

IAO

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FEATURED

WHAT WILL A RETURN TO SCHOOL DURING COVID-19 LOOK LIKE?

- ➔ When and how will schools be reopened?
- ➔ Is it safe for children to go back to school?
- ➔ What questions should teachers be expecting from parents and children?

EXCLUSIVE

6 WAYS TO MANAGE YOUR STUDIES DURING CHRISTMAS

Festive Quarantine Christmas Ideas for a Holly Jolly Holiday



Editor's Note

The month of rejoicing is here! The time when Santa comes to town bearing gifts and relieves schools and students from the pain of studying relentlessly. This year, however, things will be a little different. You will probably not get to see all your loved ones because of corona and will have to spend time studying, maybe not out of boredom but out of necessity.

Christmas break often brings a lot of assignments and exams and this is why you need to manage your schedule accordingly.

In our November issue, we have prepared a list of activities that you can participate in during Christmas while being on top of your work. Enjoy the holiday but do remember that every December also sees a January so do not be too far behind on your academic schedule.

Anyways, celebrate the holiday season at home this December while staying safe and making sure you complete all your tasks.

**“Christmas isn't a season.
It's a feeling.”- Edna Ferber**

A person is seen from the side, reaching up to decorate a Christmas tree. The tree is covered in colorful lights and ornaments. In the background, a Santa Claus decoration is visible. The scene is lit with warm, festive colors.

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FESTIVE QUARANTINE CHRISTMAS IDEAS FOR A HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, many families have decided to celebrate individually, instead of in large groups. Some folks might even find themselves celebrating alone. If that's the case for you or your family, have no fear — there are so many fun quarantine Christmas ideas you can do while social distancing.

Ahead, we've found the best ways to celebrate the holidays at home. As soon as you unwrap the presents, you can dive into a hearty brunch or bake some cute Christmas treats. After that, you could complete a puzzle, sing Christmas karaoke, or make custom salt-dough ornaments to commemorate 2020.



Featured

WHAT WILL A RETURN TO SCHOOL DURING COVID-19 LOOK LIKE?

Life during the COVID-19 pandemic is difficult for teachers and children alike. The return to school is an important and hopefully welcome step, but you and your children likely have many questions. Here's the latest information on what to expect and how you can support your young student.



When and how will schools be reopened?

We are slowly seeing an increasing number of children return to the classroom. More than 1 billion students are still out of school due to nationwide school closures. However, 105 of a total of 134 countries that have closed schools (78 per cent) have decided on a date to reopen schools. 59 of those 105 countries have already reopened schools or plan to open them soon.

Given the difficulty of the situation and variation across the globe, countries are in different stages regarding how and when they plan to reopen schools. These decisions will usually be made by national or state governments, often in discussion with local authorities.

IS IT SAFE FOR CHILDREN TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL?



Decisions on control measures in schools and school closures and openings should be consistent with decisions on other physical distancing and public health response measures within the community. Generally, schools are not opening in countries as an isolated action, but as part as a number of actions related to opening back the country, such as reopening factories, public transport, commercial business.

It's crucial that schools plan ahead and look at what additional measures they can put in place to help ensure students, teachers and other staff are safe when they return and communities are confident in sending their students back to school.

