

SCHOOLS BOUNCE BACK 'VIRTUALLY'

Putting their best foot forward in the current spell of adversity, schools shift to online classes to combat the major disruption caused by the Covid pandemic.

SMGS, Meera Bagh, takes online route

The most beautiful thing about education is that nobody can take it away from you. Learning does not stop even at a time when the world is battling Covid-19. St Mark's Girls Sr Sec School (SMGS), Meera Bagh, believes that education replaces an empty mind with an open one. Online learning is the best way to educate pupils in such perilous times. SMGS has started online classes by creating virtual classrooms in Microsoft Teams. These virtual classrooms meet the diverse needs of students. They not only empower students to study their main subjects through their daily lectures, PowerPoint presentations and videos but also enable them to get their assignments for prac-



time. Who can deny the fact that creative arts like painting, dance, music, yoga and physical education are as important as scholastic subjects? Online classes are held for these subjects too. Celebrations and competitions are an integral part of a student's life. On Easter and Baisakhi, students sang hymns, recited poems online and got a feel of school at home. Online activities were also held on Mahavir Jayanti, Ambedkar Jayanti, Heritage Day and Earth Day.

Virtual classes at DPS, GBN during lockdown

Delhi Public School, Gautam Buddh Nagar (DPS, GBN) began the online learning process during the regular school timings of 8 am to 1.30 pm. Bhawna Khanna, principal (officiating), said, "Till recently, we were struggling with the less time parents spent with their children and the impact it had on them. But this lockdown is a godsend for parents to spend time with children for their moral, social and cultural development and to bond with them."



Since the imposition of the lockdown, DPS, GBN took online initiatives. Teachers plan the lessons and share the reading material with students a day in advance. Students take notes or make e-folders as per their convenience while the class is held. The classes on Zoom conducted by teachers provide students with a safe platform to participate freely in the discussion. Discussions, explanations, questions and answers bring the virtual classroom alive. Teachers give assignments to reinforce the topics learned. The impact of Covid-19 will be felt for a long time but the students and teachers of DPS, GBN are going through this together as a community with gratefulness in their hearts for the blessings of today and hope for a better tomorrow.

DLDVA connects with students despite heavy odds

Something beautiful is happening at DLDVA Model School, Shalimar Bagh. A never-say-die attitude and an eagerness to learn online is emerging at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted normal life. Principal Reena Rajpal had drawn up a plan for online classes. The original timetable for 2020-21 session was redesigned to suit the virtual platform. The computer teachers conducted training for the entire faculty on using online learning platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet and Google Classroom. The teachers were already well-versed with SnapHW and Whatsapp. The teachers of Nursery to Class 2 made daily lesson plans and shared audio inputs with the home-bound children.



Eagerness to learn online has helped overcome the disruption. Teachers of the middle and secondary wings used their knowledge of capacity-building programmes. They conducted lessons through notes, questions and answers, videos and worksheets. They also shared video tutorials. Their favourite platform was Google Classroom. The senior wing faculty conducted combined classes of up to 90 students using Zoom and Google Meet. They also share video tutorials for subjects like Chemistry. The school shared information about online learning platforms such as Diksha, Swayam and Kishore Manch. The annual competition Abhivyaakti was conducted online. The students were also encouraged to take part in national-level competitions on cyber security organised by ISEA.

JKPS, Shalimar Bagh meets the challenge

The teachers of Jaspal Kaur Public School, Shalimar Bagh, have started online teaching by sending text messages, pre-recorded audios, and WhatsApp links so that students can utilise their time during the crisis. The school realises that social isolation can impact well-being and mental health, particularly of young learners who were previously used to spending a substantial part of their day with peers. When the government shut down schools and other educational institutions to prevent the spread of the virus, the school took to online teaching to ensure that students are benefited.



Reading session held at DAV, Faridabad

DAV Public School, Sector 14, Faridabad conducts an activity to promote the reading habit every year and this time it was held as an online session under principal Anita Gautam's guidance. Titled One Nation Reading Together, held in association with Scholastic India, the session brought together students and teachers who read together. Students were motivated to read more in accordance with the library's motto 'Read to Succeed.'

