

Communication - keeping in touch

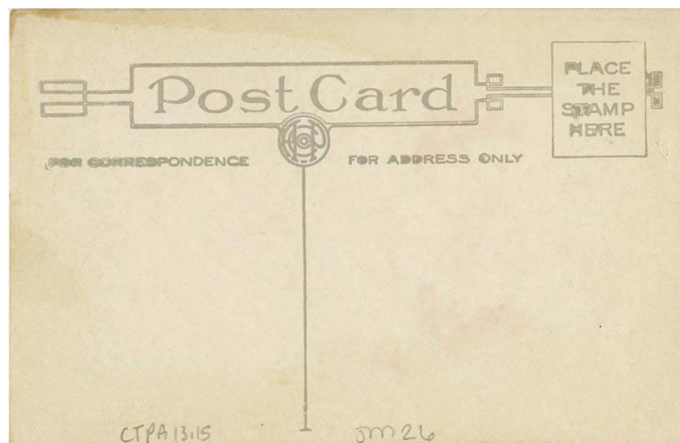
We all love to communicate with our family members and our friends, near and far. However over the past few weeks we have come to realise the importance of maintaining communication with so many people, and in a variety of different ways. Phone calls, zoom calls, skype, letter writing, messenger, these are all important ways of making connections with our family and our friends and are now almost the new normal. Younger children still have the ability to say hello in a variety of different ways too. It is important during the current Covid -19 pandemic that we ensure that our children can communicate with their friends as well as with members of their families because for now they can't visit or see them on a daily or weekly visit.



There are a number of creative ways in which you can support your child to communicate and keep in touch.



You may already know that An Post have a free postcard service available, simply drop in to your local post office and pick them up or ask your local post man as they are carrying them in their vans at the moment. These postcards can be sent to any part of Ireland free of charge. If you are sending them outside of Ireland you will need a stamp.



Why not get your son or daughter to send a card to their Grandparents, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, perhaps their older brother or sister who might be living away from home, or even their school friend that they are missing right now?

What about sending one to your teacher or special needs assistant, using the school address, your principal will be able to pass it on to them.



What about sending a card to the frontline workers in your nearby Hospital, Garda station, Fire Station, Doctor, or the local shop or supermarket, just to say Thank you! Your Mam and Dad can help to write the address !



Sending a postcard to a person in a nearby nursing home, would be a lovely way just to say hello to someone who might feel lonely today, and who cannot have visitors. You might not know these people but just sending a postcard or letter or poster will brighten their day. Mam or Dad will help you with what to say, and they will know what address to write for the Nursing home.



Take a look here at some of our other resources about sending a post card or even how to make a card:

<https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/How-to-send-a-Postcard-to-Family-or-a-Friend.pdf>

<https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/How-to-Make-a-Card-to-send-to-a-Friend-or-Family-Member.pdf>



Writing Competition for the younger writer:

Become a young story keeper during this time, and see your story in print

Fighting Words and Great Lighthouses of Ireland invite 7-12 year olds to create a lighthouse inspired story ...in 500 words....you need to be quick as closing date is May 19th. Cruinniú na n-óg might showcase your story in a digital magazine on June 13th

More information entry and story writing tips on

www.greatlighthouses.com/storykeeper

www.fightingwords.ie/storykeeper/storykeeper



Writing Competition for the older writer:

The Ray Darcy show on RTE Radio 1 is inviting entries for their writing competition entitled “A page from my life”. They are teaming up with Easons and are asking people of all ages to write a page from their own autobiography limited to 500 words. So why not get writing and capture everyone’s imagination and curiosity in 500 words.

