Dear friends and neighbours,

Please see below for another round of simple science activities you can do at home with the kids, latest news on COVID-19 from Imperial and local updates and sources of support.

**Simple Science Activities at Home**

The Invention Rooms may be shut for a while, but we are still committed to bringing you great science activities to do with the family at home. Some of these will be resources we’ve made ourselves and some are from festival partners, or other websites that we think are great. As mentioned last week, we’ll be sending out updated activities every week via this community e-newsletter – here’s round two!

Remember, as you do science at home the most important thing is you are exploring, playing and asking questions! Let us know if you come up with any great experiments or making activities at home and don’t forget to get in touch if there’s a specific subject you’d like us to cover.

* **Making Cornflour Slime**

Our first activity is simple to do and aimed at 5+. All you’ll need is water, cornflour and a mixing bowl. You can read the instructions [bit.ly/slimeTIR]here. Corn flour is made of lots of small particles. When you force them together by squeezing or stirring hard, the particles link up and the slime acts like a solid, but when you stop, these links break and it goes back to a fluid. Here’s a [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v581Y50-bow) explaining the science behind this activity.

* **Dinosaur Models**

This activity is for 7+ and you’ll be making [bit.ly/dinomodelTIR]Biting Dinosaur Models. The instructions suggest using paper fasteners, but if you don’t have any lying around you can use string with knots at both ends. You can make your dinosaur out of card or an empty cereal box! Don’t throw your dinosaur away once you have finished, next week we’ll be showing you how to turn them into puppets so you can make your own awesome dinosaur play.

If you are a little older you can try[bit.ly/BGSTIR] these puppets from the British Geological Society – you will need access to a printer for this.

* **The Deep Sea**

Moving from Dinosaurs to the Deep Sea, why not check out[bit.ly/NHMliveTIR] this video from our friends at the Natural History Museum which explores the world of squids and octopus? These videos are great for 9+ and are half an hour long. You can watch all of the [Natural History Museum’s live event videos here](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6w4ihPqk5_IMmeWpIk6gTEv__qR4xwCf). We’ll be picking out some of our highlights in next week’s newsletter. Feel free to check the rest out, tell us which is your favourite and we’ll share it in next week’s newsletter.

* **Ear Gongs**

Aimed at 5+, the [bit.ly/eargongsTIR]Ear Gong experiment is from our friends at the Science Museum. You’ll just need string and a clothes hanger. Remember that science is about experimentation, so once you’ve made your Ear Gongs why not try using some other materials? Which materials give the clearest sound, and which ones just don’t work at all?

**Useful Resources and Local Support COVID-19**

* **Myths You Should Ignore:**over the past week, many of you have been in touch with COVID-19 questions as well as concerns over myths that are being spread surrounding the virus. We’ll keep working to help answer your questions, but in the meantime, here’s a great link to the BBC’s Reality Check video on COVID-19 which was published last week.

* **Healthwatch Central West London Q&A:**have created a useful [support and guidance page](https://healthwatchcwl.co.uk/coronavirus/) based on queries they have received from residents.

* **UNITED in H&F Coronavirus Community Fund:**if you are a locally based non-profit organisation dealing with the effects of COVID-19, you can apply for a grant of up to £1000 to support H&F residents. Apply now [bit.ly/Unitedfund]here.

**Science Matters: Let’s Talk about COVID-19 – Free Online Course**Imperial College London researchers and the leading global education platform Coursera have partnered to offer a free massively online open course (MOOC) explaining the science behind the response to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

On this course, you will hear directly from our world class experts about the theory behind the analyses of COVID-19 and its spread, while learning how to interpret new information using core principles of public health, epidemiology, medicine, health economics, and social science. You will be able to watch regular situation reports about the state of the epidemic, provided by the researchers of J-IDEA and its director Professor Neil Ferguson.

The ‘soft-launch’ of Science Matters: Let’s Talk about COVID-19 on Coursera in February rapidly became the most popular in the world with over 70.000 people enrolled. Content is being developed in real-time as more information on the outbreak becomes available. We are excited to share the course has been re-launched today and you can sign up [bit.ly/LTAC19Coursera]here.

**Latest News COVID-19**

Read the latest news on Imperial’s work on Covid-19.

* [bit.ly/NFlockdown]**Professor Neil Ferguson tells MPs lockdown can help NHS manage coronavirus**

* [bit.ly/economicimpactC19]**The economic impact of coronavirus: analysis from Imperial**

Best wishes,

**Priya Pallan**

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