

In this week following Easter Day, Christians remember the many occasions when Jesus appeared to his disciples. When Jesus came amongst them, he invariably began by saying "Peace be with you".

As this strangest of Easter breaks draws to a close, with so much uncertainty over the coming days and weeks, peace is something that we all need.

Although 'term time' will officially re-start on Monday, I am aware that for many of you the routines and challenges of your day to day life remain unchanged. In these uncertain times, may there be peace in your homes.

I hope your children will enjoy watching the videos and engaging with some of the learning uploaded by staff. Please don't hesitate to [contact the school](#) if you feel we can be of any help to you at this time.

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](#).

Keep a look out for Collective Worship, which is uploaded to the [News page](#) of our school website every Monday and Friday morning.

At this time, many people have questions about life, faith and God. *Alpha* is an opportunity to talk about and explore these questions. If you would like to register your interest for an online Alpha course run by St Mary's Church, you can do so [here](#).

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.

On their website the [NSPCC](#) has provided lots of information and advice to help support families during the lockdown.

As well as the resources on their website you can also email them – [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk), or call their helpline on 0808 800 5000 if you want to ask a specific question.

This week we asked Mrs Jordan, who works with our youngest children, and also takes care of many children as part of TLC, about her experience of being at home in the lockdown.

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

I so miss the day to day contact with all of the amazing children. The chats and interaction are things that I really miss.

Not seeing the whole staff team at The Blake is also difficult.

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

I have been going out for a walk most days, which is lovely.

I have also joined the NHS and local volunteer groups.

My aim for next week is to start baking!

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

Enjoy your extra family time and be especially good for your grown-ups.

You are all a real blessing to us at school and we so embrace getting to know you and helping you on your school journey.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again as soon as is possible.



## Where can we go during the lockdown?

This week why not go on safari! [Longleat Safari Park](#) has made available a 30-minute virtual tour of their safari park. Using a mix of audio commentary with video footage and photos, the tour follows the drive-through route through the Safari Park starting with giraffes and zebras before heading into the notorious Monkey Drive Through. There are also close encounters with Longleat's big cats, including their famous lions, as well as tigers, cheetahs and wolves.

Whilst your children are at home, one of the most important things that you can do is to read with them and to them. Re-reading old favourites, sharing picture books, looking at information books, newspapers and magazines are all ways of helping your children learn. Talking about what you are reading, how it makes you feel and what you have learned are all important activities as well as simply enjoying the stories.

Reading stories can be a whole family activity, younger children can enjoy listening to quite complex stories being read to them and picture books can be a source of pleasure for all ages.

There are now many online sources of free audible story books. [Amazon](#) has an enormous range of free books for all ages. Your children can choose a story to listen to on their own, or you can choose a story to listen to together as a whole family, perhaps a chapter or two every day as part of your family routine.

If you are looking for a [child friendly book](#) that answers lots of questions about Coronavirus in an honest and open way, download the book published by Nosy Crow and illustrated by Alex Scheffler, who illustrated 'The Gruffalo'.

The book, written in simple language and specifically for primary aged children, had input from medical experts, headteachers and a child psychologist.

Love Reading has announced this year's [Love Reading 4 Kids Poetry Prize](#).

If your child is aged 7 – 11 encourage them to write a poem on the theme of vision and submit them as part of the competition. The closing date for entries is 17<sup>th</sup> July so plenty of time to draft and re-draft!

Your teachers would love to see any competition entries too.

If you are looking for an additional high-quality resource to help your children with maths, Miss Main recommends '[White Rose Maths](#)'

If you scroll right down to the bottom of the page you will find a book for each year group. If you click on the book and accept the Terms and Conditions a textbook will be downloaded completely free of charge.

Even though it is not the usual back to school that we are all are used to, you might like to remind your children of the rules that we often talk about in school at the start of a new term.

When they are using a computer, a tablet, or a mobile phone they should remember to –

Treat others with kindness.

Be truthful – don't brag or exaggerate.

Be honest.

Only say online what they would say if the person was standing in front of them.

Never type anything online that they would not be happy for their parents, or their teachers to read.

If they read something that they do not like, or someone says something about them that they do not like, they should always tell a grown up that they trust, straight away.

[Thinkuknow](#) has produced a series of home packs with 15-minute activities, suitable for all ages, being released every two weeks to help support your child's online safety.

They also produce some [help sheets](#) for parents and carers containing advice and links to other resources you may find helpful.