



Deciding what to do

Over the weeks we have suggested some different ways to decide on activities. Here is a reminder of some of these.

- Plan and choose activities together with your child to take account of their interests. Let everyone in the family contribute.
- Choose a variety of activities to include learning, active, creative, wellbeing and play.
- Create a daily or weekly timetable.
- Draw a rainbow and plan different types of activities for each colour for example home learning, outside activities, board game, helping others, calm and happy.
- Plan activities linked to national events.

There are lots of resources and suggestions for activities on our home learning website.

<https://www.integra.co.uk/home-learning/>

National events

Here are some upcoming national events that link to our theme.

26 May	Paper Aeroplane Day	Design, make and fly paper aeroplanes. Have a family competition to find which one can make the longest journey!
25 – 31 May is map reading week. Get involved with activities in your local area. Plan future journeys and use maps to find interesting places https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/map-reading-week/		
May is also Photo Month https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/photo-month/ Celebrate by taking photos on your favourite family walking routes to make into maps or find all those family photos to share.		

[#MentalHealthAwarenessWeek](#) social & emotional learning [#kindness](#) challenge from Barnardo's NI. Get the whole family involved and see if you can complete the challenge! pic.twitter.com/wkmZS9wTLz

Supporting children back to school

- If your children are returning to school after the holidays please see these useful resources.
- A back to school pack full of excellent activities that can be done at home with your child. [Weblink](#)
- Social distancing visuals Support children's understanding of what they can and can't do under the social distancing rules. <https://twitter.com/SchoolsNIc> [Weblink](#)

This week's activities you might want to try

Skills Builders activities

- Transport ideas and activities across the curriculum for primary and lower secondary (although could be extended depending on the needs of your child) - this transport themed resource provides a range of activities spanning a number of skill areas. It would be useful to pick and choose ideas which may particularly appeal to a child or which could be used as activities with more than one child. There is no expectation that it should be followed slavishly, it should be enjoyed! [Weblink](#)
- Travel and geography themed games - whole range of geography themed games. Some more suitable for younger children, while others would appeal to older children. A vast array to choose from. [Weblink](#)
- Best apps for kids: maps and atlases - only one of these apps has to be paid for, all the others are free. Google Earth – a great way to travel virtually. Children can find their home or follow their route to school or travel the world! Tiny Countries is game-based, helping Tiny the Chick to save the world. In the course of the game it introduces cities, countries and continents – and it's fun! Geobee Challenge by National Geographic and GEO WALK HD – 3D Fact Book are more challenging and are aimed at older children. All are very visual. [Weblink](#)
- National Geographic kids - activities to do at home including making Arctic art, making a polar bear cake, making a herb garden, a space mobile, a treasure hunt and places to encourage animals such as a bee hotel. [Weblink](#)
- Virtual visits – make a virtual journey to a museum or gallery for example [35 Virtual Field Trips](#).
- STEM learning are providing remote science lessons for all key stages from key stage 1 to key stage 5. [Weblink](#)
- Two ideas to make a journey stick. Ideal for KS1 and 2 and SEN. [Weblink](#)
- Map making activities inspired by Going on a Bear Hunt. [Weblink](#) _Michael Rosen signing the story plus sequencing activities. [Weblink](#)
- Ideas for using Journey by Mark Warner which follows a girl who draws a magic door on her wall. <https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/library/books/journey> Follow this wondrously illustrated, wordless picture book about self-determination and unexpected friendship. Watch how the artist created it. <https://www.storybreathing.com/journey/>
- Book for KS2/3 – The Boy who Biked the World: On the Road to Africa. Alistair Humphrey's. The first of a trilogy and based on a true story. [Weblink](#) Hear Alistair Humphrey's talk about his adventures on his bike. Suitable for KS2/3



Calm and Happy (wellbeing)

- The Whole Brain Child – a Quick Guide for Busy Parents - explore the way the brain connects to emotions and how to help your child with learning in a more holistic way, single page guide from Montessori notebook. [Weblink](#)
- Tips for Autistic People and Families - top tips for families leaflet from National Autistic Society [Weblink](#)
- Autism Eye Newsletter - news, videos and features that may be of interest to families and professionals. [Weblink](#)
- The South Gloucestershire Sleep Toolkit - Sleep and Special Educational Needs and Disability; guidance and support for parents and carers, and those working with families with children and young people. [Weblink](#)

Be Creative

- Sailing boat birthdays display board – make and decorate 12 sailing boats each labelled for a month of the year. Children then add the names of family and friends to the correct month depending on their date of birth. Ships can be decorated extravagantly, e.g. the boat for November could have a fireworks theme, December a Christmas theme. Use your imagination! [Weblink](#)
- Snakes and Ladders - an all-time favourite, Snakes and Ladders board game is, loosely speaking, a journey during which children encounter hazards (the snakes) and good fortune (the ladders). It is simple, fun, interactive, good for turn-taking, social skills, resilience and counting skills. Design your own board and game based around the local area or a favourite family journey / holiday.

-
- Transport Yoga – a series of yoga poses based on various types or modes of transport for primary and possibly lower secondary. [Weblink](#)
- Activity for All – Dice Roll and Run - All you need for this challenge is a dice and 6 objects to use as markers. [Weblink](#)
- Design and make treasure hunts in the garden or for your walk.
- Sight and sound scavenger hunt - enhance your child's curiosity during your daily walk with this fun nature scavenger hunt. Look and listen for the sights and sounds of nature. What will you find? [Weblink](#)
- 8 ways to encourage curiosity in children - simple and effective tips for stimulating your child's curiosity. [Weblink](#)
- Journey out of your room! Ideas for creating your own escape room for family and friends. Create maps, plans, codes etc. [Weblink](#)
- RSPB Wild Challenge. [Weblink](#)



Support for Parents

Young Minds

Parenthood is a rewarding tough job. If you need some advice about your child's behaviour you can join thousands of parents who contact the Young Minds helpline every year. Contact 0808 802 5544 or parents@youngminds.org.uk

Frequently Asked Questions - South Gloucestershire Coronavirus FAQ site has answers to frequently asked questions to support you [here](#).

Contact us with your COVOD queries on SENDCOVIDenquiry@southglos.gov.uk or 01454 866123. The telephone helpline will be available between 9 and 1 on weekdays (except Bank Holidays) but you can email in at any time. We aim to get back to you within 48 hours. Any questions posed to this helpline will be used to inform an FAQ section on the South Gloucestershire website.

If you have any ideas for home learning you would like us to share please email us at jo.briscombe@southglos.gov.uk.