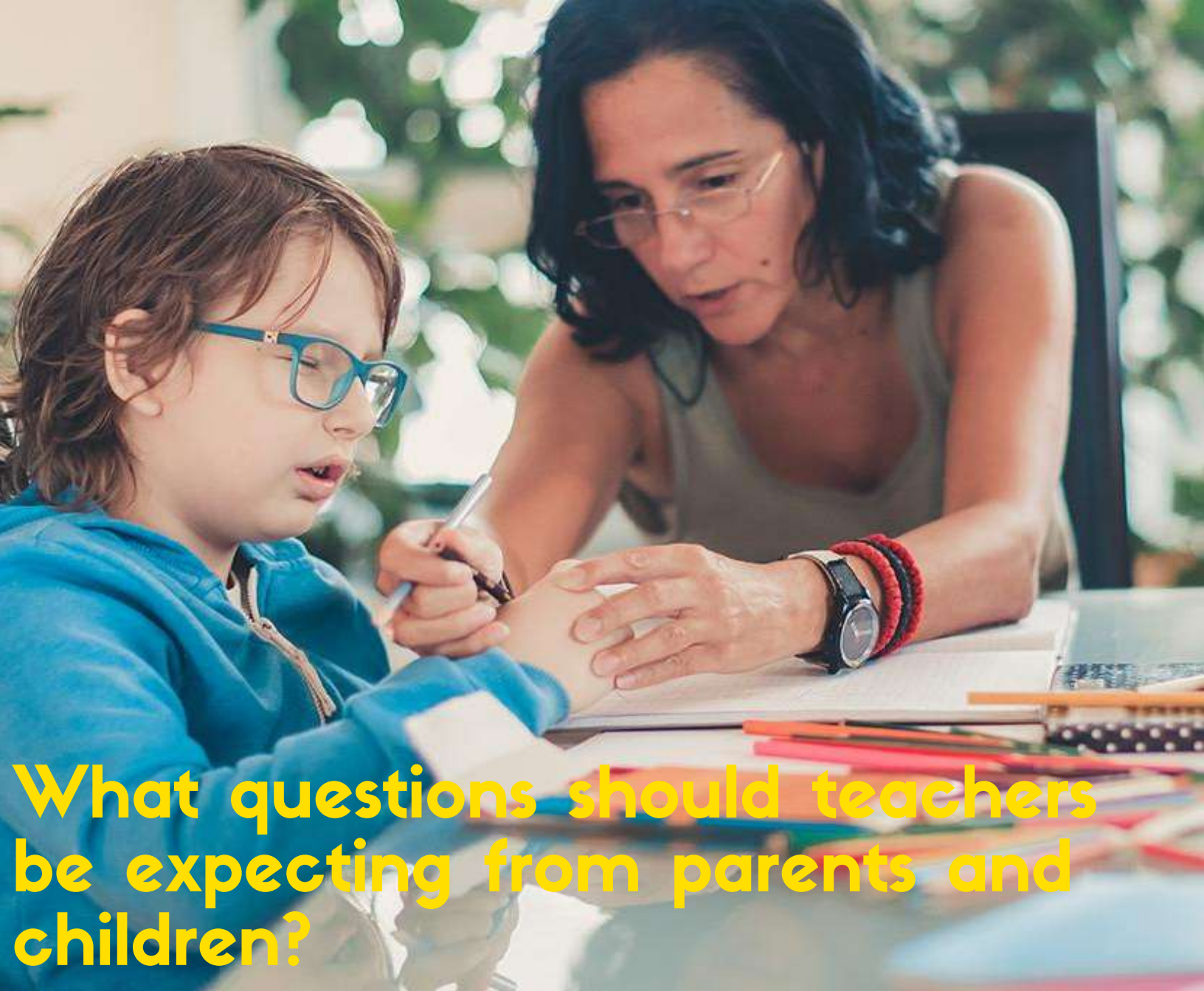


What precautions should the school be taking to prevent COVID-19 virus from spreading?

School reopenings should be consistent with each country's overall COVID-19 health response to help protect students, staff, teachers and their families.

Some of the practical measures that schools can take include:

- Staggering the start and close of the school day
- Staggering mealtimes
- Moving classes to temporary spaces or outdoors
- Holding school in shifts, to reduce class size



What questions should teachers be expecting from parents and children?

During such a worrying and disruptive time, it's natural to have a lot of questions. Some helpful ones you may get include:

- What steps has the school taken to help ensure the safety of students?
- How will the school support the mental health of students and combat any stigma against people who have been sick?
- How will the school refer children who may need referrals for specialized support?
- Will any of the school's safeguarding and bullying policies change once schools start to re-open?
- How can I support school safety efforts, including through parent-teacher committees or other networks.

What if the students are falling behind?



Students around the world have shown just how much they want to keep learning. They have persisted with their lessons under difficult circumstances, with the support of their dedicated teachers and parents.

But many children will need extra support to catch up on their learning when schools reopen.

Many schools are making plans for catch-up lessons to help bring students back up to speed. This might include starting the year with refresher or remedial courses, after-school programs or supplemental assignments to be done at home.

Given the possibility that many schools may not open full time or for all grades, schools may implement 'blended learning' models, a mix of classroom instruction and remote education.



Festive Quarantine Christmas Ideas for a Holly Jolly Holiday

Who says you need to leave the house to have a day full of cozy, creative activities?

As the old song goes, "there's no place like home for the holidays." This year, those heartfelt lyrics have added significance. Amid the coronavirus pandemic, many families have decided to celebrate individually, instead of in large groups. Some folks might even find themselves celebrating alone. If that's the case for you or your family, have no fear — there are so many fun quarantine Christmas ideas you can do while social distancing. Ahead, we've found the best ways to celebrate the holidays at home.