Saai Memorial School goes online

Learning is an active, social process. It is easy to go to the class and teach students. But during the lockdown it is difficult to establish a connection between students and teachers. So, Saai Memorial Girls School, Sai Bhawan decided to take online classes in line with its motto 'Educate with A Difference.' School chairman Dr Parkash Keswani and principal Dr Meenakshi Keswani organised training for the staff members. Students of pre-school to Class 12 are enjoying online classes. They log in at home and attend 40-minute lively, interactive classes for regular subjects as well as co-scholastic subjects such as dance, yoga and physical education were also held.



Shriram Millennium, F'bad reaches out

Amid the uncertainty caused Covid-19, virtual classes at The Shriram Millennium School, Faridabad, have brought a semblance of normalcy in the lives of students. A typical online schedule starts with the day's prayer and includes news, mindfulness, Circle Time, and Franklin Covey sessions, among others. Teachers underwent training, systems were set up almost overnight for online learning, students and parents were assured that learning would continue.

Manthan, Gr Noida holds virtual classes

Amid the uncertainty over Covid-19, The Manthan School, Greater Noida West, has started virtual classes. It has equipped teachers to work from home during the outbreak. It is imparting knowledge through online classes. Steps have been taken to maintain academic rigour. At a time when the government has taken steps to control spread of the virus, the school is engaging students in a slew of diverse activities such as poster making and creative writing, among others.



READING CORNER

FOCUS ON EARTH, NATURE, TRIBAL ART

The books in this collection focus on the need for protecting planet Earth, nature and wildlife and inform us about a tribal artist from Madhya Pradesh who broke gender barriers. They are interesting and thought-provoking.

A TREE

Author: Klara Kottner-Benigni

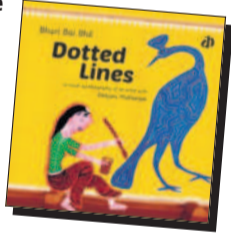
A Tree is a picture book illustrated by several tribal artists from India. It is a story composed by one poet, 12 tribal storytellers, and some of India's best illustrators. It encourages you to think, ask questions, discuss and then swing into action as a carer of the Earth. Parents can read it with children. The subject matter is important. Trees are pretty. If you have a tree, you can climb up its trunk or hang a swing. Cows and babies can nap in its shade. Birds can make nests on the branches. The book is available in English and Hindi.



DOTTED LINES

Authors: Bhuri Bai Bhil & Debjani Mukherjee

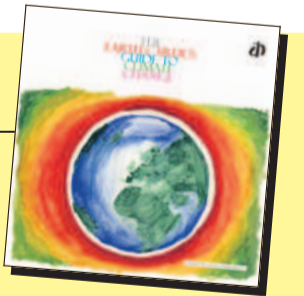
The book is a visual biography of Bhuri Bai, a tribal woman from Madhya Pradesh. Her paintings are compiled in the book. It brings to life a heartwarming story of the Bhil girl as she becomes an artist. One learns all about the Bhil tribal people of Madhya Pradesh, earth-caring artists and storytellers. Research scholar Debjani Mukherjee is the co-author. She had gone to Bhopal as part of her research on indigenous art. She found that Bhuri Bai had broken the gender barrier and transformed herself.



THE EARTH CARER'S GUIDE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Author: Various

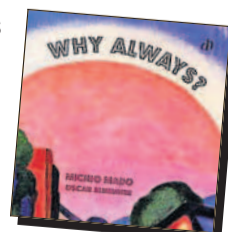
The book encourages you to show compassion and care for the planet. It makes the complex subject of climate change simple and impels one to take actions at an individual level. It highlights what humans are doing to the planet and what remedial measures are needed. It includes poems, stories, and interesting snippets of information from accomplished writers and artists. This book has been edited by Geeta Dharmarajan.



WHY ALWAYS?

