READING

A report

1 ☆ What do you think is happening in the photo? Read the report and check your ideas.



SCHOOL'S OUT

Almost 50,000 people were homeschooled in the UK last year. **Reasons** for homeschooling can include a child's special needs, **bullying** or **a lack of** good school options in the area. We spoke to one 'homeschooler', Andrew James, from Cumbria in the UK, about his experiences of homeschooling.

'I started homeschooling three years ago – I'm 14 now. When I left junior school, I went straight to homeschooling, so I've never been to secondary school. My mum was also homeschooled, so she was **keen** for us to have a similar education to hers. My parents believe that education is not just about getting good grades or taking exams – they think a **balanced** education, including practical skills, is also important.

My younger brother and I study at home with our parents for seven hours a day. Both our parents used to be teachers – so that helps! But having school at home doesn't mean there aren't any rules. We're not allowed to stay in bed all day, obviously, but we can also choose what we learn. Of course, we study normal subjects, but we also frequently go to libraries, museums, exhibitions, concerts and sporting events as part of our education.

We can also do other things that maybe you can't do at an ordinary school. For example, each year my brother and I are allowed to plan a big trip to a place connected to something we are studying. My brother studies geology, so we went to Mount Vesuvius in Italy to learn about volcanoes.

Next year, I want to go to Amsterdam to visit the house of Anne Frank because I'm learning about her famous **diary** in my history lessons.

It's not all holidays and day trips – we work really hard and study a lot! But I really love my home education. I wouldn't change it for anything!'

2 ☆☆ Match the words in bold in the report with the meanings.

1 having equal amounts of something balanced
2 a book with someone's thoughts and feelings _____
3 the causes of an event or situation _____
4 very interested in _____
5 not enough of something _____
6 when someone hurts or frightens someone else _____

3 ☆☆ Read the report again. Are the sentences *T* (true) or *F* (false)? Correct the false sentences.

1 Andrew has never attended an ordinary school.
F. He went to an ordinary junior school.
2 Andrew started homeschooling because he didn't like his school.
3 His parents taught at schools before they homeschooled Andrew.
4 Andrew and his brother do some studying outside their home.
5 Their trips to other places are part of their education.
6 Andrew would like to go back to ordinary school in the future.

4 ☆☆☆ Think of two possible disadvantages of homeschooling.

LIVEWORKSHEETS