



Brain Builders



An new approach to providing
effective homework at
Braywood C.of E.First School

Our aim



- To improve the quality and effectiveness of homework tasks
- To extend learning by linking homework to activities completed in the classroom.
- To make homework something that children can take control of, actively engage with and take pride in.



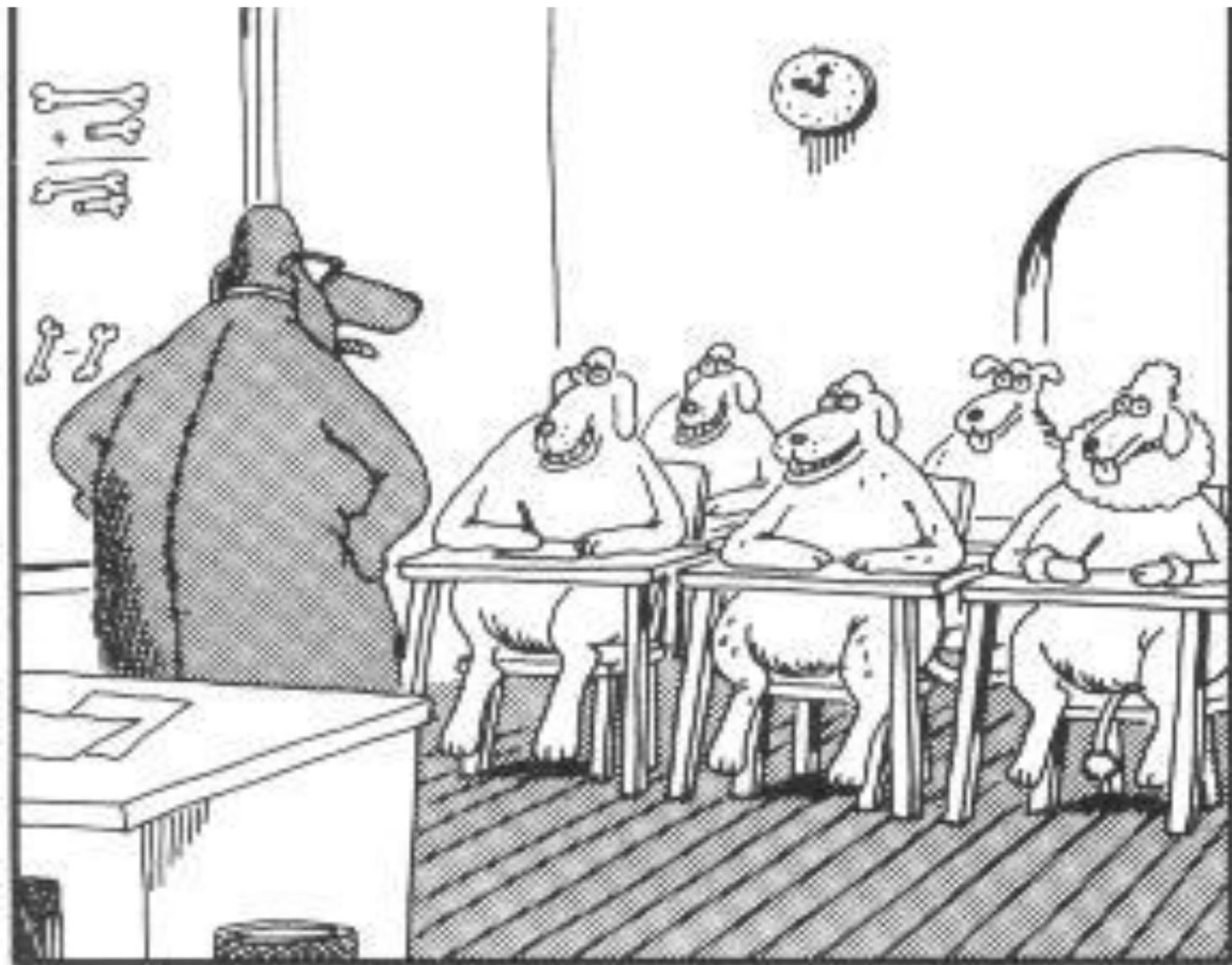
"I CAN'T COME OUT. I HAVE TO HELP MY DAD WITH MY HOMEWORK."



