

Talking is often the first step in helping us feel better. And it's always easier over a shared activity, whether that's doing homework, cooking dinner together, or even walking the dog.

World Mental Health Day is a great excuse to have a chat, but talking is a tool we can use at any time to improve our mental wellness. If you need any more advice, information or support, you can visit stv.tv/BritainGetTalking.

And remember - talk to your GP if you're ever seriously concerned.

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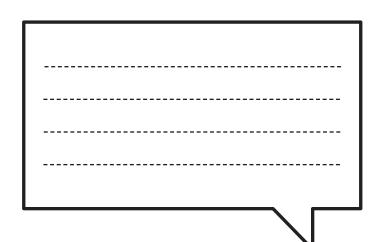
What's on our minds can be the hardest subject.

So what's on yours?









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Sometimes, the world can feel like a scary place.

That's why this World Mental Health Day, we've set the nation a different kind of homework.

Because talking about the hardest subjects on our mind can help ease our stress, and reduce our anxiety.

And working on a shared task like this one is a brilliant way to start a proper chat if you need a hand.

1

Ask your parent, carer, or an adult you trust if they'll help you with your homework.

Tell them not to worry - nothing will be marked, and they won't even need a calculator! Get talking

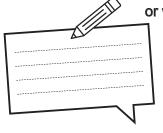
2

If you're not sure
where to start,
try writing or drawing
your worries or fears
on the front cover
of this exercise.
You can use the box
or go outside the
lines. Remember:
there are no right
or wrong answers.

3

Now, spend time together talking through any worries one by one. Discuss questions such as:

How does it
make you feel?
What are you most
afraid might happen?
Would it help if you
had more information?



Get listening

Even if we're used to talking together, it can be hard to open up about our worries or fears, particularly the more serious or scary ones. Perhaps you're afraid that talking about them might make you both worry more,

but the reality is the opposite is more likely to be true. When we talk about the hardest subjects, we don't have to have all the answers. The important thing is to listen without judgment, and try not to rush to resolve the problem.