

Usually in the run up to Easter we are all looking forward to family activities, Easter egg hunts and days out in the sunshine. This Easter will be very different, with the future uncertain for many of us and with all of us facing the ongoing challenges of isolation.

At the very first Easter, the first disciples also faced uncertain and challenging times. As the events of the Easter weekend unfolded, they did not know what the future would hold for them. Personally, I am challenged to think about how the disciples stuck together to face an uncertain future and am encouraged by the many stories in the news of communities in our time working together to help and support one another.

If you feel school staff may be able to help you at this time, please do keep in touch with us using our [school email](#). Tim Edwards-Grundy

St Mary's Church Cogges can no longer meet together on a Sunday morning. This Sunday join them for an Easter morning celebration at 10am on their [Facebook page](#).

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.

BeSpace have shared some [Easter activities](#) that you can do each day as a family. They have also uploaded some simple [reflective activities](#) that you can do as a family at any time.

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.

[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.

If you ever feel that you are in danger you should call 999. If you cannot speak to the operator, for fear of your own safety or that of others, dial 55 when prompted by the automated system to alert the operator that you are in a genuine emergency.

This week we asked Miss Main, who leads the Upper Key Stage 2 team, about her experience of being at home in the lockdown.

What are you finding hardest about being at home?

It's been a bit disappointing not being able to go away for an Easter holiday, but there will be lots of time for holidays in the future.

Being at home means I have to do more washing up and cleaning, which are not my most favourite jobs to do...!

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

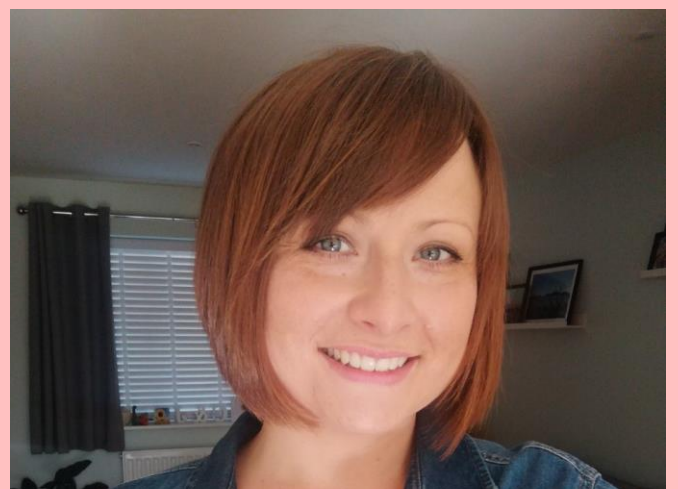
It has been nice to spend time in my garden – I get quite a few birds visiting my bird table, so I have enjoyed watching them, finding out about them and trying to come up with fun names for them! I have called the nesting Blue Tits Barry and Barbara.

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

Firstly, a big hello to my class and Year 6, I really miss them!

Rather than think about what you can't do, try to think of some positives in each day.

Mrs Powell and I have been thinking about the things that we are looking forward to doing again and have thought about how much we are really going to enjoy them. You might want to try this too.



Where can we go during the lockdown?

This week why not spend some time with the animals of Chester zoo? Visit their [You Tube channel](#) to spend time with elephants, jaguars, frogs, okapis, birds, meerkats and more.

The zoo has made available a series of 'Virtual Zoo Days'. In a series of videos, you can hear the keepers talk about many of the different animals they look after at the zoo.

Staying positive

This Easter weekend why not be like Mrs Powell and Miss Main and spend some time with your family thinking about all the things you are looking forward to doing?

Ask every member of your family to make a list of ideas on their own. Share each of your lists and see if you can agree together on the top ten things you are all looking forward to most.

Pin your top ten list up somewhere to remind you of things you are looking forward to doing. The teachers at school are looking forward to the day when all the children can come back to school!

Before you go to bed each day why not try and think of something that you have enjoyed during the day, or something that you are grateful for. See if you can make a list of something different for each day of the week. If you get stuck for an idea try thinking about all the grown ups who are doing important jobs to look after us.

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks have prepared a Power Pack Pals [Electrical safety presentation](#) suitable for children aged 8 - 11.

The presentation is a fun and engaging session working to teach children where electricity comes from and how to stay safe around it. Children can also download a [certificate](#) and [create a poster](#) about electrical safety.

There are also additional resources, games and a comic, suitable for all ages, on the [Power Pack Pals website](#).

Visit the Roald Dahl website for a whole host of ideas of [things to do indoors](#).

There are quizzes and puzzles, you can learn some sign language or listen to some extracts from Roald Dahl's books. You can also find out how to make volcanoes and lava lamps as well as learn how to draw an Oompah Loompah!

Books to read

The [Book Trust](#) is the UK's largest reading charity, reaching almost 4 million children a year with books and resources to help them develop a love of reading.

You might like to start exploring the site by reading Michael Morpurgo's '[Letter from Lockdown](#)' with your children.

Their website is packed with loads of ideas for things to do, shared by a wide range of authors and illustrators and suitable for all children of all ages.

Their '[Home Time](#)' page is updated every day with new ideas, quizzes and challenges, as well as the next chapter in the book they are reading.

You can also find [books to download](#) from the site, either to read alone, or to listen to.

Teachers would love to read children's stories and poems. You can always pick up a new blank workbook from the school's reception if you need more paper!

ODST has flagged up some [webinars](#) that they think might be useful for parents. The first webinar at 8pm on 14th April will look at first aid. The second, which will focus on mental health and wellbeing, will take place at 8pm on 16th April. If the sessions are already booked, remember to register your interest and then you will be signed up for the next webinar session.