Entries close on May 31st and should be sent to Ray@rte.ie

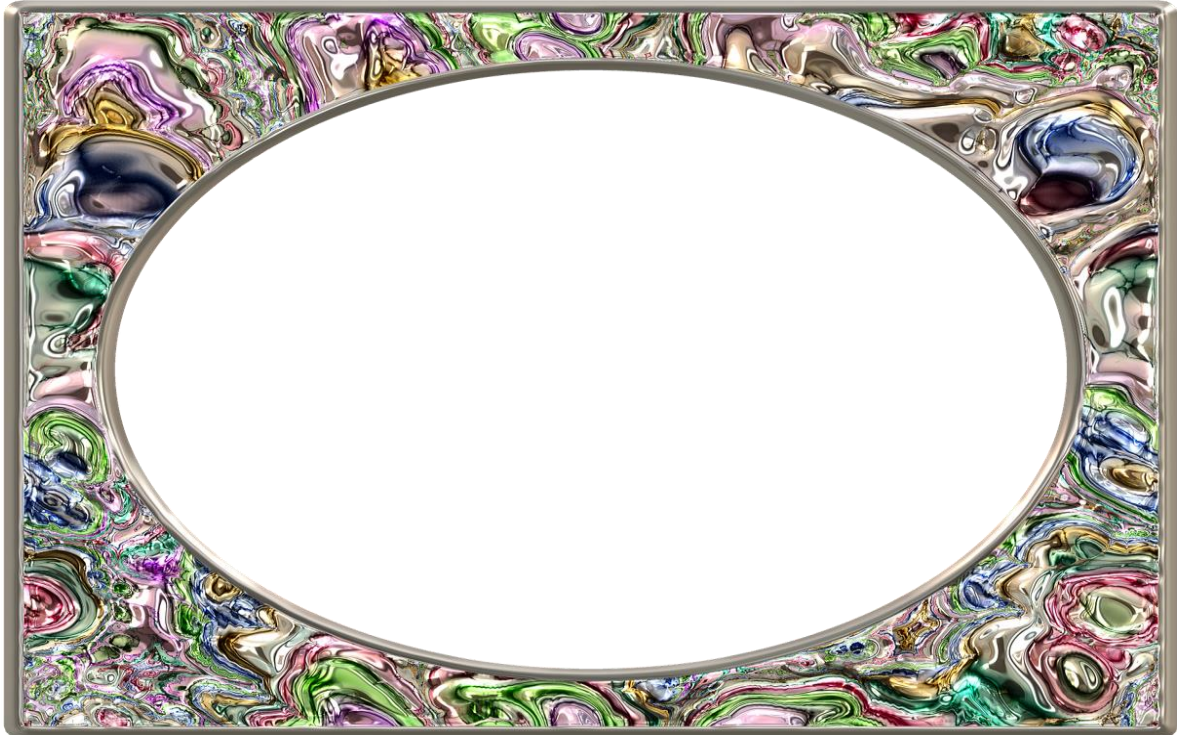
Poetry

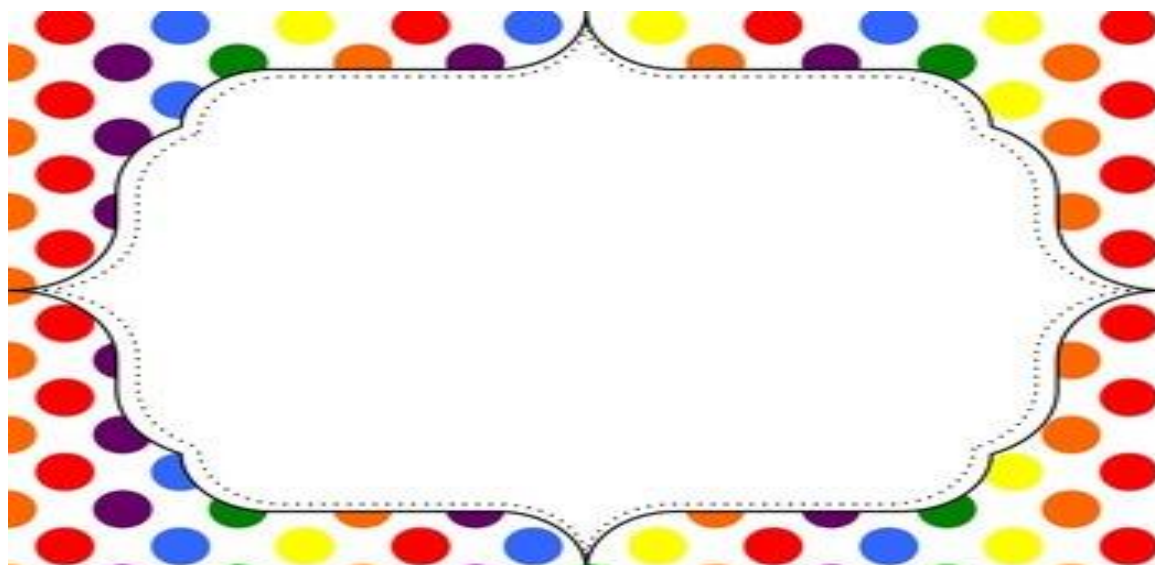
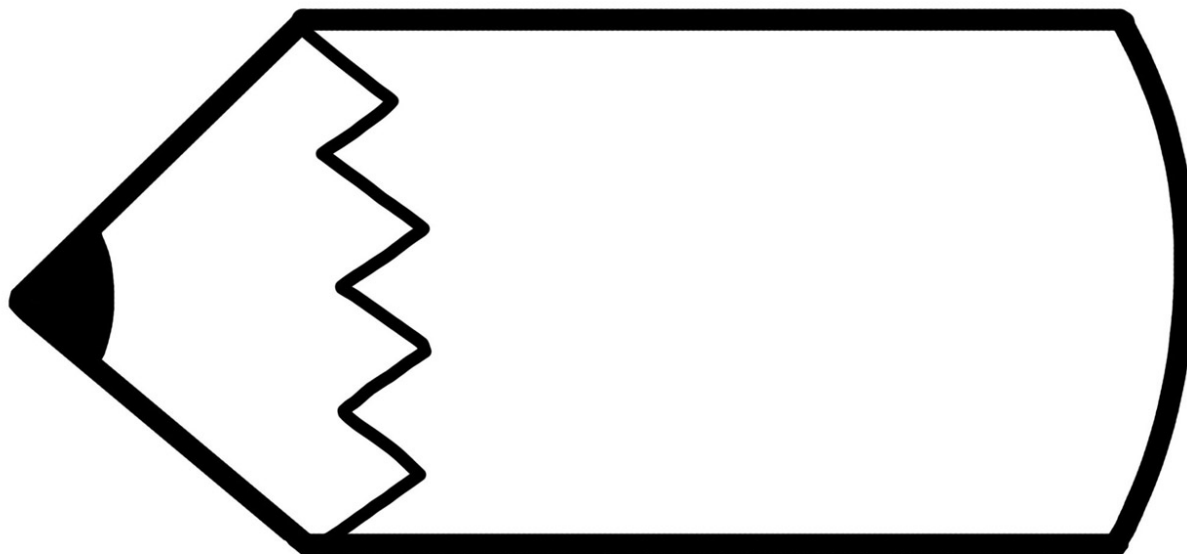
Why not ask your child to write a poem on what it is like for them at home right now or record one of their favourite poems from school for a family relative. It could be recorded on the phone and then sent to family members. Ask for one in return, and you can then discuss what the poem means to them.

Do you have a favourite poem from your school days that you remember? Maybe you too could record it and send it to some family members here in Ireland or abroad, it might be a lot of fun!!

Why not write a poem about your class/teacher/Special Needs Assistant that can be used on the school website (with parental consent)

