

I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole school community; it is humbling to be part of a community working together to make the best of such a challenging time. I hope you enjoyed watching the [video message](#) from school staff this week.

Well done for all that you are doing to support your children with their education, but please remember that the school staff will help the children with their academic progress when we all return to school.

Whilst in lockdown, please continue to prioritise the welfare of yourself and your children. The level of nurture and reassurance that you can provide as parents/carers is so important at this time.

As we think about patience this month, I will be listening with interest to the expected government announcements. If there are any changes required to our provision, I will write to you early next week to update you.

Tim Edwards-Grundy

Church buildings may be closed but the church is very much alive.

At this unique and challenging time over 65 churches and movements, representing hundreds of others, have come together online to [sing a blessing](#) over the United Kingdom.

But the church is not simply singing a blessing. Many of the churches included in this song have assisted with supplying over 400,000 meals to the most vulnerable and isolated in the UK since the lockdown began.

If you want to find out more about faith or have questions about God, do join the online [Alpha course](#) at St Mary's Cogges on Wednesday evenings.

If you want to join in with a church service, you can search '[A Church Near You](#)' and find what different churches are sharing online.

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.

If you want to listen to Rev Simon Kirby's recent sermons or podcasts, you can do so, for the cost of a local call, by dialling 01993 223670.

This week we asked Miss Robertson, who teaches in Year 4, about her experience of being at home in the lockdown.

What are you finding hardest about being at home?

I really miss my family and friends and not being able to cuddle them.

I have also really missed being in school and seeing everyone every day. We have also missed out on lovely things we had planned like weddings and a hot air balloon ride!

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

On my walks, I have really enjoyed taking the time to spot all the nature around me. The arrival of spring this year has been particularly beautiful. I have also enjoyed tending our veg patch.

I've really enjoyed getting to know the local community more, we've made some new friends!

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

Don't forget that you are amazing!

Although we are missing each other, this time will end, so try and enjoy it while it is here. Learn a new skill, help your parents, maybe learn to recognise a bird song?

Keep going and we will all be together again soon!



Where can we go during the lockdown?

This weekend how about a trip to [Edinburgh zoo](#)?

The zoo has got live webcams watching pandas, penguins, tigers, koalas and lions. There is also lots of information on the website about how the zoo-keepers are helping to protect animals in the wild.

Oxfam has created a whole series of fun and [educational resources](#) for families to use at home during the lockdown with children aged 7 – 14, although many of the ideas can be used with younger children too.

The latest resources focus on 'Home', 'Environment', 'Food', 'Water' and 'What do we all need to thrive?'

Activities that you can share together as a family include keeping a water diary, making a doll's house in a shoe box, exploring where your food comes from and creating a family value tree.

As a family you may want to write or draw things on leaves that are important to you – you can add more leaves to the tree over the weeks ahead.

The [National Theatre](#) is now offering schools username and password access to the National Theatre Collection. Please do check the age recommendations before viewing.

Go to their [website](#) and enter the following details via the log in button on the top right-hand corner of the landing page.

Username – 7QeY3TQGg4

Password – 6Mn+7Rn-x!

Peter Pan, Romeo and Juliet, Treasure Island and *The Winter's Tale* are just some of the productions appropriate for primary aged children to enjoy watching with you.

The lockdown is challenging for everyone, but it can also provide an opportunity to invest in lasting relationships.

Join 'Care for the Family' for an hour, once a week, for four weeks, to explore more about how relationships can flourish.

[Sign up free online](#) to receive a link to the sessions, which you can then watch at a time to suit you.

If you have any concerns about the challenges that you are facing at this time and would value some support or advice, please do contact [Judith Ledden](#) our Home School Key Worker.

Judith will be happy to listen to your concerns and can also help you source practical or professional support.
Call or text Judith on 07864 814818.

Oxfordshire School Games has launched '[Sock Fest 2020](#).'

Every fortnight they are launching a sock-based challenge, alongside a cultural School Games activity.

Have a go at the challenges as a family and you can share how you are getting on by emailing schoolgames@activeoxfordshire.org or by sharing on social media.

There are videos to support each challenge, as well as different challenges for different ages.

The first challenge involves throwing balled up socks into a bucket or bowl – have fun!

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.

If your children want to talk to someone outside of their family, they can contact their class teacher or [Childline](#) on 0800 1111.

Today is the Bank Holiday to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE day.

Why not have a [picnic](#) in your house, on your doorstep, or in your garden to celebrate?

Find out how to make your own [VE day bunting](#) and decorate your room or house for the weekend of celebrations.