**Free and low-cost resources for home schooling**

**Schools are shut till at least early March and this has left many parents potentially struggling to juggle work and home-schooling commitments. So, here is a list of mostly free resources that may be of help.**

**• ActionAid** – Free of charge - International charity ActionAid is offering parents and children free access to six 'world-expanding' activities' via email. You don't need any special materials as the activities include items you're likely to have at home. Children start off in the rainforests of South America and will find out about other countries and the way in which other people live. <www.actionaid.org.uk/discover>

**• Amazon** – Free of charge - a range of educational resources freely available across science, maths, English and physical education. Amazon Maths4All offers hundreds of free maths games, apps and challenges on Alexa, worksheets for Kindle and Fire Tablets and caters to a range of ages across primary and secondary school. Alexa can challenge your kids with a test - get started by saying 'Alexa, ask the maths coach to start a test' or 'Alexa, ask the maths coach for a hard addition test'. Kids can also enhance their coding skills through the 'hour of code dance party', an online dance themed coding tutorial and 'Amazon future engineer' which offer free virtual coding programmes to enable children to build computer science skills at home. A number of celebrities offer lessons.

**• Barclays Lifeskills** – Free of charge - Barclays' Lifeskills hub offers lesson plans, learning modules and interactive content for educators and parents. Children can learn money skills and get help in preparing to move to secondary school. Kirstie Mackey, head of LifeSkills created by Barclays, says: 'We have hours of resources and tools on our LifeSkills website to help both teachers and parents to support young people to develop and boost core skills, from problem solving to resilience, and grow in confidence.' <https://barclayslifeskills.com/>

**• Carol's Tutoring** - Cost: £7.50 per class - Founded by Carol Murdoch who is also a primary school teacher, Carol's Tutoring is a tutoring company that offers small courses. She says: 'They are aimed at children in primary to early secondary and cover a range of subjects. https://carols-tutoring.com/ She also shares outdoor activities for free on website [www.loveoutdoorlearning.com](www.loveoutdoorlearning.com%20) and its related Facebook page.

• **Edplace** – there’s free materials available - thousands of interactive activities aligned to school curriculums. Offers up to five activities a month for one student. English, maths, science and 11+, and activities for key stage 1 to GCSE. There's also test prep materials for 11+, SATs and GCSE.

<https://www.edplace.com/?awc=6282_1612099824_0fae174ca983918501e8052f35e17665&utm_source=awin&utm_medium=78888>

• **HSBC Financial Education Hub** – a new resource to help educate children about money and give them the skills they need to build their financial confidence. Parents can access a series of educational videos and online resources aimed at young people aged three to 25 that are aligned to the school curriculum and created with input from practicing teachers, children and Young Money, the national charity that drives financial education in schools.

<https://www.hsbc.co.uk/financial-education/>

**• MyTutor** – online tutoring service which is currently offering free resources via MyTutor Videos and MyTutor Answers. It has hundreds of recorded group tutorials and explainer videos. It's website also contains over 1,000 answers to GCSE and A Level questions which have all been written by expert tutors. <https://www.mytutor.co.uk/>

**• The Little Mud Club** - Cost: £10 a month subscription - provides parents with young children with seasonal outdoor, Covid compliant adventures they can do together. These are offered through packs that are approved by educators to encourage families to spend more time outdoors. The packs are sent by post in eco-friendly potato starch compostable bags. Each pack comes with 10 adventures, a short story, something to grow and eco-friendly stickers. <https://littlemudclub.com/>

**• Tiger and Tim** – free of charge - Former BBC sports presenter, Tim Hague, is the founder of online learning platform 'Tiger and Tim', which helps parents cope with home-learning. Parents can access tools and tips through www.tigerandtim.com or subscribe to the Tiger and Tim YouTube channel. It helps to develop youngsters not only through its extensive videos but through social media work, blogs and educational materials. Reading, comprehension ability, wider knowledge, emotional intelligence and family values are just some of the areas focussed on. <https://tigerandtim.com/>

**• SaveMyExams** - Cost: Free to £5 a month - Exams may have been cancelled, but that doesn't mean you can't prepare your children and brush up their skills. It has a free version which includes past papers and revision notes. There's no sign up required. If you want more, it has an annual membership at £5 a month which is billed annually. Extra resources for this version include topic questions, model answers and videos. <https://www.savemyexams.co.uk/>

**• S-Cool** – Free of charge - an online platform that caters to a variety of key stages. They also have resources for 27 GCSE and A Level subjects which range from revision tips, example questions and topic summaries. <https://www.s-cool.co.uk/>

**• Twinkle Go!** - Free to use during school closures - A recommended resource from teachers, which has a range of interactive and audio-visual resources suitable for all ages and covering all subjects. Twinkle has also has a collection of free digital partnership resources, which include Go Jetters, Numberblocks, BBC Teach Live Lessons, David Attenborough and Puffin books. To access Twinkle Go!, create a free log-in using an email address and password. No payment information will be taken and there's no obligation to use Twinkl after lockdown. <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/go>

**• Weather365** - Free of charge - If your child is fascinated by hurricanes, tornadoes and any other weather phenomena, Weather365 is an ideal site to visit. It teaches students about meteorology. BBC presenters Sara Thornton and John Hammond are behind the educational platform. <https://weathertrending.com/>