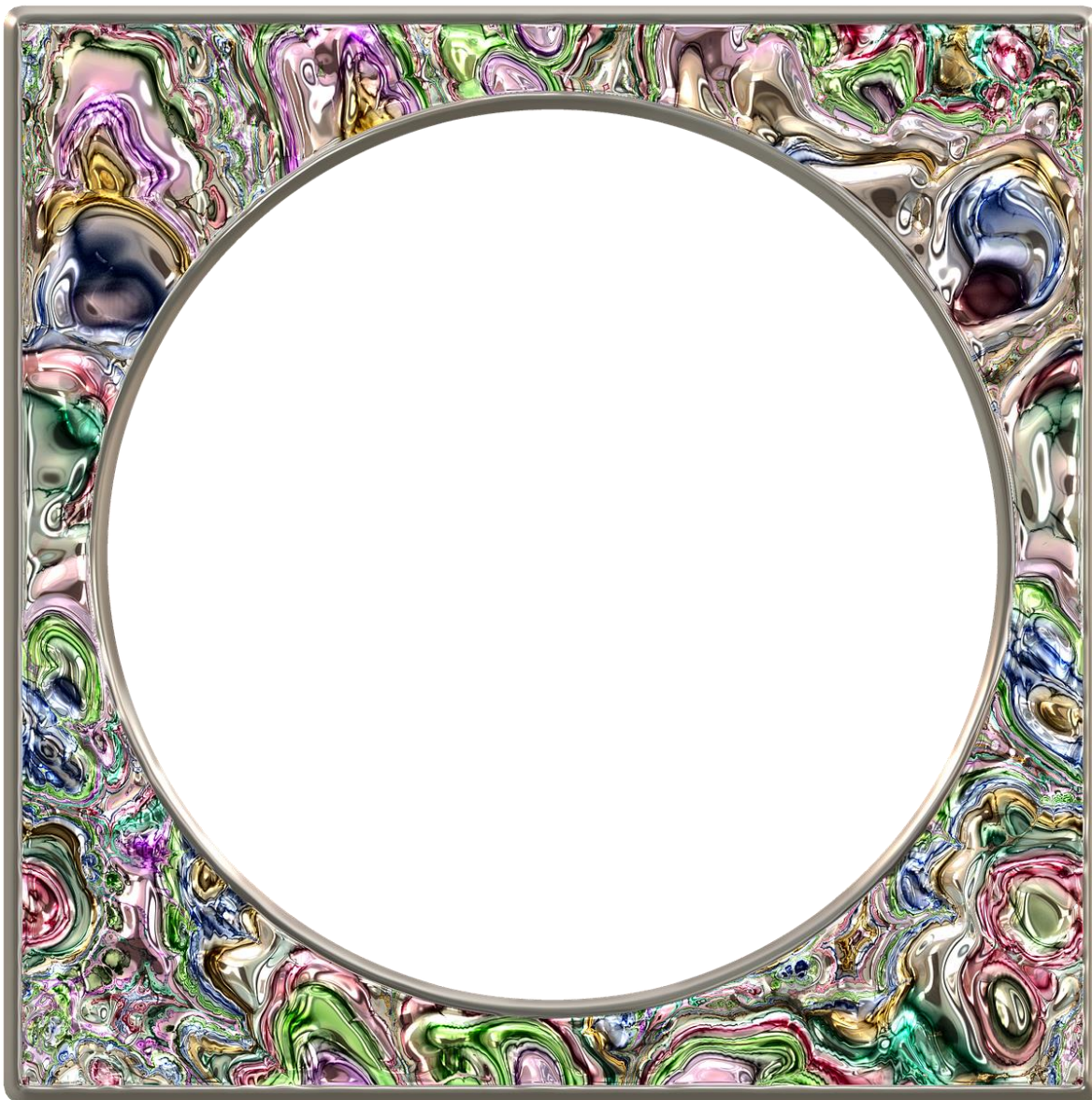
Younger children could be recorded reading their poem and sending it to their grandparents or aunt or uncle.

