



## Remote Reminiscence – Getting Elders Online

### Theme #2 – Schooldays

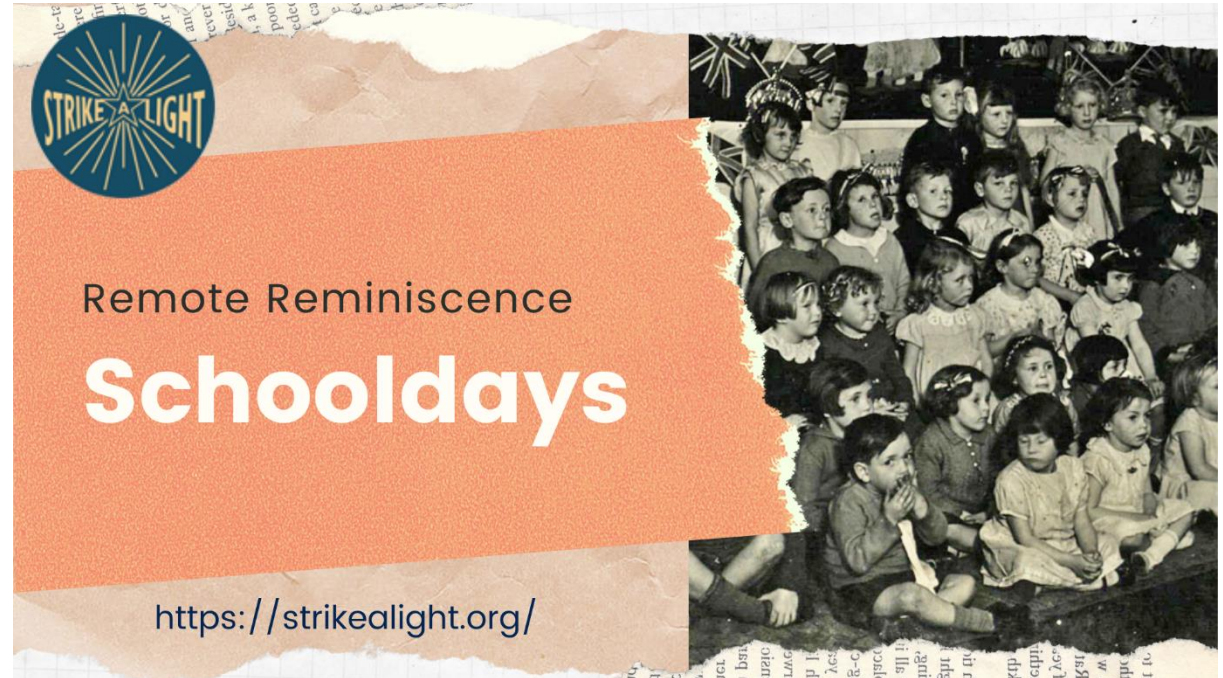
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This is our second activity pack and this section looks at memories of school and learning whilst young.

You can use this resource as a stand-alone series of activities, or use in conjunction with a short film available for free on our You Tube channel.

Why not have a look through and pick ideas to support activities with friends, family and in groups too.

- This section is all about Schooldays.
- We will cover school songs in this section too.
- We will also discuss school photographs, school dinners, games, lessons and play.



**The link for the accompanying film can be found at the end of this activity.**



## Remote Reminiscence – Getting Elders Online

### Icebreaker Activity

- Finish the sentence: A strong memory of school for me is ...

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### Ideas for starters:

- I. What did your school look like outside? Was it an old Victorian red brick building, a little local country school or a more modern 1960s site with prefab classrooms?
- II. What kind of furniture was in the classroom?
- III. Did you share a desk? How were they arranged?
- IV. Which were your favourite lessons? What did you like or dislike about particular subjects?
- V. Share the questions here and see how far back you can go.



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### Activity – School Hymns & Songs

#### Schooldays



- Do you remember singing the hymn '*All Things Bright and Beautiful*' at school?
- Can you remember the words?
- Why don't you share your memories with friends, family and carers for this activity?
- What songs can you remember?
- Can you sing any of them?





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### Schooldays

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### School hymns & songs

Can you think of songs you sang at school? Or hymns in Assembly? Make a list and see how many you can think of!

#### Ideas:

- *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*
- *Bobby Shaftoe's gone to sea, silver buckles on his knee...*
- Silly ones sung in the playground
- Hymns sung in assembly
- Songs sung in music and singing lessons
- School song



### Activity – School Photos

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*"I remember my first day at school, I had to walk to school with our pet goat!"*

Have a rummage and see if you can find your old school photos, or a photo from that period in time.

- Do you remember any of the children in your class from that time?
- What was your teacher called?
- What do you remember about your school uniform if you had one?




Figure 1: School photo courtesy of Nicola Bengé.



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### Activity – Games We Played

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## Schooldays

### Games We Played

Can you remember any playground games from schooldays? Have a think!

- Knock Down Ginger
- Skipping
- Rounders
- Jacks
- What else?



- What were your favourite games at school?
- Did you play: Marbles, jacks, skipping, *What's the time Mr Wolf*?
- Who did you play those games with?

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*"In Senior school we went to Wembley to see the Women's International hockey match. Everyone was in school uniform, - girls school. We swapped tassels from the end of our scarves with people from different schools. We went through the big wrought iron gates at Richmond Park on a coach. We had egg and tomato sarnies lovely but they stunk!!" Sheila*

- What did you like about the games you played?
- Was there a playground or paying field?
- Can you remember Sports Day?
- Share memories of what games were part of this and how you fared in the competition.
- Did you like PE? Some people hate it!



Figure 2: Skipping rope, books and schooldays photos - Taken by Summer Dean, Courtesy of Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage.



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### Activity – What do you remember?

- Read this passage below out loud or to yourself and see what memories of your own come up when thinking about school days.
- How did children used to dress to go to school?
- What did you do after school finished each day? Could you play out?

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Uma

I went to school at 5. They were happy days. I went to infants then primary. I am a Hindu. The bell would ring in class and we would all pray together.

I was in Surat, in Gujarat in northern India. We learnt in Gujarati, Hindi and then diverted into English later.

I went to private school until I was 11. I was very good at games, and maths and English. And music. We did singing in Gujarati, and Indian dancing.



### Activity – What was in your satchel?

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- Have a look at this list of things which might have been in your satchel for your school days. Did you have any of these?
- Did you have another way to carry your school supplies or lunch box?
- Is there anything missing from the list below which you might have had?
- Can you describe how your school bag looked? They look very different these days don't they.
- What is your favourite memory of your schooldays?



### What's in your satchel?

What did you have in your bag at school?

- A sandwich
- marbles
- Penny for sweets
- Pen and pencil
- Conkers
- A toffee
- Cigarette cards
- Anything else?

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Figure 3: Sheila Braidwood as a child - Image courtesy of Royal Voluntary Service.



Figure 4: Intergenerational activity with Fishersgate Primary School, Sussex, and Memories Past group for Royal Voluntary Service 'Heritage Plus' project. Kind permission of Royal Voluntary Service.





## Remote Reminiscence – Getting Elders Online

### Visual Resources

Watch our short Schooldays film here  
for more ideas and support:

<https://youtu.be/mutPfhwFWJo>

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