

# Mermaid's Purses



Getting outdoors has been found to be beneficial for our physical health, mental well-being and it is completely free. It's also a great place to learn!

If you are wondering how to cover the curriculum whilst home-schooling or working in your school grounds with key worker children, here are some outdoor learning ideas that can help. Some can be done in your garden or from a window, others as part of your permitted daily outdoor exercise, following the latest government advice on social distancing and self isolation. We hope these activities will also encourage you to connect with the natural world, notice the wonderful wildlife all around you and have fun.

## Maths ~ Muddy Maths

Make a big pile of mud balls.

Set up flowerpots or buckets with numbers 1, 2, 5, 10, 25 on them.

Children pick a number between 1 and 100. Can they make their chosen number by throwing mud balls into the corresponding buckets.



Eg  $64 = 25 + 25 + 10 + 2 + 2$

If you don't have mud, try using stones instead.

## Science ~ Great Eggcase Hunt

Ever seen mermaid purses on the beach and wondered what they are?

They are the eggcases of rays (big black ones) and catsharks (small brown ones).

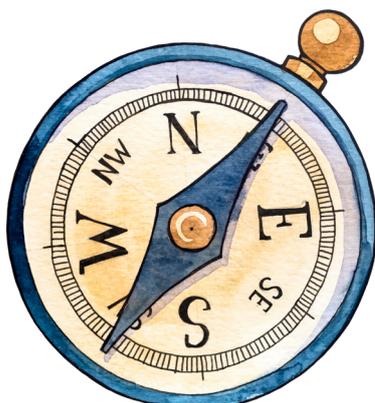
Join in a national eggcase survey to help monitor what is living in our seas.



## Geography ~ Treasure Hunt

Create clues for a treasure hunt using a compass (either hand-held or on a phone) and paces.

Include at least five different stops on the way to find some buried or hidden treasure.



[mcsuk.org/beachwatch/sites/mcsuk.org.beachwatch/files/resources/Beachwatch\\_Great\\_Eggcase\\_Hunt\\_leaflet.pdf](https://mcsuk.org/beachwatch/sites/mcsuk.org.beachwatch/files/resources/Beachwatch_Great_Eggcase_Hunt_leaflet.pdf)

## Literacy ~ Read Outside

Enjoy the pleasures of reading outside – under a tree, on the beach or in the long grass.

## Music ~ Sound Garden

Create a sound garden in your outdoor space by making wind chimes from natural objects eg shells, hag stones, fir cones.

Some of your creations could use the wind to generate sound, others may need a stick beater to help.

## DT ~ Den Building

Try building a tipi or a lean-to den for your toys.

More ideas here.

 [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/denbuilding](https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/denbuilding)

## History ~ Roman Mosaics

Romans loved creating mosaics to decorate the floors of their buildings.

Create your own mosaic to decorate your garden or playground using a base of mud or sand, stones, stick pieces, petals, and leaves.



## Just for fun ~ Elder Beads

Make beads from Elder twigs.

 [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/elderbeads](https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/elderbeads)

## ICT ~ Tech Turn Off

Have a day (or a week if you dare) without using technology.

Does technology improve or restrict your life?



## Art ~ Salt-dough

Find some bugs and, after careful observation, make a salt-dough model.

### Saltdough Recipe

1 cup plain flour

1 cup salt

½ cup water



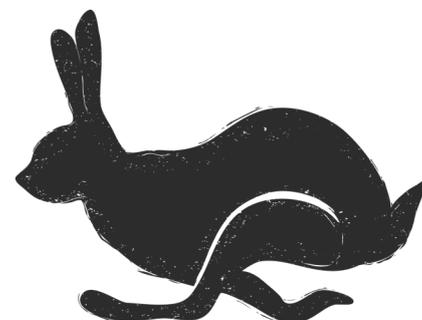
Bake on a low temperature for three hours.

## PE ~ Up on the Downs

Challenge yourself to a whole day hike.

Take a picnic and plenty of water (or check out the cafes at Stanmer, Saddlescoomb and Truleigh Hill).

Enjoy that feeling of exhaustion from a full day of outdoor exercise.



## The end or just the beginning?

After making home learning resources for the last ten weeks, we reckon you're ready to go it alone! We hope you continue getting outdoors and connecting with nature – surely our greatest teacher.

## For more ideas of things you can do at home

 [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/gowildathome](https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/gowildathome)

Show us what you have been doing, upload your photos here

 [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/homelearning](https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/homelearning)