As soon as you unwrap the presents, you can dive into a hearty brunch or bake some cute Christmas treats. After that, you could complete a puzzle, sing Christmas karaoke, or make custom salt-dough ornaments to commemorate 2020. It's all up to you to decide, but we think the old song is true: "For the holidays, you can't beat home sweet home." And for even more ideas to keep you busy, don't miss the best Christmas activities to make your day even merrier.

1. Assemble a make-ahead breakfast

Opening presents takes a lot of energy, and so you'll want to refuel afterward with a hearty breakfast. Try one you can prep the night before so all you have to do on Christmas morning is pop it in the oven.



2. Decorate Christmas cookies

Baking cookies is a great daytime activity to make your home smell delicious. Before you get started, make sure you have some fun cookie cutters, frostings, and decorations on hand.

3. Hop on a video call with Santa

Getting to meet Santa is a magical experience for many youngsters during the holiday season. Unfortunately, they might not get to see Saint Nick in person this year — but that doesn't mean they can't chat with him on the phone. Use Santa Club to book a video conversation with Kris Kringle. The \$50 experience includes up to three children and even allows you to keep a recording of the video.



4. Decorate as festively as possible

You're going to spend a lot of time at home this holiday season, so you might as well make your space the winter wonderland of your dreams. Set a budget and pick up some new decorations or open your craft bin and make some DIY ones.



6 Ways to Manage Your Studies During Christmas

The Christmas holidays can be a blessing or a curse for a worn-out student. On the one hand, acres of potential free time to get ahead with work, do some studying that isn't just about the next exam coming up, or even catch up on some much-needed sleep. But on the other hand, a Christmas holiday – no matter how you celebrate it – is likely to come with a lot of exhausting obligations

In this article, we take a look at how you can plan your time and your studying to make the most of your Christmas break – so that you can catch up on your workload and have some festive fun as well.



1. Set a particular time for studying every day

One of the reasons why it's so tricky to study over Christmas holidays – say, compared to half term or Easter – is that the pattern of days for most people is much less predictable. When at other times of the year it's easier to just say no and hide yourself away in your room with your books, at Christmas there's an additional sense of obligation to spend time with your family.

The best way to get around this is to pick a particular time of day to get on with some work, and to make sure your family knows about it. If there's a family planner or something similar hanging up in the kitchen, make a note of your study hours every day.

2. Think about how you can adjust your studying to the circumstances



After your schedule being disrupted by family and friends, the next big hurdle to most people studying over Christmas is the particular circumstances of that time of year throwing your work into disarray. The difficulties you might face aren't just about access to study materials, whether in person in the library or online.

The trick here is to consider how you can adjust your studying ahead of time. Do you need to get books out of the library early, or download lots of papers? Perhaps it's a case of being prepared to pay for more data on your phone so you can have your own source of internet access. Or you might simply need to plan for work that can be done in a busy house – working through textbook exercises, for instance, can be better suited to an environment where you might be disturbed than something more involved like working on an essay.

A photograph of a cafe interior. In the foreground, a red ceramic mug filled with coffee sits on a matching saucer on a wooden table. To the right, a laptop is open, displaying a document with text. The background shows several people sitting at tables, some working on laptops, in a bright, airy cafe with large windows. The text '3. Find somewhere else to study outside the house' is overlaid in yellow on the bottom left of the image.

3. Find somewhere else to study outside the house

Whether it's slow Wi-Fi or your aunt's dogs barking the house down, sometimes the best way to study over Christmas is to get out of the house. The idea of going somewhere else to study might seem quite strange if you're still at school, but for most students it's normal to take your laptop to a coffee shop or somewhere similar, and this can be a great way to get some work done undisturbed. It also helps section off that designated study time.



It may be a holiday, but Christmas can still get very busy.

You might have read the above recommendations about when to study – for instance, a couple of hours in the morning – and thought that that wasn't really a lot of time. You might have plans to use this time off like study leave, and write a short essay every day, or get through three books in the week. But Christmas holidays do have a way of stealing time from you and it's best to get more work done than you expected to than to come back to school or university with lots of things left undone that you were expecting to have finished by Boxing Day.



5. Take the day itself off

If you do a proper, traditional family Christmas, then there's nothing that will make your family unhappier than saying you're going to keep up your studying routine on Christmas Day itself. Studying from 10am to 12pm on Christmas Eve and then heading out for last-minute shopping and an evening with the neighbours is sociable; insisting on keeping to that schedule on Christmas Day is unfriendly at best.

Do you have any top tips for studying over the festive period? Let us know!

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