“I couldn’t do my homework because my computer has a virus and so do all my pencils and pens.”



"I TOLD MY TEACHER THE DOG ATE MY HOMEWORK.
SHE WANTS TO HAVE THE DOG XRAYED."



“Well, here we go again. ... Did anyone here *not* eat his or her homework on the way to school?”



"I TURNED IN MY HOMEWORK TWO DAYS LATE,
BUT NORMALLY IT'S FOUR DAYS LATE,
SO TECHNICALLY IT'S EARLY!"

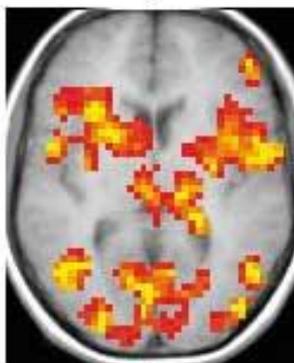
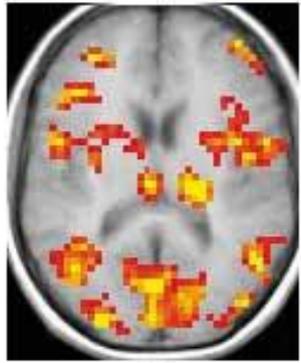
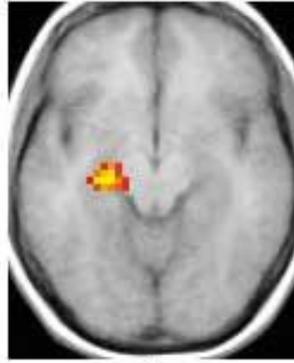
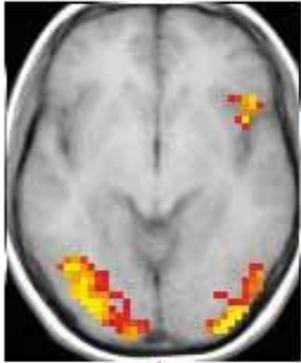
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“With so little free time, you have to learn to multi-task your TV watching, ipod listening, and texting with your homework.”

The benefit of thinking skills



Scan 1, act of memorising (visual images).

Scan 2, act of recall

Scans 3 and 4, Processing information, comparison, decision making.

The results of the experiment were reported in November 2000

So, what do the Brain Builder books look like?

This system is used in many schools up and down the country with huge success and positive comments from children, parents and teachers....they are as good as the children want them to be....

Handwritten alphabet project on a notebook spread. The letters are arranged in order from A to O, with various illustrations and cutouts.

A Apple (with apple cutouts)
B Bear (with bear cutout)
C Cat (with cat cutout)
D Dog (with dog cutout)
E Egg (with egg cutout)
F Fish (with fish cutout)
G Green (with green cutout)
H Harry Potter (with Harry Potter book cover cutout)
I Ice cream (with ice cream cutout)
J Jemmy (with Jemmy cutout)
K Kara (with Kara cutout)
L Leo (with Leo cutout)
M Mummy (with Mummy cutout)
N N (with N cutout)
O Orange (with orange cutout)

Apple
Harry Potter
Kara
Leo
Mummy
N
Orange

BOO!
EGG
FISH
Green

I am learning:
 To put letters in alphabetical order

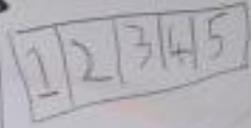
Key
 All letters
 You should be able to
 read and write them

Year R



STEP 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Brain Builder



L.O. to be able to use number lines to solve problems.

Brain Builder: How many ways can you use a numberline?

Ideas: make up a game using a numberline, draw numberlines showing addition, subtraction, counting in 2s, 5, 10s or any other number, show how you can estimate where numbers are on a blank numberline. Make up problems that can be solved with a number line.



