Beautiful Brains.

You took part in a creative workshop to learn about your incredible brain and found out what can go wrong for those with dementia. Scientists are trying to find out more to help discover new medicines, or ways to prevent this disease. Can you explain to an adult what our brain does? Do you want to become a scientist one day? Make this brain beautiful and colour with whatever colours you choose; learn which parts do what and their names. Cut it out to look to see the inside and outside of a brain. To explore your amazing brain more, take a look at: https://kids.alzheimersresearchuk.org/

What is your earliest memory? Can you make a collection from your family of their earliest memories? Who is the oldest person in your family and how far back can they remember?

1. Brainstem - breathing and heartbeat
2. Cerebellum - sport bit
3. Temporal Lobes - hearing and language
4. Parietal Lobes - touch and feel
5. Occipital Lobes - vision
6. Frontal Lobes - personality
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Your brain controls so much. Look at the labels to see some parts of the brain. What else does your brain do?

Like all your body, your brain is made up of building blocks called cells. Inside your brain there are around 100 billion cells called neurons. All that you think and feel comes from neurons communicating through electricity and chemicals. Another sort of brain cell called ‘glia’ help clear up waste and keep your brain healthy. Sometimes they can get too enthusiastic and damage neurons which can happen in dementia. Understanding what goes wrong could help scientists find new treatments for the future.

Drawing by Dr Lizzie Burns are based on looking at real brains. Find out more with this animation; https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/content/discovering-life-changing-dementia-treatments

References: 1 ‘The Brain as a Tool’ – Ray Guillery, Oxford University Press
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3. Temporal Lobes – hearing and language
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