

I really enjoyed watching Mrs Rowlands lead Collective Worship this morning. It was so helpful for me to reflect on the things that I can do for myself to help bring peace, to think of places I can go, or people I can talk to who provide time and space for me to be at peace. I was also grateful for the reminder that God offers us peace, whatever the challenges and turbulence of our daily lives.

I have been so grateful this week to those of you who, having read my letter to Amanda Spielman, have emailed the school to share your personal thanks to the staff team, as well as recognising the work done by teachers up and down the country. As I shared in my letter, it is a privilege to lead such a creative, enthusiastic and inspirational team. As I have thanked the staff for all that they have done this week, I have shared your comments with them – what a lovely end to the week.

With the arrival of the weekend and the anticipated return of the sunshine this weekend I hope you will be able to take some time to find a place where you can experience peace.

Tim Edwards-Grundy

This week the Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton led a special assembly for the Oak National Academy focussing on kindness. Join in [watching the assembly](#) and think about how you can show kindness to others and to yourself.

Don't forget to keep counting your blessings! You can either save them up at home and email them in to us, or if you are in school you can drop them in a box in your classroom.

Please use the email [TheBlakeisblessed@gmail.com](mailto:TheBlakeisblessed@gmail.com) and put the number of blessings in the subject line. You can then send in a list of your blessings or photos of the blessings themselves!

Listen in to Collective Worship on Monday morning to hear how many blessings have been received. 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](mailto:prayer@coggesparish.com).

This week we asked Miss Hinkins, who works as a teacher in Year 2, about her experience of being at home in the lockdown.

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

I have really missed not seeing my family and friends, particularly at the beginning. I have been able to see my parents once a week when I drop off their shopping, but not being able to give them a hug has been difficult.

### **What is the best thing you have done when you are not in school?**

I have managed to spend a lot more time talking to my friends and we have been doing weekly video calls and quizzes, which has been fun.

I have also managed to do lots of tidying and cleaning of my flat!

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

I am so proud of all of you! You are all truly amazing! Well done for always trying your best.

I have loved talking to the children in my class and seeing everything they have been up to since we have been away.

I miss you all very much and look forward to when we can all be together again.



### Where can we go during the lockdown?

This week, why not go for an adrenaline rush and visit [Alton Towers](#) theme park?

You can enjoy riding on a roller coaster through your screen!

With the return of the sunshine this weekend, remember to enjoy getting outside in the fresh air too.

Tomorrow is the start of '[National School Sport Week at Home 2020](#).'

This year, the Youth Sport Trust has teamed up with Sky Sports to run a national campaign, which they hope will unite the country in a celebration of sport and the power it has to bring people together, even in isolation.

Everyone who registers will be provided with free videos and activity cards to help families plan a series of challenges across the week.

The challenges will have an emphasis on togetherness, inclusivity and wellbeing. They will all be things that you can do within your homes.

The activities will enable some virtual competition with your wider family, neighbours and friends; you can share your challenges through the week using the hashtag #NSSWtogether.

SGN has provided lots of activities for children to learn more about [gas and gas safety](#).

With George and his friends your children can learn all about where gas comes from and how it is used in your homes.

There is also a competition running until September that your children may want to enter.

Primary school aged children are asked to design a poster highlighting the dangers of Carbon Monoxide.

Alternatively they can produce a video, or write a poem to make people aware of the danger of Carbon Monoxide.

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).

The '[Family Lives](#)' website contains lots of information for supporting families during lockdown. As well as their website you can contact them by phone 0808 800 2222 or send them an email [askus@familylives.org.uk](mailto:askus@familylives.org.uk).

Oxford Festival of the Arts is always held during this term, but this year will be being held virtually.

One of the activities they would like children to get involved with is designing a heraldic shield.

[Look at the image and read the information](#) to get some ideas as to the kinds of things that were put on shields and then have a go at designing your own.

You can find more information about the virtual festival on their website [www.artsfestivaloxford.org](http://www.artsfestivaloxford.org).

You might like to take some time this weekend to read the Literacy Trust's '[Book of Hopes](#)' with your children.

The collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures has contributions from more than 110 children's writers and illustrators and aims to comfort, inspire and encourage children during lockdown through delight, new ideas, ridiculous jokes and heroic tales.

The book is dedicated to the doctors, nurses, carers, porters, cleaners and everyone currently working in hospitals.

This Sunday is Father's Day and whilst you may not be able to do the things you might normally do, there are lots of things you can enjoy doing together to celebrate Dads!

You might want to make breakfast in bed, watch a favourite film together, enjoy a long walk or a family game.

Maybe spend some time thinking about all the things that are great about your Dad and then share your list as a surprise!