Adding $4+5=9$

Subtracting $8-4=4$

two times table $5 \times 2 = 10$

five times table $5 \times 5 = 25$

seven times table $7 \times 10 = 70$

Adding for numbers $33+4=37$

Good Stories Ex. 1	Trial and Error	Stories with a moral
1. Snow White	1. Kumples	1. The Tortoise and the Hare
2. Sleeping Beauty	2. E. M. and the Crane	2. Noah's Ark
3. Beauty and the Beast	3. Jack and the Beanstalk	3. The 3 little Pigs
4. Little Red Riding Hood	4. The Gingerbread Man	4. Racing Snails
5. The 3 little pigs	5. Shrek	5. Over the Hedge
6. Shrek		6. Shrek

I like the way you found a story that fits into all these themes. 😊

Literacy Learning Objective:
To identify themes in traditional stories e.g. good over evil

Numeracy Learning Objective:
To add and subtract real objects of 10

Science Learning Objective:
To observe and compare natural / artificial / not natural



I love the way you've displayed the materials as well as sorting them. 😊

big and small and not natural

You put all the objects really well. Children and it's really interesting to look at the way you...

Year 3

FRANCE

LE Paris is a Popular sports
 Car race it go on
 For 24 hours which
 goes thought the night.
 the Prix de l'Arc de
 triomphe is famous horse
 races in the
 World.

SPAIN

Football and Bullfighting
 are the sports that
 Spain enjoy playing
 Bullfighting is called
 Carridas.

GERMANY

Germany are keen
 Skiers the cross
 country skiing is
 langlauf this is popular
 with people of all ages.
 football is the most
 popular sport
 over 200,000 people
 see a match each
 weekend.

ITALY

the most famous
 sport is Calcio in Siena
 this is Bare Back horse
 riding or racing
 they love football
 as well. Italy won
 the world cup 3 times
 1934, 1938 and 1982.

Tub
 Band
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TUDOR

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BANQUET

or
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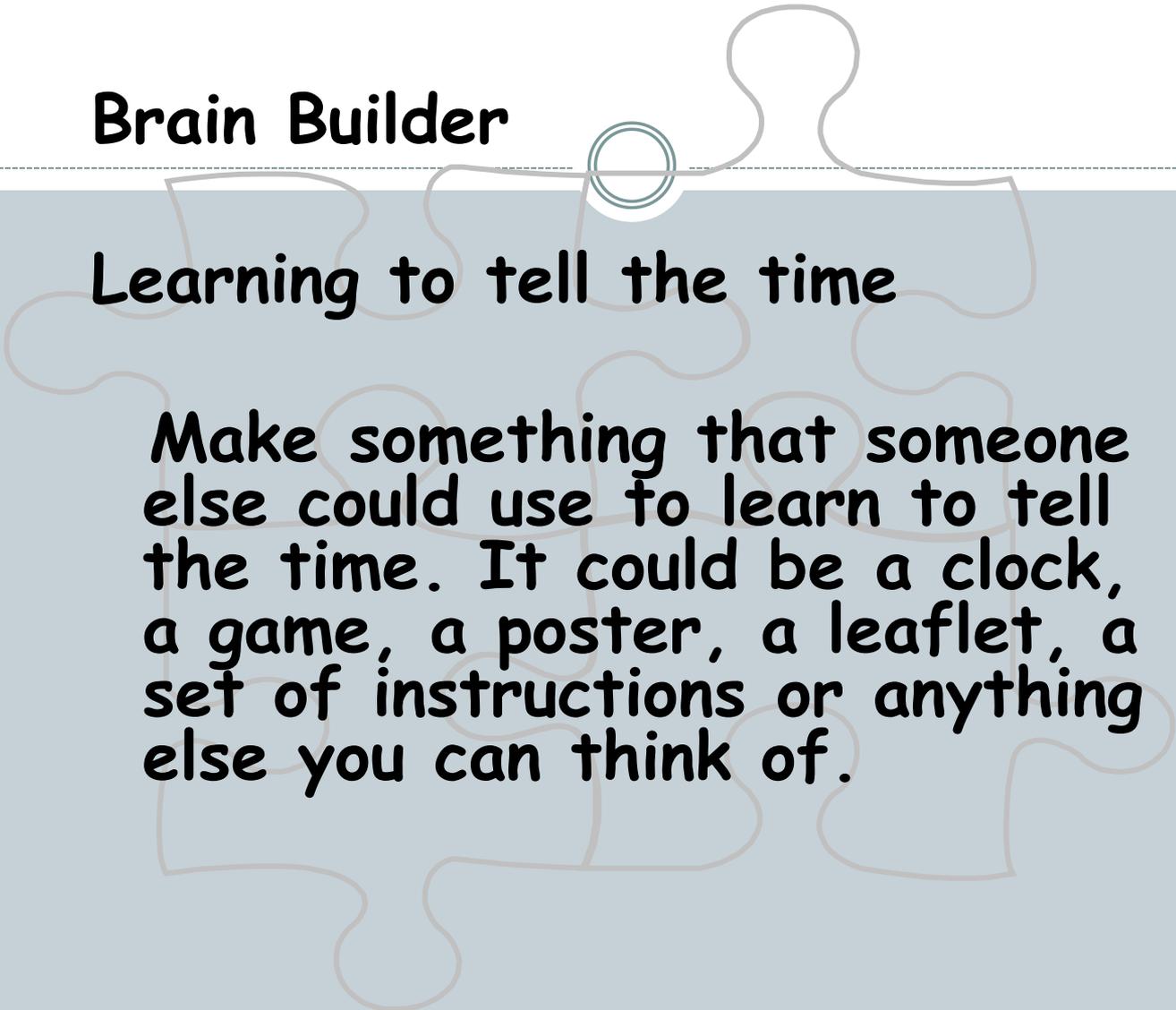
A Brilliant
 Brain Builder
 this week