Author: Michio Mado

The book is a poem written by Michio Mado and illustrated by Oscar Bluemner. It asks questions about nature and our world. Can nature ever be old? Find out in this poem and dive deep into the magnificent world of trees, sky, birds, and much more. The poem tells us that if we take a precious moment to "really look" at our natural world, we can find and share powerful moments of beauty and inspiration. The work also has some inspiring works of Bluemner.



TIGERS FOREVER!

Author: Ruskin Bond

Tigers Forever! is a poem written by Bond and illustrated by David Stribbling. The poem emphasises the importance of protecting tigers as each passing day, many tigers are mysteriously disappearing from our ecosystem. The book will help sensitise children towards the environment and respect all living beings. The author is known for his love of nature and wildlife. The illustrations hold one's attention. The book is available in English and Hindi.



(This list was compiled by Katha Books)

MIND GAMES

SUDOKU

	2		4					
	3	4			6	5	7	
				3		2	1	
7			1			8	6	5
2	1		7		5			
			9		4	7	2	
	6						4	9
8								
		5	6		1		8	

SCRAMBLE

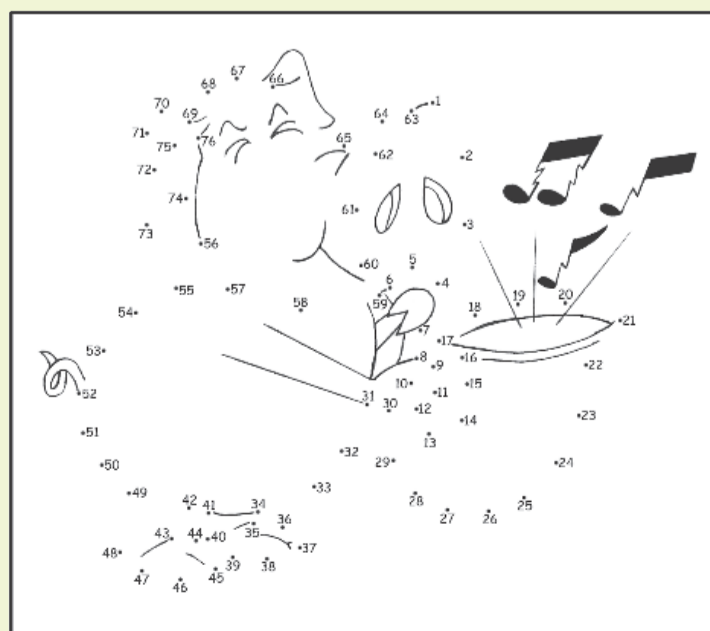
Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

NNIOO	*	*	*	*
TINGS	*	*	*	*
GSDMUJ	*	*	*	*
EINGPP	*	*	*	*

Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.
Answer: Many a crown of wisdom is but the golden chamberpot of success, worn with... Joey Adams (7,7)

JOIN THE DOTS

Join the dots to find out what it is.



Amrita Bharati Features

MATHDOKU

1-		5+	80x
3÷			5+
7!		4:	
16x	10+		2÷
			8!

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-out lined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

MESSAGE OF HOPE & POSITIVITY



A giant land art, entitled Beyond Crisis, was made by French artist Saype in the alpine resort of Leysin, Switzerland. The artwork, covering 3,000 sq mts, was produced with biodegradable paints made from natural pigments such as coal and chalk.

Solutions

2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	2	1	4	5	6	7	8	9
4	3	2	1	5	6	7	8	9
5	4	3	2	6	7	8	9	1
6	5	4	3	7	8	9	1	2
7	6	5	4	8	9	1	2	3
8	7	6	5	9	1	2	3	4
9	8	7	6	1	2	3	4	5

SNOUTLITUSKUNOONUS

1	4	2	3	5
4	5	3	2	1
5	2	4	1	3
3	1	5	4	2
2	3	1	5	4

MATHDOKU SOLUTION

SCRAMBLE Solution: Eatery, carp, trench, spacey

Answer: Onion, sting, smudgy, pigpen