

THE FIGHT BACK, VENTILATORS NEEDED, SONGS FOR SOAP

British people face months of living our lives differently in the fightback against COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has urged people to work from home, not to travel unless they need to and to avoid places like restaurants, cinemas and theatres. As you know, schools are closing too to prevent the virus spreading, but will stay open for children whose parents work in the NHS and other emergency services.

One of the other key parts of the prime minister's battle plan is for older people to shield themselves from others by staying home alone for 12 weeks. This is because the over-70s aren't doing so well with COVID-19, with this age group most at risk of dying from the illness.

The good news is that, even among the elderly, nearly everyone survives unless they have other serious health problems already. The illness is generally mild in younger adults and children, no worse than a cold.

Earlier this week, Mr Johnson said anyone who lives with someone who has a cough or a temperature should stay at home for 14 days. This is to stop their illness spreading, in case it's caused by the coronavirus.

The virus was first found in China on 31 December. Since then it has spread around the world. Now, countries across the globe are at war with it.



VENTILATORS NEEDED

In countries affected by the coronavirus, factories have been helping out.

Coronavirus can lead to breathing troubles for some, so they may need ventilators to help them breathe. Lots of factories are now trying to use their machines to make ventilators instead of their usual products.



In Italy, a hospital that ran out of ventilator valves was contacted by a 3D printing company, who designed and printed 100 in 24 hours for them.

BRACKLEY, UK

● Songs for soap

A teenager has created a website that matches song lyrics to a 13-step hand-washing routine. Seventeen-year-old William Gibson wanted more options than just singing *Happy Birthday* twice. His website, Wash Your Lyrics, allows you to pick a song and download the musical poster. Over 175,000 posters were downloaded in the first three days. Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* is the most popular song so far.

Hand-washing technique with soap and water

- Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?
- Caught in a landslide, no escape from reality
- Open your eyes, look up to the skies and see
- I'm just a poor boy, I need no sympathy
- Because I'm easy come, easy go, little high, little low
- Any way the wind blows doesn't really matter to me, to me
- Mama, just killed a man
- Put a gun against his head, pulled my trigger, now he's dead
- Mama, life had just begun
- But now I've gone and thrown it all away
- Mama, ooh, didn't mean to make you cry
- If I'm not back again this time tomorrow
- Carry on, carry on as if nothing really matters



Bohemian Rhapsody
Queen

NEWS STORY



GLOSSARY

ventilators – Machines that help ill people to breathe by pushing air into the lungs

valves – A valve opens and closes in order to control the flow of gas or liquid

3D printing – The process where a 3D printer makes a solid object from a computer model. The object is built up by the printer layer by layer

■ Look at the article ‘The fight back’.

1. What is the name of the illness caused by the new coronavirus?
2. If anyone in a household develops a cough or temperature, what needs to happen?
3. Look at the first two paragraphs. What word means ‘strongly advised’?
4. What does the journalist describe as “good news”?
5. Find two examples of language that make our efforts to curb the coronavirus seem like a **battle**.
 1.
 2.
6. If you were talking to your granny, grandad or another elderly person you know, what would you tell them now you have read this article?

■ Look at the article ‘Ventilators needed’.

- 7a. What does a ventilator do?
- 7b. There is a lack of ventilators in Italy, a country badly affected by the coronavirus. How are companies helping out?

	How they are helping
Factories	
A 3D printing company	

■ Look at the article ‘Songs for soap’.

8. What brilliant idea has William Gibson come up with?
9. Do you think his idea is going to help much in the fight against this virus?

■ Consider all the news articles.

All around the world, people are being asked to make major changes to their lives. How has your life changed so far?

10a. Do you have any worries or questions about the coronavirus that you would like to discuss with the grown-ups in your life? Make a note of them, and then discuss them.

10b. Make a list of interesting, positive and creative things that you can do at home while you are not at school.

PS – First News would like to know what you’re up to at home – send your pictures and stories to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk!

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TEACHER ANSWERS

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a quick reference guide. Suggestions are given for the 'Expected response' or starting point that pupils could give. The 'Development' then gives more in-depth ideas that students can work towards as they develop their reading comprehension skills.

For a list of the reading skills used, please email schools@firstnews.co.uk.

■ Look at the article 'The fight back'.**1. What is the name of the illness caused by the new coronavirus?**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC 2a)

Expected response

- COVID-19

2. If anyone in a household develops a cough or temperature, what needs to happen?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC 2a)

Expected response

- Everyone in the house needs to stay at home for 14 days.

3. Look at the first two paragraphs. What word means 'strongly advised'?

READING SKILL – Understand vocabulary in context

(NC 2a)

Expected response

- Urged

4. What does the journalist describe as "good news"?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC 2a)

Expected response

- Nearly everyone survives the illness unless they have other serious health problems already.

5. Find two examples of language that make our efforts to curb the coronavirus seem like a battle.

READING SKILL – Recognising effect of language choices

(NC 2f & 3)

Expected response

- The headline: The fight back.
- The last line: "Now, countries across the globe are at war with it."

6. If you were talking to your granny, grandad or another elderly person you know, what would you tell them now you have read this article?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence

(NC 2c & 8)

Children's personal responses, which may include:

- Stay safe: stay at home for the next 12 weeks and try to avoid contact with other people.
- Try not to worry: even among the elderly, nearly everyone survives.
- Possibly: take extra care because you have a health condition already.

■ Look at the article ‘Ventilators needed’.

7a. What does a ventilator do?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

- It is a machine that helps ill people to breathe.

7b. There is a lack of ventilators in Italy, a country badly affected by the coronavirus. How are companies helping out?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

	How they are helping
Factories	Factories are using their machines to make ventilators instead of their usual products.
A 3D printing company	It printed 100 ventilator valves to help a hospital that had run out of them.

■ Look at the article ‘Songs for soap’.

8. What brilliant idea has William Gibson come up with?

READING SKILL – Summarise information from more than one paragraph (NC 2e)

Expected response

- He has made a website that matches song lyrics to hand washing.

Development

- He has made a website where you can download a handwashing poster that has the actions matched to your favourite song lyrics.

9. Do you think his idea is going to help much in the fight against this virus?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- Yes, it’s really important that people wash their hands properly.

Development

- Although not many people will see his site, it has been in the news and gives an important message to everyone – wash your hands properly. It’s one of the most useful things you can do.

■ Consider all the news articles.

All around the world, people are being asked to make major changes to their lives. How has your life changed so far?

10a. Do you have any worries or questions about the coronavirus that you would like to discuss with the grown-ups in your life? Make a note of them here:

READING SKILL – Develop opinions and provide justifications for viewpoints (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Children's own responses

10b. Make a list of interesting, positive and creative things that you can do at home while you are not at school.

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READING SKILL – Develop opinions and provide justifications for viewpoints (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Children's own responses