What will it involve?



- Brain Builders will come home on a day set by the class teacher, to be returned to school the following fortnight, when they will be shared in class and seen by teachers
- Some suggested activities and ways to approach the task will be offered - this will be at a level that reflects the age and needs of the individual child
- The rest is down to you and your child!

Brain Builder



Learning to tell the time

Make something that someone else could use to learn to tell the time. It could be a clock, a game, a poster, a leaflet, a set of instructions or anything else you can think of.

How can you support your child?



- Give children time to talk about what they have to do - just the process of explaining and discussing the task will help your child to understand.
- *Offer ideas* on how to present the work.
- Give children a space to work which is away from other distractions.

How can you support your child? (continued)



- Give homework a high status in your house and make it a priority.
- Try to set aside specific homework times/evenings - and make time to work with your child.
- Ensure that some days are homework free.
- Reward excellent work.
- Remind your child that there may not be a 'finished point'

What can we include?



- ❑ We will be encouraging the children to be as creative with their homework as possible.
- ❑ They can complete these tasks in any way they want to as long as it is broadly based on the theme of the Brain Builder.
- ❑ The children can do as many or as few of these suggestions as they wish, or they can make up their own.



- For example, they could draw pictures, label them, take photographs, write lists, stick in food labels, research from books or the internet - or anything else that they can think of.



- They can display their work in their book as they wish - painted, coloured pencils, collage and they can include any work they would like to - poems, stories, information, plays, facts, instructions, interviews with family members, lift the flaps, pockets with letters in, pictures cut out from newspapers and magazines and so on

What if we are stuck for ideas?



- Borrow books from the school library
- Use the Internet if you have it
- (or your child could ask to use it at school)
- Look at the world around!!
- Ask your child's class teacher!



- The aim of this work is to encourage the children to become more independent and motivated in their own learning and also to enable them to make links in their learning.
- Adult input is encouraged but please don't do the work for them! Rather; prompt, guide, suggest and help the children to research.

What Now?



- Brain Builders are a partnership between school and home. For them to be effective everybody needs to be working towards a common aim. Good quality homework will help us to achieve 'Success for all'.
- Pupils will be given a Brainbuilder book and their first task will be to make a cover for it.....a unique book for their unique learning journey

Skills for life



- Children will;
 - ✦ Be proud of their learning
 - ✦ Be eager to share
 - ✦ Develop learning life skills