

As you will have seen on this morning's Collective Worship, the new value for this month is 'Respect'.

As the end of the strangest of school years draws ever nearer, I am aware that maintaining respect for one another is a challenge for us all.

As lockdown measures are eased and individuals are free to make more decisions about their behaviour, it will be necessary for all of us, at some time or another, to respect the viewpoint of others with whom we do not necessarily agree.

I am aware that, at this time, a number of you have found the school's strict adherence to the existing guidance a personal challenge, particularly when other local schools have chosen a different path.

As a staff team, with the support of ODST, we have determined that whilst it is a challenge that we wish was different, continuing to follow the guidance offers our whole community the best protection at this time. I would like to thank all those of you, who whilst not necessarily agreeing with our position, have explored this with us openly and with mutual respect.

Tim Edwards-Grundy

Did you hear Mrs Laithwaite's challenge in Collective Worship this morning? Who can collect the most blessings next week, the home learning bubble, or the school bubble? The results will be announced in Collective Worship on Monday 13th July.

Please use the email TheBlakeisblessed@gmail.com and put the number of blessings in the subject line.

[Look on our website](#) to see what happened to Mr Grundy the last time the school community counted their blessings! Can the school community reach 10,000 blessings before the end of term?

Each week we are choosing one of the families who send in their blessings via email to reveal our new total. We are looking at ways we can share all the blessings we receive, so that everyone can enjoy them.

The members of St Mary's Cogges continue to pray for their local community. If you have any prayer requests, please do email them to prayer@coggesparish.com.

This week we asked Mrs Usher-Wilson, who is an Assistant Head and a Year 3 teacher, about her experience of being at home in the lockdown.

What are you finding hardest about being in lockdown?

I am so looking forward to being able to give my mother and my brother a big hug. I really missed celebrating my brother's birthday with him.

I have also really missed watching sport, particularly Wimbledon.

What is the best thing you have done during lockdown?

I have loved having my two grown-up children home from university and spending time with them.

I am so glad to have finally cleared the weeds from my front garden and sorted piles of paperwork from indoors! Now I need to order a skip for the rest of the house!

Most brilliant of all is that the Premier League got to play out the season and Liverpool won!

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

I have missed you all so much and can't wait to see you. It has been lovely seeing all the wonderful work that you have sent in over lockdown.

Remember all our school values and above all be kind to yourselves and your families.



Where can we go during the lockdown?

This week, why not visit [Blackpool](#)?

You can watch the live webcam on Blackpool's seafront and then have a look at webcams all around the world without leaving the comfort of your armchair.

The NHS '[Change for Life](#)' website contains a raft of new and seasonal recipes for families to enjoy preparing at home at this time.

There are quick and healthy recipes for every meal of the day as well as an option to sign up to get weekly recipes delivered straight to your inbox.

When the sunny weather returns, you might want to try some of their [BBQ and picnic](#) recipes.

You might also want to take a look at the family friendly [exercises](#) that are on the website. From 10-minute shake-up exercises to ideas for keeping children active, there's plenty to inspire you.

As it is now possible to meet more people in open spaces, or in your gardens, you may be looking for some fun, socially distant games to play.

[5-minute fun](#) has produced a list of ten socially distant games that you can play if you are out and about with friends and some that will also work if you are video calling.

All games require little or no preparation or equipment, are suitable for children across the primary age range and take between five and ten minutes to play. Have fun!

Adventure + is an organisation that has worked with The Blake School for many years and supports our annual Year 6 residential trip to Quinta.

Every summer they run [camps for children](#), both locally and further afield.

As the guidance has changed Adventure + is delighted to confirm that their summer camps will be running – though the format and practicalities may be rather different!

Keep an eye on their [Facebook page](#) for up to date details of their plans for the summer.

'[Tiny Happy People](#)' is a resource linked to the BBC especially designed for younger children, including pre-schoolers.

The information on the website includes resources about calmer bedtimes, entertaining your children and children's mental health and well-being that are applicable for children of all ages.

If you have younger children in your families, you may enjoy engaging in some of the activities that are suggested for improving communication and developing co-ordination skills.

If you would prefer something more light-hearted, but also topical, the website also has a series of [comedic clips](#) and some quizzes.

If you have any time for a five-minute breather, there is something on this site for all parents to enjoy and find interesting about their children.

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.

Many other organisations are ready and willing to offer help and support, even during lockdown, here are just a few.

[Oxfordshire Mind](#) – 01865 247788 Supporting mental health across the age ranges.

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

Judith Ledden, our Home School Key Worker, is also available to offer advice and help families access the support they need. You can email her on jledden@blake.oxon.sch.uk or call her on 07864 814818.