

Hello again, Maxwell here. Hope you are all keeping safe and healthy! Here is my next idea for you to help your teachers cover the curriculum.

Idea 4: Making learning fun again (after the lock-down)

We have all stayed at home for quite a long time. Now, towards the end of the lock-down, it is very likely that all we will hear from parents, politicians and education authorities, is what teachers should do to ensure that students are "examination ready. " For the Foundation and Intermediate Phase, the big question could also be 'How can we make learning fun again whilst ensuring that maximum learning takes place?'

Here are some creative fun ways for teachers to encourage their children in their learning journey:

- **Allow learners to work together.** There has been extensive research on using cooperative learning strategies in the classroom. Research says that when learners work together, they retain information quicker and longer, they develop critical thinking skills, and they build their communication skills.
- Teachers should incorporate **hands-on activities**. They are a fun way for students to learn. Teachers can use fun, hands-on alphabet, math, English, and geography activities to help students learn in a memorable way. (e.g. mnemonics)
- **Going on a field trip.** Field trips are a great way for learners to connect what they are learning in school with the outside world. They get a hands-on view of everything they learned in school, and they get to connect what they learned to what they are seeing at the exhibit.
- **Incorporating technology into lessons.** Technology is a great way to make learning fun. Research has shown that using technology in the classroom can increase student learning and engagement. Smartphones and tablets offer a variety of classroom apps that can meet all your learners' instructional needs.
- **Limiting class rules.** Too many class rules and expectations can hinder learning. When the classroom environment resembles a boot camp, where is all the fun? Choose five to seven specific and attainable rules and try to adhere to this limit.

Remember: 'Ships do not sink because of the water around them; they sink because of the water that gets into them. Don't let what is happening around you get inside you and weigh you down'