

Today would have been the last day of the spring term. Many of you will have had to cancel your plans to travel, see your wider family and enjoy time with friends, but we hope the ideas we have gathered will help you make the most of this Easter break.

Staff have pulled together all sorts of Easter activities that you might enjoy doing over the next couple of weeks. You will find these on the [class web pages](#).

Over the next couple of weeks why not encourage your children to take up the challenge from Collective Worship this morning and think about how they can serve the other people in your home?

Our [school email](#) will continue to be checked over the Easter break, so if there is something particular that you feel the school may be able to help you with, please do get in touch.

Tim Edwards-Grundy

St Mary's Church Cogges can no longer meet together on a Sunday morning, but you can join them every Sunday morning at 10am on their [Facebook page](#).

Next week, in the run up to Easter, there will be [daily morning meditations](#) online, click on the link each morning, which you can find on their website.

Keep a look out for Collective Worship, which we are planning to upload to the [News page](#) of our school website every Monday and Friday. Our new value for April is **wisdom**. As you listen to the stories and think about what is being said, remember that your friends and teachers are doing the same thing.

Each week we will be interviewing a member of staff, asking them about what they are doing whilst they are not in school. This week we spoke to Mrs Moss, who leads the Reception team.

**What are you finding hardest about being at home?**

I miss seeing the children and all the other grown-ups! I also miss actually teaching the children in Reception and hearing all their news.

**What is the best thing you have done now that you are not in school?**

Being out for walks with my dog, George.

**What message do you want to give to the children who are at home?**

I hope you are all keeping well and making the most of your extra 'family' time. I am very much looking forward to seeing you all in school when we can open again.



Remember to check that all members of your family are safe online, take some time to check parental controls and privacy settings. You can find more information about this on our [school website](#).

[FirstPoint](#) has produced some helpful resources for providing advice regarding common concerns for primary aged children and directing them to websites that they may find helpful.

If you have any safeguarding concerns you can still report these to Tim Edwards-Grundy the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). You can contact him on [head.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk).

[MASH \(Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub\)](#) – 0345 050 7666 For advice regarding concerns about a child.

[Childline](#) – 0800 1111 Support for young people. [Samaritans](#) – 116 123 If you need to talk.

Remember the top tips for positive mental wellbeing: Accept that you cannot control everything, do your best, maintain a positive attitude, get enough sleep, exercise daily, take time out and take deep breaths.

### Where can we go during the lockdown?

You can use the time that you are at home to see what is going on with wildlife across the UK.

[Countryfile.com](https://www.countryfile.com) is releasing seasonal activities for every day.

Ospreys are nesting in Cumbria – you can watch them on their nest via a [live webcam](#), if the nest is empty when you first check, they are off catching fish! Keep checking the webcam through the day!

Peregrine falcons are nesting at the top of Salisbury Cathedral. The peregrines are so popular they even have their own [You Tube channel](#) and [blog](#). You can also watch the [Peregrine nest live](#), where the female laid eggs on Mothering Sunday.

### Staying up to date with news

It can be hard to know what news to share with your children at this time.

If your child is in Key Stage 2 they might enjoy reading '[First News](#)'. This weekly newspaper is produced specifically for children aged between 8 and 12 and contains a range of articles and information about a whole range of news. It also includes some puzzles that you can enjoy as a family.

*First News* is usually only available by subscription but whilst schools are closed it will be made available free online. You will be able to access future editions on their [website](#).

Remember in this time of uncertainty to limit the amount of news that you listen to and make time to listen to each other and share your concerns. Helping your children to talk about the things they worry about is an important part of them learning to manage their concerns in a healthy way.

During April you have the opportunity to go to the theatre as a family!

A series of musicals by Andrew Lloyd Webber will be made available online while theatres on Broadway and London's West End are closed.

Filmed versions are available to view on a You Tube Channel, '[The Show Must Go on!](#)' each week and will be available to view freely for 48 hours.

The first musical to go live is *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat* and will be available from later today and all over the weekend.

Next week's show, which will be available over the Easter weekend, will be *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

### DoodleMaths!

Our trial ends on 17<sup>th</sup> April, but we are currently exploring ways to extend this, if there is enough parental support. If you have not yet submitted feedback and would like to do so, please email your comments to [office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk)

Do encourage your children to take part in the newly launched [maths spring challenge](#), which runs until 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Oxfordshire libraries has announced the launch of a new poetry and art competition for children and young people under the age of 18. The winners will see their entries published as an eBook poetry collection.

Children are encouraged to write and draw to help capture how they are feeling at this unique time in their lives.

You can find out more about the competition and how to submit entries (closing date Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 ) on the [Oxfordshire Libraries website](#).

At the end of this term we would usually celebrate children who have consistently shown the school's values. Why not spend time over this Easter break thinking about who in your house consistently shows our [school's values](#) and then present them with a special certificate to recognise their hard work?