

Here are some ideas for a local-based learning project, should your child need a break from any of their other learning. As we are all staying at home and in our local areas, I thought the children would enjoy the following Topic/English tasks, all related to where they live and the local area:-

- Start out by making a map of where you live and the local area. This could include looking at real maps online, in your community or even OS ones if you have them, but what is important is that your child makes their own one with important places to them, plotting these important places and features of the landscape that they know. This could even be incorporated into a daily walk or bike ride, adding things to it each day. The map is important as it will help with the English work that comes later! There is no strict guidance for the map, but it should have a key and should include all the places your child knows well in the area, particularly the special places to them. It could cover a small area (1 Square Mile or so) or much larger, depending on their knowledge and how far you've been walking/cycling! Whichever size is chosen, thinking of an appropriate scale will also be important, for example 5cm = 0.5 miles, if they choose to cover a large area.
- Find out and research the history of where you live (for example, Fordingbridge) and the surrounding areas, its important buildings and anything interesting in its history. Looking at what happened during the Second World War could also provide some interesting things to research. Then, as a contrast, I'd like your child to research a large city in the UK, this can be any large city of their choice (but not Southampton). Finding out about its history and distinctive features will be important, also what the main tourist attractions are and why people visit this place. Think about the differences and similarities of both places, what they both have and what is unique about each place. For both your local village/town and the chosen city, they will need to show their research and present it neatly in written form if possible.
- Writing a story! I would then like your child to plan and write their own adventure/mystery story set in your local village/town, specifically the area in which they live and know really well. I was going to model this on The Secret Seven or The Famous Five stories, which can all be listened to for free using Audible at the moment. The idea for the story would be that some children are coming to stay with a relative in Fordingbridge (for example) from a big city for a holiday. During the holiday, there is some kind of mystery to be solved. The places in your child's map will provide the key settings for the story. If your child does not like this idea, then they can write another type of story, maybe one set in the past, using the information they've learnt about the history of your village/town. The only criteria I've set is that it has to be set where they live! It should be fairly long, with chapters and your child should have a clear plan for the beginning and end before they begin.
- Artwork - Once their story is finished, design a suitable front cover for it! Your child could also create different pieces of artwork for other parts of the story as illustrations if you stop for a short while on a walk or a bike ride, or if you are sat in the garden looking at the local environment.