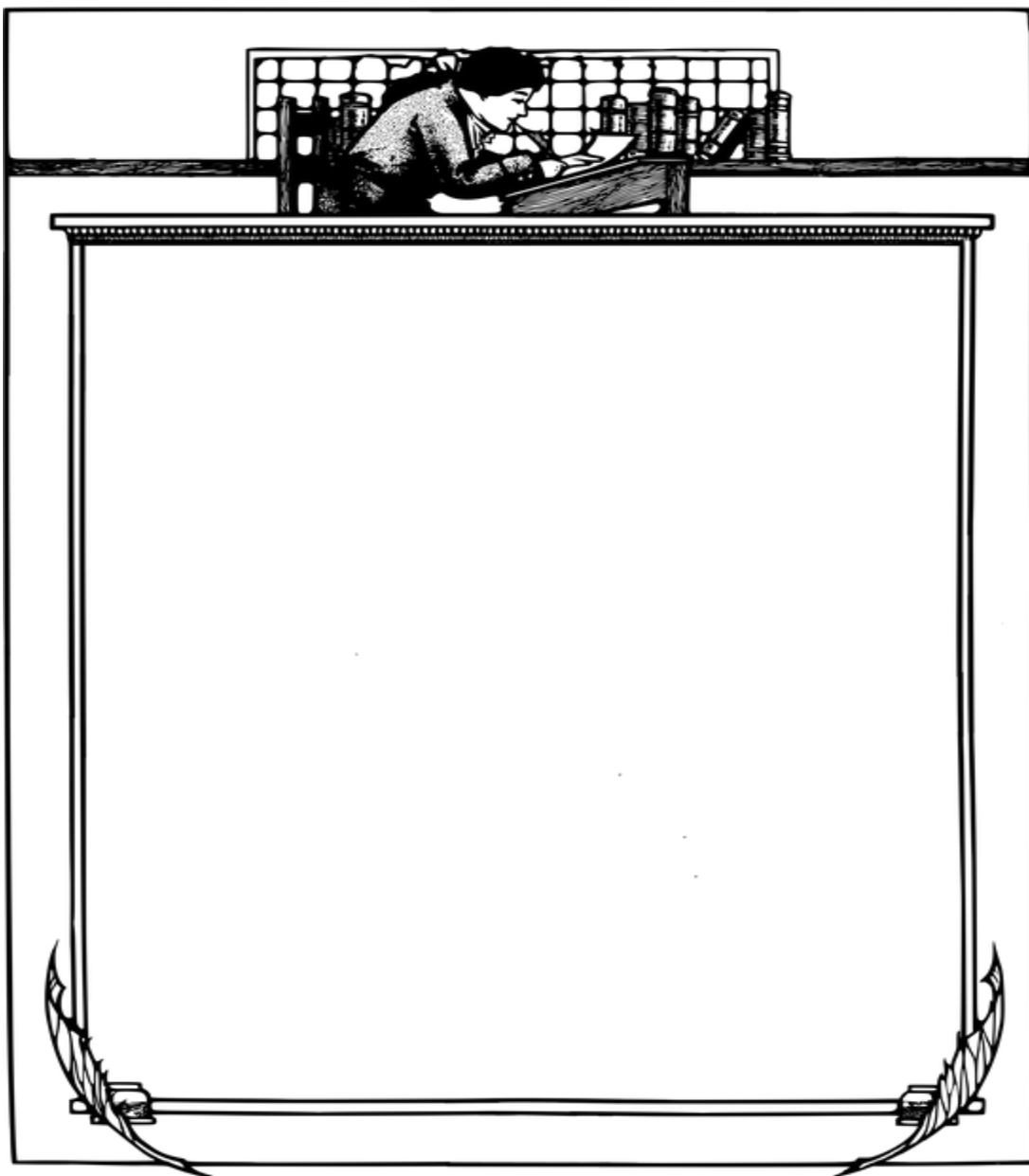




Story writing

We all love to read, and so writing a short story for someone you have not seen in a while is a lovely surprise to get in the post or as an e-mail. Look at [storybird.com](https://www.storybird.com) to help you write your story as well as adding illustrations. It is a literacy tool that children can access at their own appropriate age group.





Report writing

What about writing a newspaper report on Covid-19 and the lockdown, you might like to get everyone in the house to write a short piece and put it away in a safe place. What about putting them in a time capsule to be read in ten years time. You will have great fun reading them, and see how times have changed since 2020 !!!

Why not send a copy to your teacher or principal, they would love to read them.



Recipes

What have been your favourite dishes or foods over the past few weeks?

Perhaps share your recipe for pancakes, scones, cup cakes with your friends and ask them to share one with you. Then get baking and make sure to check you and your Mam or Dad have all the ingredients and follow the instructions carefully !!





Free access to online resources:

Free access for parents and teachers to all primary resources are available on line from all the main publishing companies

Folens.ie (with weekly plans to support your childrens learning at home)

Primed.ie (with free learn at home packs)

Edco.ie

cjfallons.ie

Gilleducation.ie