



Home Education Newsletter

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IT'S OCTOBER, WHICH MEANS DARKER EVENINGS, HALLOWEEN, AND SOME SHOCKING DATA

We aim for our newsletter to be a mix of informative and fun, BUT this month we are needing to ask you to step outside of your comfort zone and do your part to protect home education rights. We explain more below.

A brief note from the Educational Freedom team: we are volunteers, with families and jobs, we apologise if parts of the newsletter are not perfect, we are learning a new skill, if you have experience that can help us fix the issues then we would love your help.

TIME FOR YOU TO DO YOUR PART

We need you to make contact with your MP. We've written the basic letter for you.

Asking them to support home educators with the upcoming attacks on home educators rights.

The upcoming Children's Wellbeing Bill is highly likely to now include a Children Not in

DARK NIGHTS AND CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

How does the change of seasons affect home education in your household?

Yesterday I felt the full benefit of the flexibility home education offers us. We heard of a few migrating birds that were being spotted in Norfolk so we decided to go for an impromptu day trip. We were blessed

WORRYING DATA, SHOWING SOME LAS USE THE SAO PROCESS AS A THREAT AND FORCED COMPLIANCE

If you live in one of these areas we need you to make contact with us so we can get the bigger picture.

It appears some LAs are using the SAO process as a means of forcing home educators to have

School register, this means home educators are more likely to be subject to LA harassment and over zealous enquiries.

Every home educator needs to do their part in stopping this.

[Read more](#)

with the weather and the colours of autumn were all around. The birds were very...

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visits, send in samples of learning etc.

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What does Home Education look like?

What is a suitable education?

What resources should I be using

How do I know what to teach?

These are all really common questions when you're new (or considering) to home education.

And it's actually a simple answer.

It is up to you and your child.

Yep, it is scary and daunting to let go of the structured environment of school, it's hard to believe there's an alternative. And that alternative is not a set route, not a set answer.

Home education looks like a million different things, everyone is different, and it's ok to not know what it will look like. It's also ok for it to change as time goes on. In the beginning it might look like your child is festering in their bedroom unwilling to learn, which evolves into them asking to bake, then asking about a video about the pyramids they've watched, which turns into a full week of Egyptian research and a trip to the museum. They then head back to their bedroom and again, their head pops out of the door and they're asking about Icelandic volcanoes.

Or your child, having only ever known school, is sat to the table by 8.30am expecting you to teach them, and by week 4 they don't want to get out of bed, they hate you, they want to go back to school. This is usually seen when you don't take time to deschool. The child (and parent) needs time to get school out of their system. So instead, we suggest heading out, climb a tree, eat cake, go shopping, go to the beach, watch films, anything that doesn't resemble school. Get to know each other again, encourage asking questions, and let them find their own way, It can take months for them to unlearn what they thought learning was, and to take the lead. This might end up with a structured learning, which is cool if that suits your child, but for the majority it leads to elements of child led learning.

What resources should I be using? there's thousands and thousands of options, and yes you can ask in groups and people will give their recommendations, but there's no guarantee they'll suit your child. We suggest not worrying about resources, wait to see what your child

is interested in. Yes of course books, internet, art supplies, outings etc are necessary for them to find something to be interested in, but never spend money in the beginning as it is highly likely to be wasted.

What to teach? Nothing. You're not their teacher, you are their parent and you can facilitate their learning. Many home educators who try teaching their child find they hit a brick wall, and the relationship breaks down. You can do everything we mentioned above, and you are there to answer questions, explain things, provide things, and support them but you do not have to teach them. In fact a common message we get is that their child has far surpassed the parent's knowledge and the parent is now there just to pay the internet bill and buy books, or to help with google searches to answer questions. It's ok to not know.

Trust the process. We have been there, done it and seen it hundreds of thousands of times, we know it is uncomfortable stepping into the unknown, but it works.

For more info about styles of home education, and deschooling, have a read of [THIS](#)

What are you doing for Halloween?

With Halloween approaching and the nights getting darker so much earlier, there has never been a better time to enjoy a spooky walk.

Whether you have young or older children, whatever the desired fear factor and wherever you are, there are many variations that make this a fun and accessible activity for all.

For those needing inspiration, try one or some of the following:

- For younger children or any that enjoy the outdoors, a spooky foraging hunt can be used to gather resources for spooky craft sessions. Conkers can be painted to look like pumpkins, leaves used to make a ghostly background and sticks can be gathered to make skeletons.
- For nature lovers the outdoors is filled with spooky creatures. Try hunting for spiders and moths, or find quieter spots in the hope of seeing bats and owls. Many nature reserves offer activities around this theme.
- Those who prefer urban walks could look for one of the many ghost walks that take place in towns. Led by a guide you will get spooky thrills while learning a different side to the history of the area. Those even braver might like to find your nearest castle that may be offering their own ghost walks at this time of year.
- Those less mobile or less enthusiastic about being out in the dark or joining groups of people can create a spooky scavenger hunt around the house or other indoor environment. A spooky trail and scary clues could lead you on a path towards hidden ghoulish treasures. A change of lighting can encourage exploration of the environment using different senses, with challenges and clues that encourage sounds, smells and touch to guide the way.
- And for anyone who loves a challenge with a prize, while also raising money, this is the time of year when you will find opportunities to take part in organised "glow walks" in the dark or lengthier night hikes. Most come with a medal and great sense of achievement as well as knowing you are helping a local or national charity.

Whatever your preference, there is no better time to discover your environment from a different perspective and explore different feelings and sensations in a safe way.

We would love you to send in a photo and info about your Halloween so we can share it next month.



Donate the cost of a cuppa

Educational Freedom runs solely on donations and the few pence profit made on sales. We have simple needs, such as website hosting fees, but sending the newsletter to many thousands also has a cost, every penny is gratefully appreciated and goes towards ensuring we continue to provide free information and support to home educators.



Thanks
for your
support

And finally, do you have something to say? Do you want to share your home ed journey with others?

We are looking to add to our already existing admin team on our Facebook group, new contributors for our public FB page, Instagram and Tiktok, and content creation for our website and newsletters. If you're interested please get in touch.

Educational Freedom

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