

An Easter Challenge!

Dear Children in Hedgehog, Rabbit and Squirrel Classes,

Our new topic next term is “Tales of the Riverbank”. So, we would like to set you a really exciting challenge to complete during the first two days of the new term after the holiday (Thursday 16th and Friday 17th April), **or** you can complete it over the Easter holiday, if you wish.

Our challenge is... to **make your own model of a river**. We suggest you draw a design first and label it with the materials you will use, just like you do in school. Your model can be as large as you like! You need to think about what will be the base (a box lid, large piece of cardboard, a shoebox etc...) then decide how you will make it. You could use recycled materials such as cardboard, wooden lolly sticks, string or rolled up newspaper. You might want to use papier mâché, collage materials, fabric or paint. You might want to include natural materials as well. Below are pictures of some that might help you.



By the end of the first 2 days back next term, send a photo of your finished model to your class email.

We can't wait to see them!

We have added some extra optional challenges below.

Mrs Belfield, Mrs Dennett, Mrs Hockney, Mrs King and Mrs Simpson

Mr Tutt's Challenge

Mr Tutt has set a challenge for the whole school in the latest newsletter. It involves building a tall tower and then taking a photo of it. It can be indoors or outside but cannot use any real building materials! See below for his message to everyone.

Building challenge (for the children)

Children, if you would like to take on a challenge over Easter, then try to build the tallest structure you can from anything you can find around the house. It must be freestanding and must not be made from building materials (no bricks and mortar, steel girders or long planks of wood). The largest building block allowed will be a cereal box. You can use junk, lego, twigs, cardboard tubes from the inside of toilet rolls (they should be plentiful) etc.

Once made, measure it then take a photo of the structure with you standing next to it. Please measure it while it is standing on the ground, either in your home or in the garden – no cheating by standing it on a table and then measuring it please.

Send in your photos to your teachers and they will forward me the winners from each class.

Other optional challenges:

Your invitation to go to the theatre!

You are invited on a virtual theatre trip to watch the West End show, '**The Wind in The Willows**'. (Your parents will need to click on the link <https://www.willowsmusical.com/> and register with their email address and a password. It is *free of charge*).

Based on the classic children's story by Kenneth Grahame, this musical follows the various characters of the book including Mr Toad, Ratty and Mole, as they follow Toad's need for speed.

While theatres in England are closed, take your family on an imaginary trip to the theatre in your living room. You could set up some comfy chairs, make some popcorn (use something different if you do not have popcorn) and pause halfway through for an interval – don't forget you'll have to queue for the toilets and "buy" some refreshments or even ice cream!

If you would like to, you could try being a theatre reviewer. Discuss these questions with your family.

- Who was your favourite character and why? What did they wear? Did they use a prop?
- Who do you think gave the best performance and why?
- What was the funniest moment?
- If you could play one character, who would you play and why?
- What are your favourite moments in the show and why?

Rate the show in stars out of 5 (5 stars being the best show ever).

Have a lovely trip.

Also available are: Peter Pan and Treasure Island are available from The National Theatre. Use these links:

<https://schools.nationaltheatre.org.uk/app/os#!/home-2>

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A visit to a river or stream.

Please only do this if it fits in with the current Government guidelines and if it is safe for you and your family to do so.

We want you to put on your wellies and go out for a walk with your family, but keep your distance from other people. You will be going to a local stream or river so please remember that you must stay near an adult in your family. Water is dangerous and it is important for you to follow instructions and to stay safe.

Here are two places you could go to:

- **Hargate Forest** - At the end of Broadwater Down Road on the left hand side. TN2 5LU.

It is part of the Woodland Trust and comes up on google. There is often lots of mud. There is a straight stone path suitable for pushchairs (then you will have to retrace your steps because most of it is not suitable for pushchairs) or a longer circular path that gets quite muddy. At the end of the larger path you will find a pond on your left. If you go straight ahead after the pond and then turn right you will find streams or a small river.

- **Hurst Wood.** TN18 5NR. Accessed from the end of Coniston Avenue, which is off Culverden Down.

Mrs King said, "I played in this small river a lot when I was a child and then I took my children here."

Here are the instructions for your family.

Nestled in a valley between Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall, this woodland has a meandering stream criss-crossed by many bridges. It is owned by the Woodland Trust. Park at the bottom of Coniston Avenue and then turn right past an old water authority pumping station. The official entrance to the woods is about 100 metres along this path and the small river is on your left. There is a broken 5 bar gate. Turn immediately right here and the path climbs steeply and goes along the back of Bishops Down School and Bennett. It then curves back down and joins the main path again.

The main path is straight ahead of the entrance to the woods. You can go straight along here to the far end. (Watch out for an iron fence which used to be a gated entrance on your right. A tree has grown around the metal fence). If you took the steep path at the start then you join the main path again here). At the far end you reach another gate. Just before this gate you turn left and there is a steep footpath which goes down to the small river at the bottom. There is a flooded path and then a muddy bridge that takes you across the river. You can notice how a slow river blocks up and floods at this point. You can then follow the river along and see where it has made new paths. In one place it has created an island. There are places where you can get close to the river and it is safe to go in. If you look at the water where it is flowing faster, what do you notice? If you find a shallow part of the stream you may be able to make a bridge across it.

There are bridges where you can play 'Pooh sticks' (like Winnie the Pooh), if you want to. You drop a stick in one side and see how quickly it comes out of the other side. Sometimes you have a choice of a high or a low path. You can choose because they all go to the same place. You end up going back to where you started from and turn right to get back to the entrance.

If you just want to go to the little river without the walk then take a left turn soon after the entrance to the wood.

Further downstream the farmer or owner of the land has collected the water from the river to create a fishing lake, but you cannot go there.

On either walk, stop and think about what you can see and hear while you are there.

Easter

You might like to try making an Easter Garden. You can do this inside or outside and however you like. You could do it in a small patch of garden or inside a container. Here is a short video of some children enjoying Easter activities including making an Easter garden.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qVW9IjhIU>